

Ministers' wives survey results

CSBC's Church and Pastoral Care surveyed the thoughts, feelings, opinions and needs of more than 100 ministers' wives at the annual Ministers' Wives Retreat at Jenness Park in 2005. With the annual Ministers' Wives Retreat coming up soon, this might be a time to reflect on how ministers' wives perceived themselves almost three years ago. This also might be a time for ministers' wives to examine the survey questions and see how they feel today based on the previous results. The results are as follows:

1) How long have you been a minister's wife?

<u>4.8</u> less than 1 year	<u>6.7</u> 16-20 years
<u>26.2</u> 1-5 years	<u>16.5</u> 21-25 years
<u>10.6</u> 6-10 years	<u>18.4</u> over 25 years
<u>16.5</u> 11-15 years	

2) How long have you been at your current church/ministry?

<u>11.6</u> less than 1 year	<u>2.9</u> 16-20 years
<u>44.6</u> 1-5 years	<u>3.8</u> 21-25 years
<u>17.4</u> 6-10 years	<u>1.9</u> over 25 years
<u>14.5</u> 11-15 years	

3) Do you work outside the home?

<u>31</u> full-time	<u>31</u> part-time	<u>35.9</u> no
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4) What are your greatest concerns about your husband? (mark all that apply)

<u>25.2</u> spiritual health	<u>22.3</u> lack of family time
<u>58.2</u> physical health	<u>32.</u> lack of finances
<u>32.</u> emotional health	<u>15.5</u> lack of time-management skills
<u>41.7</u> pressures from ministry	<u>21.3</u> lack of confidence
<u>31.</u> lack of close friends	<u>5.8</u> improper priorities

5) What are your greatest concerns about your children? (mark all that apply)

<u>29.1</u> poor relationship with Christ	<u>26.2</u> exposure to church conflict
<u>22.3</u> attitude toward the church	<u>9.7</u> self-image as PK
<u>5.8</u> unrealistic expectations	<u>21.3</u> no typical PK concerns
<u>19.4</u> rebellious attitudes/behavior	<u>11.6</u> not applicable/no children
<u>15.5</u> lack of healthy relationships	

6) What general impact has church ministry had on your children?

<u>77.6</u> positive	<u>14.5</u> negative	<u>7.7</u> none
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7) What general impact has church ministry had on you?

<u>86.4</u> positive	<u>12.6</u> negative	<u>.9</u> none
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8) How prepared or qualified do you feel for church ministry?

<u>15.5</u> completely
<u>46.6</u> adequately
<u>30.</u> somewhat
<u>7.7</u> not at all

9) What frustrations do you face as a minister's wife? (mark all that apply)

28.1 lack of personal spiritual growth 15.5 constant church conflict
35.9 managing my own time 32. unresponsive congregation
16.5 lack of time with my family 36.8 financial stress
42.7 lack of time with my husband 13.5 unrealistic expectations

10) Where do most of the unrealistic expectations you experience originate? (mark all that apply)

52.4 self 32. congregation
10.6 husband .2 denomination
7.7 extended family .4 community

11) In the past year, which of the following have you experienced with regard to being a minister's wife? (mark all that apply)

12.6 disillusionment 16.5 anger
51.4 discouragement .4 suicidal thoughts
29.1 depression 12.6 numbness
52.4 frustration 65. joy
26.2 burnout 53.3 fulfillment

12) Other than the Lord, where do you get personal support as a minister's wife?

19.4 confidant within the church .1 professional counselor
44.6 another pastor's wife .3 care giving ministry/support group
22.3 extended family .9 internet site
33. friend(s) outside the church 66. husband
.6 accountability group 77. no where

13) Have you ever been involved in any of the following behaviors? (mark all that apply)

.3 excessive drinking .9 inappropriate sex
43.6 over-eating 13.5 inappropriate emotional ties
20. over-spending 19.4 gossiping/spreading rumors
.9 gambling 10.6 manipulation of others
.9 pornography .3 other addictive behavior

14) Do you feel personally called to ministry?

76.6 yes
.3 no
18.4 indirectly, to support my husband

15) Do you generally enjoy being a pastor's wife?

91.2 yes .2 no

Thanks to those who completed the survey in helping ministers' wives, ministers and others better understand the blessings and challenges of life in a minister's home!

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