

The Loneliness of the Long Distance Pastor. (Pastor's Academy. 2018/19)  
Our privileges and advantages'

We handle the crown jewels of the King.  
We have the most pressing mission.  
We work our own schedule, and are paid for what we enjoy doing.  
We are free from the grind of the general workplace.  
(But our identity is not in our ministry, but in Christ alone.)

The Diversity of our calling.

"Four seasons in one day men"  
Our calling is unique and mysterious  
The best but most difficult. (Mission impossible naturally speaking)  
Requires a servant mindset.  
Ministers of the word but men of the people.  
Practical, relational, caring, sharing, encouraging.  
Subject ourselves to the message we preach to others.  
Willing to roll up our sleeves and step out of your comfort zone.  
Doing stuff we don't necessarily enjoy as an example to the flock.  
Training as well as leading. Listening and learning as well.  
Developing our own character and gifts. Never assuming we have arrived.  
Avoiding professionalism.

Loneliness its reality and effects.

Expect the loneliness of the study. (Flat Monday syndrome)  
Expect and endure criticism. (Most of it is ill informed)  
Resist self-pity and bitterness, contain your frustrations.  
Cultivate healthy accessible friendships especially outside the membership.  
Recognise the danger of that inner voice.  
Beware of sexual temptation. Treasure and guard your marriage.  
Factor in your family. Don't make them party to your struggles.  
Take comfort in the message you preach to others, learn to pastor yourself.  
Beware of the love of money or the praise of men. Cultivate the fruit of the Spirit.  
Commit to good fraternals. Build lifetime friendships.  
Take time off thoughtfully. Learn to relax creatively. Meet outsiders somehow.  
Rejoice that your name is written in heaven !

Malcolm MacGregor.