

# NLF SHEPHERD SURVEY

Highlights & Action Steps

## About the Survey

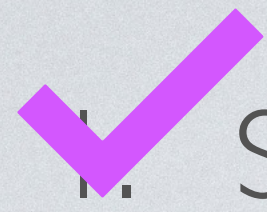
- 142 surveys collected, 40 questions
- 1,650 pages
- 80 house churches

## Why this Survey?

- NLF has amazing fruitfulness (VIPs & Character).
- If we put in a similar **input**, then we'll get a similar **output**.



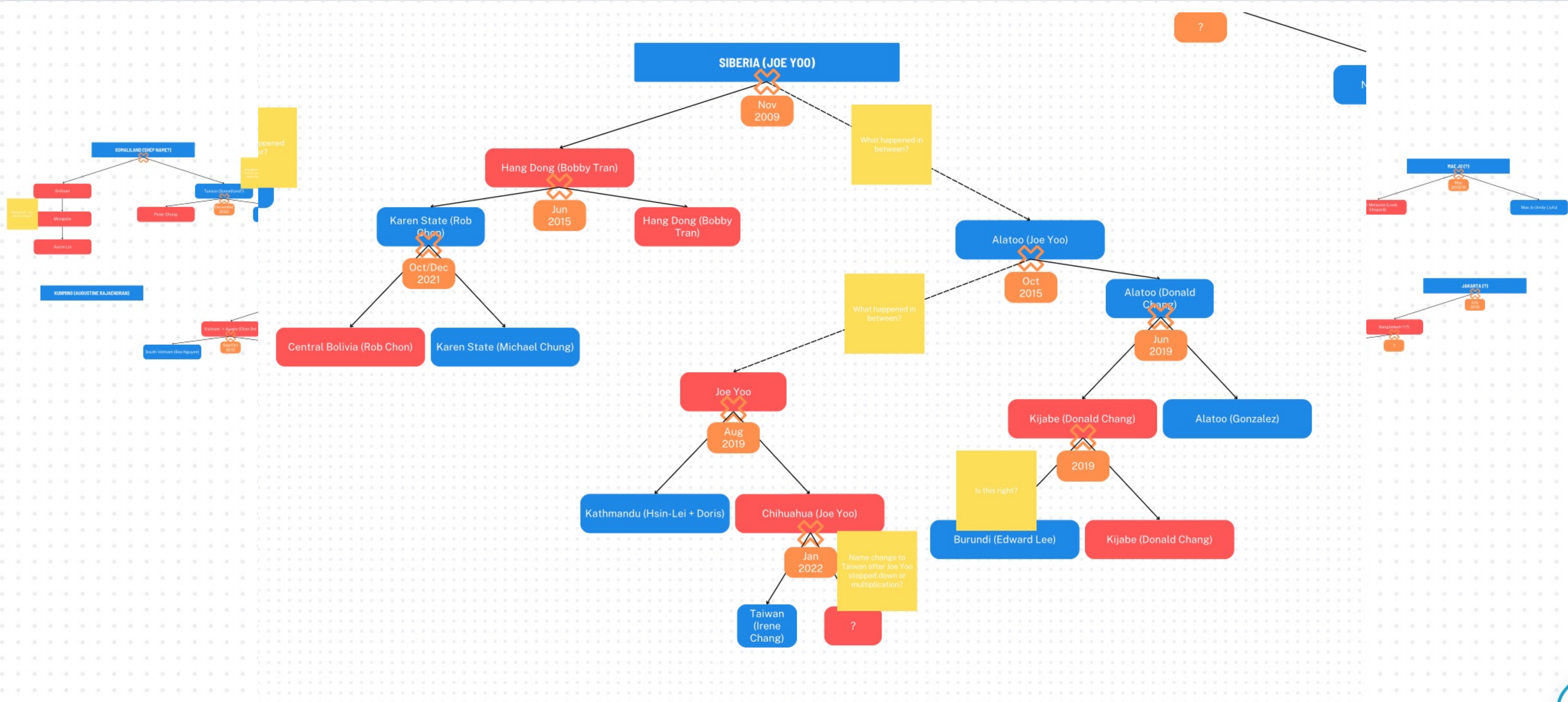
**“New Life Mentality”**



1. Shepherd Survey.

2. NLF Family Tree.

3. ~~Ministry Journal Database~~



# Over/Under: NLF

## VIP Background:

Over/Under 50%

**54%**

## Median Age:

Over/Under 40?

**38**

## Tithe:

Over/Under 80%

**94%**

## Marital Status:

Over/Under 50%

**82%**

**Which option was NOT a major way that NLF shepherds first started attending hc?**

**53%** A. Invite by member

B. Visiting Sunday

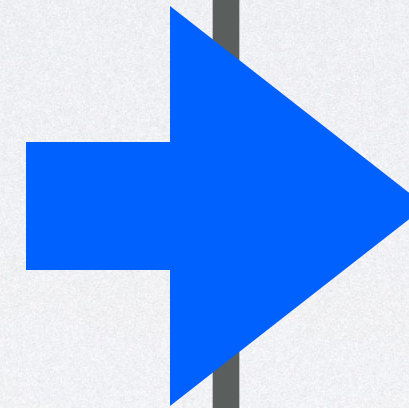
**14%**

**12%** C. Dating/Marriage

**D. Church-wide Event** **1%**

Multiplication: 0 **52%**

VIP: 0 **21%**



Multiplication: 1 **48%**

VIP: 1 **79%**

Mult: 1  
VIP: 0

**8**

Food	Feedback	HC Length	Hangout
75% - Yes 25% - No	63% - Yes 37% - No	100% - 4-5hr	91% - 1-2 7% - 3-5 2% - 6+
WBS	VIP List	VIP Prayer	Shep Cov
37% - Yes 63% - No	88% - Yes 12% - No	88% - Yes 12% - No	75% - Yes 25% - No

Mult: 1  
VIP: 1

**60**

Food	Feedback	HC Length	Hangout
82% - Yes 18% - No	57% - Yes 43% - No	16% - 2-3 hr 81% - 4-5hr 2% - 6+	86% - 1-2 12% - 3-5 2% - 6+
WBS	VIP List	VIP Prayer	Shep Cov
80% - Yes 20% - No	78% - Yes 22% - No	80% - Yes 20% - No	65% - Yes 35% - No

Mult: 0  
VIP: 0

**21**

Food	Feedback	HC Length	Hangout
67% - Yes 33% - No	24% - Yes 76% - No	10% - 2-3 hr 90% - 4-5hr	86% - 1-2 10% - 3-5 4% - 6+
WBS	VIP List	VIP Prayer	Shep Cov
71% - Yes 29% - No	48% - Yes 52% - No	81% - Yes 19% - No	62% - Yes 38% - No

Mult: 0  
VIP: 1

**53**

Food	Feedback	HC Length	Hangout
92% - Yes 8% - No	45% - Yes 55% - No	15% - 2-3 hr 81% - 4-5hr 4% - 6+	94% - 1-2 12% - 3-5
WBS	VIP List	VIP Prayer	Shep Cov
83% - Yes 17% - No	66% - Yes 34% - No	74% - Yes 26% - No	57% - Yes 43% - No

Mult: 1  
VIP: 0

8

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75% - Yes 25% - No	63% - Yes 37% - No	100% - 4-5hr	91% - 1-2 7% - 3-5 2% - 6+
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60

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## **Followup Questions:**

### **Food**

Why are some hc's not providing home-cooked meals?

### **WBS**

Who should take BTJ, AK, LLBS for?

### **Feedback**

How can we encourage hc's to seek regular feedback from their hc's?

### **VIP List**

How can we encourage hc's to keep an updated VIP list?

## Who are the **top 3 Shepherds** that stand out to you and why?

1. Loving/Caring
2. Servant-Hearted
3. Keeps showing up
4. Perseveres thru Difficulties
5. Generous with Resources
6. Leads by Example
7. Speaks Truth in Love
8. Generous with Time
9. Sacrificial
10. Good Listener

**Shepherds/Wives:**

**91**

**Multiplication 0:**

**23**

**VIP 0:**

**5**

**Action step:**

Make a “**Shepherd’s Checklist**” :

- 8 factors of healthy hc’s.
- 10 qualities of godly shepherds.

**What percentage of  
Shepherds has thought  
about **quitting** shepherding?**

A. 15%

B. 40%

C. 65%

D. 90%

# Top Reasons For Wanting To Quit Shepherding:

## Feeling Inadequate

I think about it sometimes. I'm not a natural leader and not confident at times, so I get dejected from time to time.

## Biting the Shepherd

Whenever a HC member told me all the things I was doing wrong I wanted to quit. I said to myself if I am doing so many things wrong then why am I even a shepherd.

## Feeling Overwhelmed

Yes. I was overwhelmed as a single shepherd...being the youngest one out of the house church, total # of house church members at that time was about 15 adults and 7 infants/children. At the same time I was working a 7-day on 7-day off work schedule with 12 hour night shifts and day shifts.

## Stagnant Sheep

Yes. Things get hard and it feels like a grind when you see no fruit and just frustration for years.

## Family Conflict

There have been times when my wife and I have heated arguments and sometimes those arguments can lead to juvenile talks of quitting shepherding,

## Disobedient Sheep

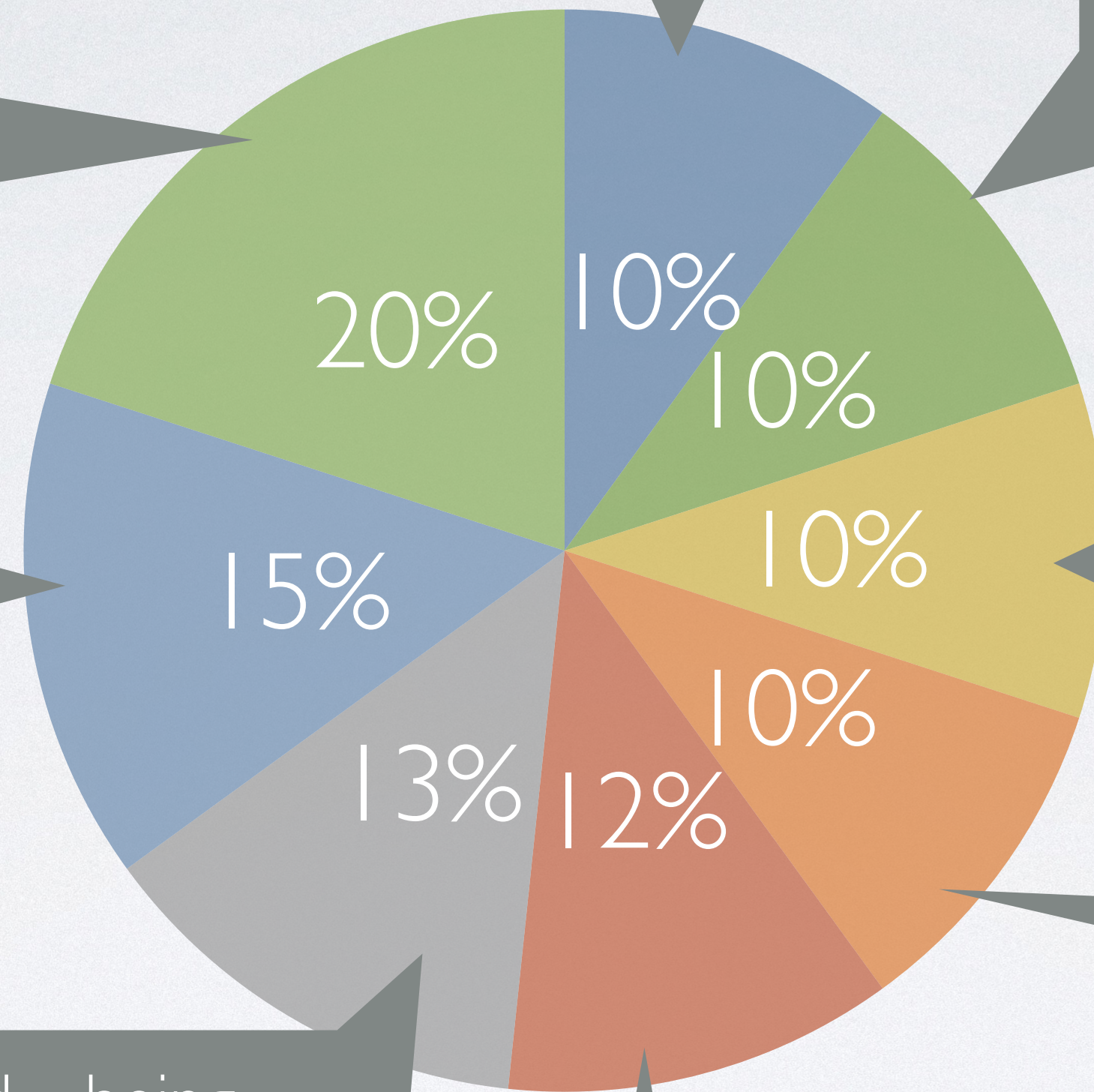
Yes. some members were difficult ... and also going against me and my husband's advice. (Dating nonbelievers, having sexual relations with their significant others, refusing to come to Sunday service, etc).

## Drama Sheep

Yes - many times. When we have difficult members who brings their drama to HC.

## Low Attendance

When people were leaving my HC. I felt ineffective as a shepherd.



# Top Reasons For Wanting To **Quit** Shepherding:

Feeling Inadequate

Stagnant Sheep

Family Conflict

Biting the Shepherd

“Being a pastor (or shepherd) is like being dumped by your gf/bf over and over again.”

**(Rejection)**

Disobedient Sheep

Feeling Overwhelmed

Drama Sheep

Low Attendance

# Action Step: [BiblicalCounseling.com](https://BiblicalCounseling.com) - Houston Area

## Find a Counselor

[About Our Counselors >](#)

[Tips for Using the Map >](#)

[Find a Training Center >](#)

This list is not to be solicited for anything other than seeking a counselor.

Houston, TX, USA

25 mi

SHOWING 1 - 5 OF 25 RESULTS

ADVANCED FILTERS

Any Languages

All Modes

Any Gender

Any Specialization



**Sharon Currans**

Houston, TX 77057 English (United States)



**Freddie Sabins**

Spring, TX 77386 713-725-3078

English (United States) fsabins@riteks.com



**Dr. Bradford Morello**

HOUSTON, TX 77041 346-401-9155

English (United States) brad@c3houston.org



**Mr. Alex Jarufe**

Spring, TX 77386 469-774-6728

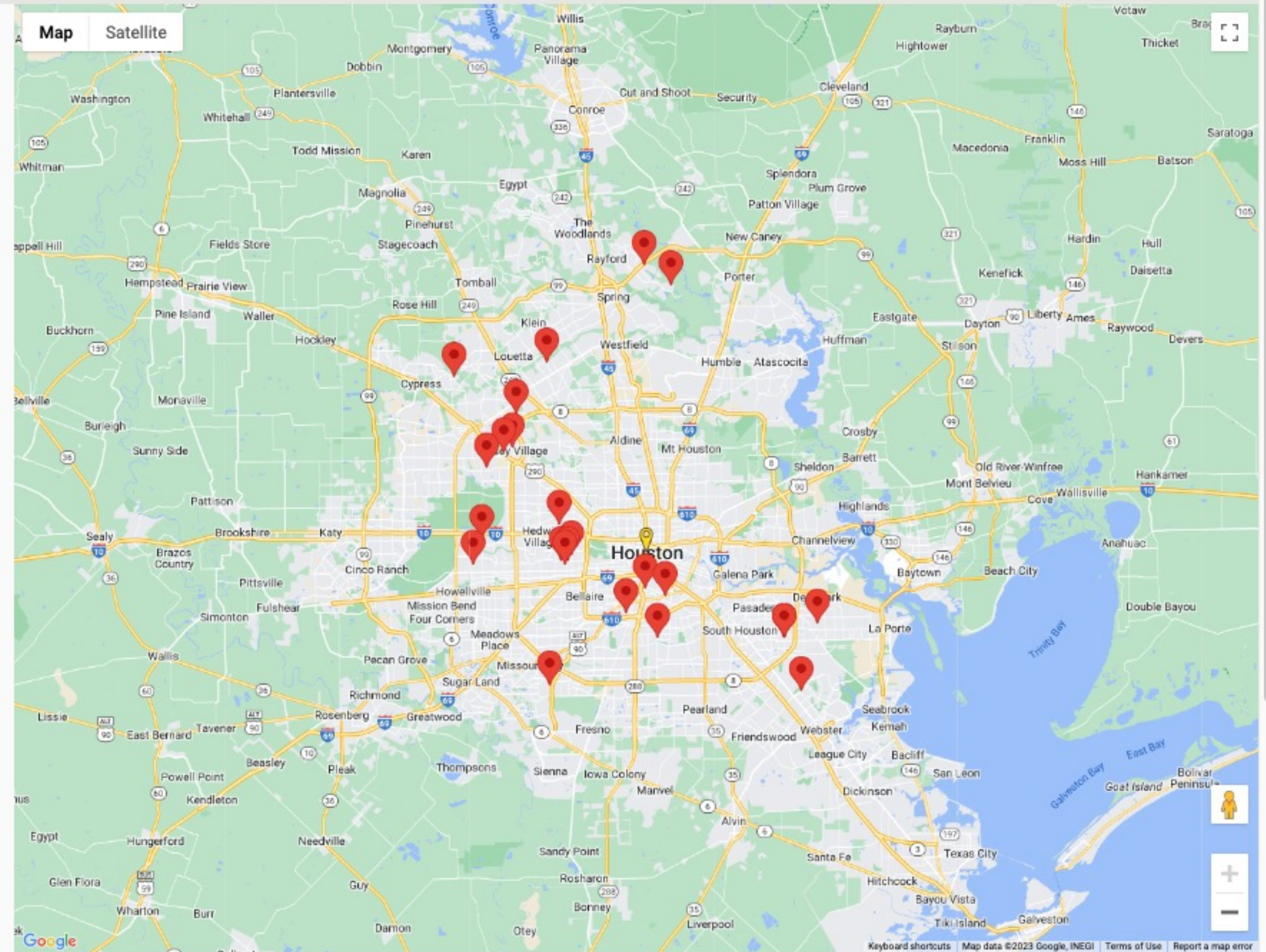
English (United States), Portuguese (Brazil), Spanish alexjarufe@icloud.com



**Ms. Melissa Roedel**

Houston, TX 77057 melissar@bethelofhouston.com

1 2 3 ... 5 Next »



# Top Reasons For Persevering in Shepherding:

## Seeing Members Grow

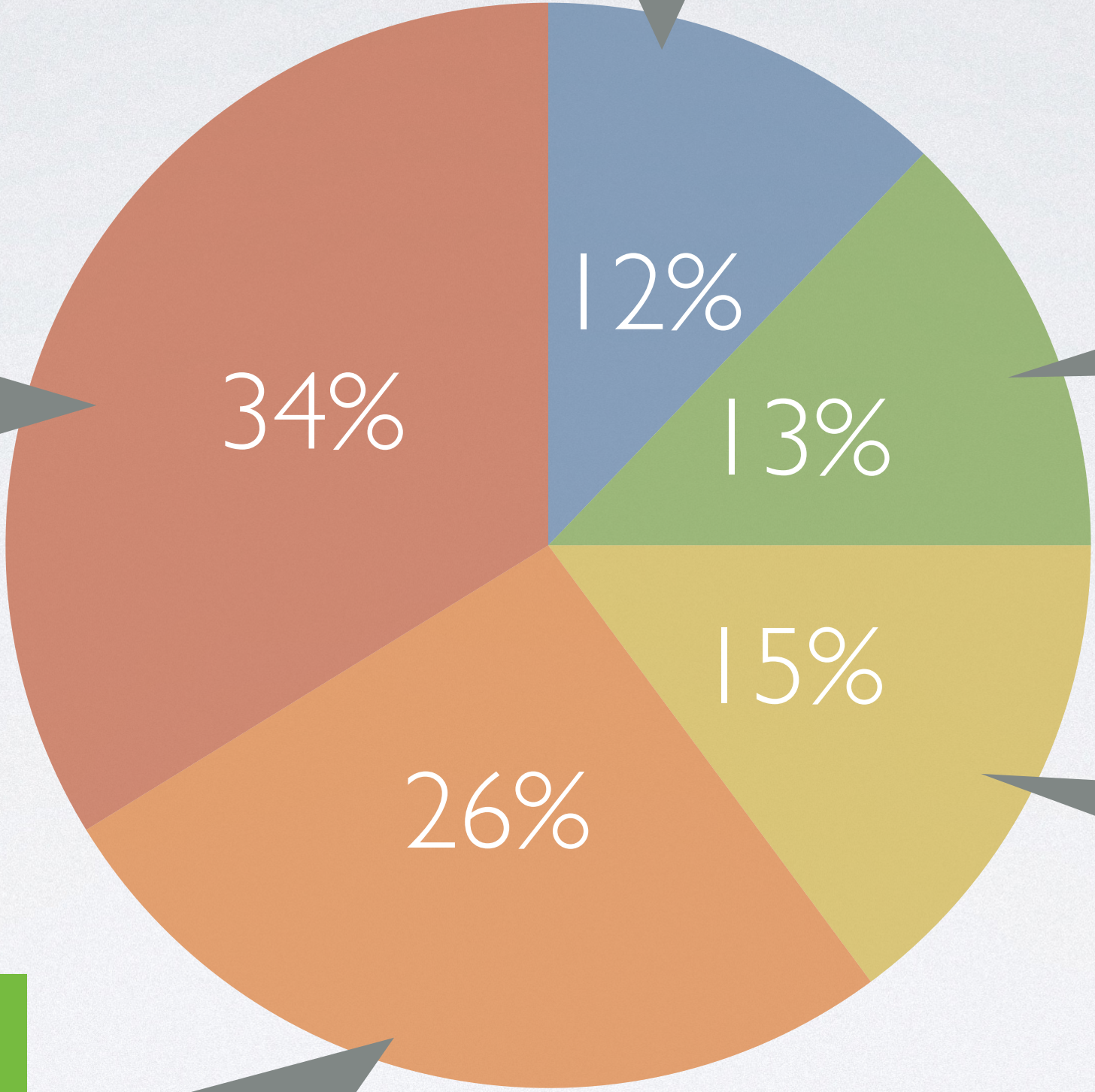
I continue to serve because I have witnessed how God has changed our members, my spouse and my family. Additionally, I truly believe that house church is a crucial element in how Christians can grow spiritually, bring new believers, and grow disciples.

## Helps Me Grow

It is by far the best spiritual training you can get. If you want to grow, then shepherd.

## Love for HC Members

It's rewarding to see how close we are as a Hc. We are literally family and we share so intimately. No one is afraid of sharing what's on their heart, we are an open book to each other.



## Seeing VIPs Saved

We have seen how HC saves lives and families when they grow in Christ. That is why we keep going.

## Obedience to God

God loves me shepherd or not. He called me to it, and though I know He would still love me if I quit, He never said to stop.

“We love our house church and our village. I cannot stress enough how close we have become to our house church members and village. We are family, and in many case, closer than blood family. Our children have been friends since birth and have known only house church as life. The bond of Christ - being rooted and built up in Christ - makes this a stronger communal bond than anything the world can offer. We continue to see God working in not just our lives and our house church members' lives but other house church members' lives and are encouraged by that. We have seen victory through HC. And we know HC works to make disciples of Christ because we are living examples, and we learned (and are continuing to learn) from the examples set by our previous shepherds.”



## What are the ways that **P. Eric** has been a blessing to you as a shepherd?

1. 3 Hours Prayer
2. Leads by Example
3. Sermons
4. Available to us
5. Consistency
6. Has our back

First and foremost, PE is diligent about everything that he does, including his prayer time. Every workday, starting from very early in the morning, he is on his knees for 3 hours praying for our church and us individually. That is beyond comforting and encouraging. It's like he's recharging his and our church's power supply each morning through that prayer time. And because of all of that time he spends alone with God, I know he hears very clearly from Him, and because I know PE is obedient to God and sticks with what is in the Bible, I can feel confident that all of PE's decisions are Spirit-led and Scripture-tested.

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In addition to his weekly sermons which serve to guide and encourage our church, Pastor Eric's modeling has been a huge encouragement. I see Pastor Eric's life as the fruit of living with God, and it encourages me to try my best to walk with God. Especially as a young person, it's hard to see life past the next few years; seeing Pastor Eric model what a mature Christian looks like (full of love, fulfillment, gratitude, peace, energy, joy, etc.) is greatly encouraging. I just need to persevere and I will be able to experience things that PE has experienced.

## What are the ways that **P. Eric** has been a blessing to you as a shepherd?

1. 3 Hours Prayer
2. Leads by Example
3. Sermons
4. Available to us
5. Consistency
6. Has our back

Helps me recalibrate my heart/mentality, very personable, and messages are very practical.

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This is balanced by the fact that he is very available and present when we ask. He has an open-line policy with shepherds. When (my wife) and I had major marital conflict, he immediately invited us over and we had his full attention despite the late hour.

## What are the ways that **P. Eric** has been a blessing to you as a shepherd?

1. 3 Hours Prayer
2. Leads by Example
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5. Consistency
6. Has our back

Pastor Eric leads by example, his solid and unwavering character and commitment, none prays, works, gives more than him. Even financially, by percentage, he probably gives more than many of us. His consistency in following the word of God, no matter what, has truly been an example of spiritual leader to me. One way he could be more of a blessing would be to connect with people emotionally.

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He always has our back as shepherds. I heard stories of members going to PE to complain about their shepherds and he almost always supports the shepherds side. And even on Sunday sermons he will blatantly tell everyone to thank their shepherds; "you think it's easy being a shepherd? You think it's easy taking care of people like you? Why don't you volunteer to be a shep yourself and see how difficult it is navigating the lives of 12 people every week". Haha. He always thanks us too, whether it's on the podium on during the village meetings he visits.