



Resourcing pastors to build lives that thrive

Pastors Day 2017

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Coles Florist
Café Amore, St Catharines

spring 2017

UPdate

Pastors Day Confessions of a Pastor



It's hard to believe that this year marked our 5th Annual Pastor's Day Conference. As a Thrive leadership team we thank God for the way he has guided and provided for us along the way...and this past January was no exception.

On January 26, Gordon MacDonald provided sure footed guidance as we traversed the landscape of the soul. He spoke warmly and candidly about his own journey and how God has shepherded him through green pastures and rocky, narrow pathways. Our theme was: Confessions of a Pastor - who listens to yours? Friends, the theme resonated deeply with many people. Included in the day were briefer 'Ted' talk style presentations addressing the universality of brokenness and how shame and the fear of vulnerability can keep us from forming supportive authentic relationships with 'safe people'. One of the gold nuggets of Gordon's session was a list of questions to ask yourself to help identify 'safe people'.



We enjoyed rich moments of worship through song, a fantastic lunch, and to close the day, shared in a Communion experience together.

We continue to hear very thoughtful comments about the value of a day to explore the soul and not merely learn additional leadership skills. Here is what one attendee had to say.

'This was one of the best, if not the best day of workshops that I have attended during my 27 years of ministry.'

Undoubtedly there is a place for strengthening our leadership skills. Yet, at Thrive we believe God has directed us to focus more on the theme of soul care with it's own complexities, challenges and opportunities. We want our Pastor's Days to live out the mandate of 'helping pastor's lead lives that thrive.'

By God's grace, our contribution was used by his strong and wise Spirit to build into the lives of unique men and women, younger and older who are seeking to follow Jesus faithfully and lead others with grace and truth.

Would you join us in prayer as the planning for next year begins...and think seriously about joining us January 25, 2018, with a friend on your arm?



An Evening For Ministry Wives

With Gail MacDonald

Whether you work in ministry or have a career in another field, ministry spouses share a common supportive role for the ones they love. You share in their victories, but also often quietly carry the burdens of ministry along with them.

On January 25th Gail MacDonald spent the evening with Niagara area ministry wives encouraging and challenging them in their unique opportunities and struggles that come with being married to a ministry leader. Gail shared gems of wisdom gained from more than 50 years of ministry experience alongside of her husband Gordon including her list of Thirty Ways to be Your Husband's Cheerleader. She addressed the challenge of differing temperaments with wit and wisdom, sharing some important learnings about how to navigate being an 'extrovert' who is married to an 'introvert'. Gail spoke about the importance of understanding and appreciating his temperament and focussing on the positives of how you complement each other. The evening concluded with a time of sharing and prayer. Here is what one participant had to say about the evening.

"I loved meeting other ministry wives. It was a wonderful evening and Gail was brilliant!"

Thrive hopes to continue to provide opportunities for ministry wives to come together to share life, provide encouragement and friendship to each other and pray together. If you would like to be included in our email list about upcoming ministry wives' opportunities, please email us at info@thriveministries.ca

Director's Report

2016 has been a year of growth for Thrive, both in the number of church leaders that we have served and the size of the Thrive team. We welcomed Brenda Drost (pastoral advisor) and Joel Osborne (web designer) to the team. We had the privilege of ministering to a total of 80 individuals during 2016. Fifty eight individuals attended groups including Pastors Day, Women in Ministry and Unfinished Business. Nine individuals attended our Growing Intimacy with God retreats. Thirty three one-on-one support sessions were provided to thirteen individuals. It has been a blessing to be able to come alongside of these ministry leaders and their spouses as they have journeyed through ministry and life transitions, burnout, and bullying. We are grateful for God's healing presence in their lives.

UpComing Opportunities

Unfinished Business Group – February 9th – May 11
Growing Intimacy with God Retreat – April 7 – 9, 2017
Ministry Wives Evening - April 26, 2017 @7pm.
Women in Ministry – meets the 2nd Friday of each month
Pastors Day 2018 – Thursday January 25, 2018.

Thrive is Ready to Serve you.

Want to be part of a monthly Women in Ministry Small Group?
Would you like to speak with one of our pastoral advisors?
Are you challenged with a sense of being overloaded or overwhelmed?
Being bullied? Visit www.churchbullying.org and/or email us.
Know someone in church leadership who may benefit from our services?

Please connect with us info@thriveministries.ca or 905-228-3043.

Your Gift & Prayer = Thriving Pastors and Churches in Niagara

Your donations help:

- Provide burnout prevention coaching & education
- Resource small groups for pastors
- Equip church leaders to deal with bullying
- Support Annual Pastors Day

Donate by credit card or cheque through:
Great Commission Foundation
Thrive Ministries Project #139
TEL: 1-855-488-7020 (credit card donations)
#3 Fourteenth St., Grimsby, ON L3M 2W1



RESOURCES:

Thrive provided four books for church leaders at Pastors Day this year. We highly recommend them as resources for healthier leadership practices.

A Resilient Life: You Can Move Ahead No Matter What by Gordon MacDonald (2006)

Emotionally Healthy Leader by Peter Scazzero (2015)

Unashamed: Drop the Baggage, Pick up Your Freedom, Fulfill Your Destiny by Christine Caine (2016)

Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry by Paul Tripp (2012)

NEW Thrive Website

The Thrive team has been working with Joel Osborne to create a new Thrive website that we hope will better serve church leaders. Over the coming months we will be developing a new resource area that will include resources from Pastors Day presenters.
www.thriveministries.ca



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