



Resourcing pastors to build lives that thrive

**UPcoming EVENTS**

**Women in Ministry Small Group**  
November 23, 2015

**Pastors Day 2016**  
January 28, 2016  
9am - 4pm

**Unfinished Business Groups**  
February 11 - May 12, 2016  
1pm - 3:30 pm  
February 16 - May 17, 2016  
6:30pm - 9pm

**Renewing the Flame: Burnout Prevention**  
Spring 2016

[www.thriveministries.ca](http://www.thriveministries.ca)  
[info@thriveministries.ca](mailto:info@thriveministries.ca)

fall 2015

# UPdate

## What's New at Thrive?

### *Thrive welcomes Michael Piett to the pastoral advisory team.*

We are thrilled to announce that Michael Piett has joined the Thrive pastoral team. Michael brings several years of pastoral leadership experience. As Michael says - "To say we experienced challenges in ministry would be putting it mildly." Here at Thrive - that's exactly what qualifies him to come alongside of pastors. Michael looks forward to providing one on one support for pastors.

### *New Small Group for Women in Church Leadership*

November 23rd 2015 marks the first gathering of a small group for women in church leadership. This group will provide a place for support and authentic dialogue regarding the challenges that are unique to women in church leadership roles. We'd love to have you join us. If interested please email me at [cathy@thriveministries.ca](mailto:cathy@thriveministries.ca)

### *New Website about Bullying in Churches - [www.churchbullying.org](http://www.churchbullying.org)*

A number of years ago I spoke with a pastor who described his experience of coming home from his family vacation to find the church board chairman sitting at his dining room table. He was there to tell this pastor that his services at the church were no longer required. They lived in the parsonage so they would also lose their home. And, they only had two weeks to get out. He had been there for two years. There was no warning. He had been asked by the denomination to take this ministry position to try to change the 'clergy killer' culture of the church. He thought he had been making some headway. Clearly that was not the case.



Mention the topic of church bullies in a conversation with most church leaders and the reaction is the same - they lean in a little closer, listen more intently and a barely perceptible knowing smile appears on their face. Why? Because they know that church bullies exist and can create havoc and destructive division in the local church. And to complicate matters, the bully can sometimes be the person you work alongside of in church leadership.

Church mobbing is also a phenomenon that occurs far too frequently. You know - the small group of people who launch a campaign to tarnish the reputation of the pastor or other church leader in an effort to have them removed from their leadership role. In church circles we call it forced resignations.....poor fit.....and it leaves the one who has been forced out sitting wondering what just happened. Not only are the targeted pastors at a loss when it comes to dealing with a mobbing situation, but the leadership team usually has little if no clue about what to do.

Thrive has launched a new website dedicated specifically to dealing with bullying and mobbing in churches. The purpose of this website is to provide information that will increase knowledge about the nature of church bullying, possible pathways to recovery from bullying experiences and how to ensure that your church culture is one that is bully proof.

Please let us know what you think about this new resource.

We are available to talk with you about your specific situation or to answer any questions you may have.  
Email us at [info@thriveministries.ca](mailto:info@thriveministries.ca)  
[www.churchbullying.org](http://www.churchbullying.org)

# Resources for Pastors and Churches

From time to time we would like to highlight some resources that we believe may be helpful to you. In this newsletter we are pleased to introduce you to.....

## Pearable Ministries - a place to rest, reflect, and renew



It was 7 years ago now that we sensed God speaking to us about His desire for His people to take time apart with Him, to step out of the traffic and quiet their souls, to experience the restoring and renewing presence of God. Out of this growing awareness came a calling for us to provide a place where this could happen. Soon after, God led us to two side-by-side properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake that could accommodate both personal retreats and leadership teams. Pearable Ministries has hosted times of refreshment for individuals, couples, and families. Some have been here for a time of study, to make time for each other, to sleep, or to listen to God. Others have come to rest, read, write, or pray for direction and guidance. Some folks have been grieving, recovering from cancer, burned out, or going through a personal crisis. From a place of resting, reflecting and renewing in the presence of God, they begin again.

We've also been a getaway place for leadership teams. It's a space that's conducive to building community and relaxing together while still accomplishing the agenda at hand. Some groups come for day retreats, others stay for a few days enjoying meeting spaces, meals, and accommodations which are all available on-site.

If you've been feeling the need to take time apart for yourself or with a group, visit our website [www.pearable.com](http://www.pearable.com) call us at 905 468-7515, or email Bonnie: [bonniedelia@bell.net](mailto:bonniedelia@bell.net)

Perry and Bonnie D'Elia



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## STATISTICS:

1 in 4 pastors have been fired or forced out of ministry at some point in their careers.

It is generally reported that those responsible for this happening are a 'small faction' within the church.

## Pastors Day 2016

DATE: Thursday January 28, 2016  
TIME: 9am - 4pm including lunch  
WHERE: Harbour Fellowship, St. Catharines

what's on  
**YOUR?**  
plate?

bite off more  
than you can chew?

**TIM DAY**  
(former Lead Pastor of the Meeting House)  
will be our speaker

Are you overwhelmed by the number of commitments you've said yes to? Have you forgotten when to say no?

In this encouraging and interactive full day event we will:

**Explore** the factors that contribute to a healthy life capacity

**Gain** knowledge and skills to sustain a life that thrives

**Provide** opportunities for conversation with other Christian leaders

## 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 Pastors Day 2016

Donate by credit card or cheque through:

Great Commission Foundation  
Thrive Ministries Project

TEL: 1-855-488-7020 (credit card donations)

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