

Pastors Day 2021 written by Dave Dion

The theme for our 9th annual Pastor's Day was "Coming Apart? Why not Come Apart?"

Pastors and leaders have had to contend with many challenges during the past year due to Covid.

COVID has affected just about everything, including Pastor's Day. This was the first 'virtual' event and it definitely required a lot of creative thought and planning in preparation for the day.

Although many pastors feel 'zoomed out' we recognized the importance of taking time to 'come apart' to rest, reflect and experience renewal. While the registrations were fewer than previous years, the enthusiasm for the day was not dashed or diminished. Leaders came away feeling celebrated, encouraged and ministered to.

Celebrated - Each participant received a retreat package that included a journal, pen, hot chocolate, prizes and a book to help them practice 'soul care' following the retreat. Prizes provided by our sponsors included certificates for books, groceries, coffee and helicopter rides.

Honest Prayer

Glen Soderholm, a gifted musician and retreat leader, helped us reflect on our need for Honest Prayer using Psalm 69. It was

easy to make personal application as Glen spoke about the honesty of feeling helpless, troubled, misunderstood, lonely, and angry during covid, along with our need for deliverance and dependence on God.

Personal Reflection

We spent time reflecting on our own experience of life as it currently is and were encouraged to express our reflections as a "targum" (personal paraphrase of the scripture)

Ministry in Community.

We experienced authentic community and souls were nourished as we shared personal reflections in small groups and prayed for each other.

Here is what some of the participants had to say:

"The content, conversations and reflection time was excellent. I was significantly impacted."

"The day was a rich gift. The retreat package (book, pen, hot cocoa, etc.) was a generous gesture that made us feel appreciated and valued as pastors and leaders!"

Book Options for Pastor's Day – Survival

Guide for the Soul, & Running on Empty



President's Report – Cathy Gates

2020 was a 'Stones of Remembrance' kind of year.



All of us are prone to forget the things God has done for us. We need reminders. When Joshua led God's people to cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3:15-16) God parted the waters, and His people walked through on dry land (v. 17). In order to remember this miraculous event, they took twelve stones from the middle of the riverbed and piled them up them on the other side (4:3, 6-7). When asked what the stones meant, God's people would tell the story of what God had done that day.

We want to stop and recount the significant story of what God has done during 2020 in the history of Thrive Ministries.

On behalf of everyone
encouraged through
Pastors Day 2021

A Big Thank You

For partnering with us through your generous support and prayer. Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to meet in person, but we are grateful for the technology available to us to still be able to host this successful event virtually.

Thanks to the following
businesses for supporting
Pastor's Day 2021.

Niagara Helicopters

Heritage Christian Book Store,
St Catharines

Book Outlet

Anonymous Individuals



Stone #1 – Strengthening our organization

April 8, 2020 marks the date of incorporation of Thrive Ministries (Niagara) as an Ontario charity. Although we are not yet a registered charity with CRA we are actively pursuing this in 2021.

Stone # 2 – Providing strong leadership


We
Welcomed
an Official
Board of
Directors



Cathy Gates – President As Thrive Ministries founder, Cathy is committed to providing a safe, confidential refuge for pastors, Christian ministry leaders and their families where they can be honest and open about the issues and realities they struggle with in life and ministry. She brings experience as a public health nurse, former executive director of a large evangelical church and more than a decade of ministry to pastors and their families.



Debra Hoffos – Vice President
With over 20 years of leadership experience in both church and para-church ministries, training in Executive Coaching and Spiritual Direction she brings a rich understanding of leadership opportunities and challenges.



Dave Dion – Treasurer Dave brings many years of experience as a Chartered Professional Accountant working in not-for-profit organizations in various accounting positions. He has been an ordained minister for over 25 years serving as a Pastor and assisting within different mission organizations.



Sarah Shennan – Secretary
Sarah works professionally in online marketing and creative writing. After spending several years on the mission field in Indonesia, she returned to Canada with a heart to support pastors and ministry leaders.



David Forrest – Past Director Dave brought more than 50 years of pastoral and charity leadership experience as he served on Thrive’s board during 2019-20.

Stone # 3 Strengthening our infrastructure



Paige Rutherford – Part Time Administrative Assistant She is keeping us organized in providing groups, services and events and communicating to all of you through social media. Paige has been instrumental in launching our new monthly Resource Library emails.



Joan Allyn – Bookkeeper Joan joins the Thrive Finance Team with a wealth of ministry experience as a full time missionary and professional experience as a bookkeeper for many years with a Christian charity.

Stone # 4 (Most importantly) Strengthen pastors and their spouses

Ministry to pastors and their spouses continued through the pandemic. Our Ministry Team expanded in the fall with the addition of Dave Dion, a seasoned pastor with 20 years of pastoral experience. Dave has been purposefully engaged in training in some of Thrive’s specific ministry areas so that he can serve pastors well in his role as pastoral advisor.

In spite of COVID we ministered to 74 individual church leaders totaling 289 individual contacts. We provided 87 group or individual sessions including four half day Soul Focus Retreats, four Date Nights, twenty-six Unfinished Business group sessions as well as several one-on-one conversations. 43 pastors and spouses attended Pastors Day where they were challenged to live and lead from their identity in Christ.

Thrive’s Director, Cathy Gates was the guest on the Pastor to Pastor (Agora Network Ministries) radio program and podcast discussing Soul Care for pastors. We also participated in one Mental Health and the Church conference.

Most importantly, we saw lives of spiritual leaders impacted in significant ways moving them toward a greater degree of wholeness and spiritual, relational and emotional health. We trust that their families and congregations have experienced the ripple effect from their transformation.

EVENTS IN 2021

Date Night: March 15th, June 7th, Sept 20th, Nov 22nd

Soul Focus:
March 11th, June 10th, Sept 9th, Nov 4th

Unfinished Business Groups:
Beginning the week of February 8 – 14 weeks

Ministry Wives Group:
Meets monthly September – June

Visit www.thriveministries.ca for more information or e-mail info@thriveministries.ca to register for these retreats and groups.

Your donations go towards:

- Enriching pastoral marriages through Date Night
- Deepening church leaders connection to God through Soul Focus Retreats
- Equipping church leaders to deal with stresses of ministry
- Supporting our annual Pastors Day

How to donate:

By Credit: TEL: 1-855-488-7020
(Great Commission Foundation, Thrive Ministries Project #139)

By Cheque:
Payable to: “Great Commission Foundation”,
Memo/Note: “Thrive Ministries Project #139.”
Mail to: “Thrive Ministries, PO Box 28013 Lakeport, St. Catharines, Ont, L2N 7P8”

Online: www.thriveministries.ca/donate



Resourcing pastors to build lives that thrive

www.thriveministries.ca
info@thriveministries.ca