

thrive 10th Anniversary

Supporting the spiritual vitality of pastors and ministry leaders

FALL 2022

*"Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls." -
Jeremiah 6:16*

10 YEARS OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

by Michael Piet

For ten years Thrive has been faithfully living out its purpose to support the vitality of pastors, ministry leaders and their spouses, with a particular focus on emotional and spiritual healing and wholeness. Whether you come alone, or as a couple, Thrive faithfully serves those whom God sends to us. We don't focus on how many we help; rather on how deeply lives are positively enriched through our ministry. We know that when we impact the life of a leader, we impact their family, their ministry and their community.

Thrive continues to be a safe place for leaders to be open and honest about the realities of life and ministry - without fear of reprisal. We continue to offer a space for leaders to grow deeper in their relationship with God and feel His transforming work. We offer the space and resources to find healing and wholeness through Christ; and where people listen, bestow grace, and point leaders to the source of hope and healing - Jesus!

After a strong decade of ministry, Thrive stands at a crossroad. We look back fondly on the work we have done in the past and the people we have served. Yet, at the same time we look ahead, seeking more "good ways" to broaden our care for Pastors and ministry leaders.

If you are a Pastor or ministry leader, know that we are in your corner. You have a safe place to go for spiritual healing and wholeness with people you can trust.



10th Anniversary Reflection - Cathy Gates

MILESTONES DON'T JUST HAPPEN

During 10 years of God's faithfulness, Thrive has witnessed His multi-faceted character at work in the lives of those we serve. God who sees us, heals us and provides for us. God who is with us always and gives us peace. God our shepherd, rock, fortress, Lord, friend and saviour.

In the beginning...

As founding director, my Thrive story begins over 22 years ago, when I was a public health nurse attending a growing evangelical church in Niagara. That church was looking for an Executive Pastor. Over a period of several months, by God's orchestration of events, I was called to leave my 20-plus year career in Public Health and said "Yes" to this call to church ministry. At that time, I had no idea of the path God had set me on. And to be honest, had I known what the next 22 years would be like, I might not have said "yes"!

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Soul Focus Retreat - ONLINE
"Cultivating a Spiritually Alive Walk With the Lord"

October 6, 9am - Noon
\$20 or Redeem Your Gold Ticket

Soul Focus Retreat - IN-PERSON
November 24 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Don't forget to redeem your
"Golden Ticket"
or give it to a friend!



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*Faithful is he who calls you and he will bring it to pass.
(1Thes 5: 23)*

Three years later, I found myself in a little cottage in Michigan. Ministry had taken its toll on my emotional, spiritual and physical health and on my family. At the time, there was no place in Canada east of the Rockies for ministry leaders to find appropriate help. So, I travelled to Michigan to attend a retreat for ministers leaders who were “recovering” from their ministry experiences. While there, a counsellor advised me that what I had experienced in life and ministry leadership during those short three years was more than most pastors experience in a lifetime! I was learning that God’s ways are higher than my ways. In His infinite wisdom and faithfulness, He was able to use what seemed to me like charred ruins, for His good purpose. During my last few days in Michigan; in that little cottage they called “Esther,” God revealed to me the vision for Thrive Ministries.

And here we are. 10 years of stories!

Each person comes to Thrive with a unique story. Some feel distant from God and long for a deeper walk with Him. Others desire personal transformation and freedom from behaviours that negatively impact their relationships. Some are feeling isolated, burned out, have been forced out of ministry, or have experienced emotional and spiritual abuse in the church. Some are victims of predatory behaviour or bullying. And others bring stories of trauma early in life, or of tremendous loss. We celebrate God’s faithfulness in seeing and hearing these people, and bringing healing and wholeness to their lives, as only God can do.

WHERE IS GOD LEADING US?

Expanded reach

Thrive now has a global reach thanks to our online presence birthed out of the pandemic. Our goal is to increase the number of on demand online resources available through our website. Our reach includes a wider community of leaders including missionaries, Christian non-profit leaders and the next generation of pastors and Christian ministry leaders.

New 2 Year Mentoring program

We are excited about this prevention-focused, retreat-based program that emphasizes key aspects of healthy life and Christian leadership, using a journey paradigm. Four areas of focus include “Upward” (relationship with God), “Inward” (inner issues that impact leadership), “Outward” (peer group support) and “Forward” (applying their learnings to their places of leadership)”. Both younger and seasoned leaders will experience the benefits of this journey.

We would like to thank the following sponsors and prize donors who have helped make our 10th Anniversary Celebration possible.

- Chambers and Associates
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- Zehrs, Fairview Mall St Catharines
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- VanderMolen Greenhouses, Pelham
- Anonymous donors

Your donations go towards

- Deepening** church leader’s connection to God through Soul Focus Retreats.
- Equipping** church leaders to deal with stresses of ministry.
- Supporting** our annual Pastors Day.

How to donate

ONLINE: Donating is easy from our website: Paypal, e-transfer, Credit Card
Visit: www.thriveministries.ca/donate.

Or by Cheque:

Payable to: Thrive Ministries (Niagara)
Mail to: Thrive Ministries
PO Box 28013 Lakeport,
St. Catharines, Ont, L2N 7P8



WE ARE NOW A REGISTERED CHARITY

Effective January 22, 2022
Thrive has achieved charitable registration with Canada Revenue Agency.

We are now able to provide receipts to donors for income tax purposes.