



Strengthening the spiritual
vitality of Christian ministry
leaders.



Upcoming Events

SOUL
focus
morning retreat

Sept
24

SOUL
focus
morning retreat

Nov
19



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up^{to}date

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update

spring
2026

Charis Foundation \$10,000 Grant

Celebrating a season of growth.

Message From the Director| Cathy Gates

We want to take a moment to simply say—thank you—and to celebrate what God has done.

Back in October, we applied for a matching grant through The Charis Foundation. We didn't know exactly how it would come together, but we sensed the Lord was inviting us to take that step. Then in December, so many of you responded with generosity. ***Because of you, we reached the full \$10,000 needed to unlock the grant—and in January, we received the full amount.***

We are incredibly grateful.

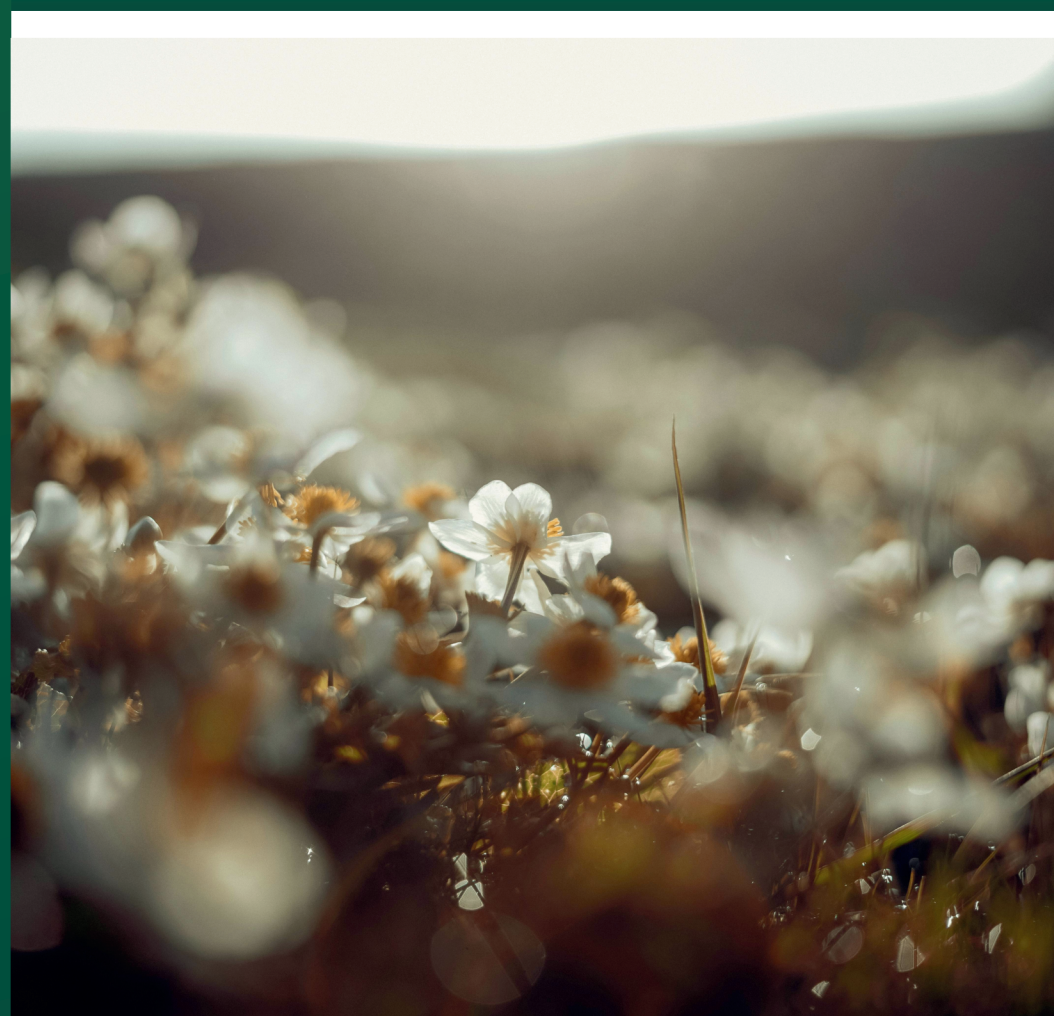
Moments like this remind us that Thrive is not something we are building on our own. God is at work—through His people—laying a strong and timely foundation for what's ahead.

As we look to this next season, we can already see how this provision is opening doors. We are beginning to strengthen our fundraising efforts, develop a clear marketing and fundraising plan, and grow our team—including welcoming a new administrator.

These are not just organizational steps—they are part of preparing the way for more ministry leaders to be refreshed, restored, and sustained. At the heart of it all is a longing to see leaders experience deeper intimacy with God, emotional healing, and renewed strength for the journey ahead.

Thank you for being part of this. Your giving, your prayers, and your encouragement truly matter more than you know. We are expectant for what God will continue to do.

Ministry Statistics: 50% of Pastors Lead Without Professional Support



A recent Barna report states that while pastors demonstrate high flourishing scores in faith, finances and vocation, there are also some concerning patterns. Half of all pastors receive no professional support including mentors, advisors, coaches or counselors. Men in ministry are more likely to fall short here, with 60 percent of male pastors using none of these options compared to 32 percent of female pastors. *Continued on reverse.*

(Ministry Statistics continued) Thrive seeks to bridge this gap by providing opportunities for leaders to be part of authentic supportive communities that can make a meaningful impact on their personal flourishing and ministry.

More Information: <https://www.barna.com/trends/support-pastors/>

Burn Out Prevention

Join us for a morning set apart to reconnect with God, restore your emotional and spiritual rhythms, and realign your heart for sustainable ministry. Through guided teaching, reflection, community, and breakfast, you'll find space to be renewed from the inside out.



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Welcoming Sarah Shennan

I am deeply grateful to be joining Thrive Ministries as Administrator, with a focus on fundraising and program marketing.

My heart for ministry began early, growing up in a home where my parents faithfully served as leaders in churches and church plants. From a young age, I had a close-up view of both the beauty and the weight of ministry, which shaped a deep respect and compassion for those who serve.

That foundation eventually led me to spend several years on the mission field, where I experienced firsthand both the privilege and the challenges of ministry life. Leaving that season was not easy, and it began a time of searching for how I might continue to support those on the front lines.

I pursued training in non-profit management, sensing a desire to serve ministries in a different capacity. While I didn't yet know where that would lead, God faithfully guided my next steps into the marketplace, where I spent the next 12 years working in marketing and operations. There, I gained experience in building systems, supporting teams, and helping organizations grow with clarity and structure.



It was during this season that I was introduced to Thrive.

I participated in an Unfinished Business program that gave me a firsthand experience of the impact of this ministry. Through it, I encountered meaningful healing and was introduced to new ways of meeting with the Lord in the midst of life's challenges. It deepened my understanding of the kind of care and support ministry leaders truly need.

My connection with Thrive continued to grow as I later had the opportunity to serve on the board, gaining further insight into the heart, vision, and impact of the organization.

Looking back, I can now see how God was weaving all these experiences together.

I am excited to help strengthen the internal structure needed for Thrive's growth. My heart is to serve behind the scenes—helping create the stability and support that allows ministries to flourish.

I am truly grateful for this opportunity and for the way God has led me into this new season of serving those in ministry.

Your donations help to:

Deepen
ministry leaders' walk with the Lord

Equip
leaders to deal with the stresses of life and ministry

Support
our Soul Focus Retreats



How to give:

Website



e-Transfer

finance@thriveministries.ca

Cheque

Payable to
Thrive Ministries (Niagara)

Mailing Address

Thrive Ministries (Niagara)
PO Box 28013 Lakeport
St. Catharines, ON
L2N 7P8

Thank you!

