



## 2021 Thrive Ministry Report

Monica deGarmeaux, Director of Thrive Ministry  
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Thrive is the EFCA TX-OK District's ministry created for the care and equipping of lead pastors' wives. While many believe in the value and influence of a lead pastor's wife, data shows that she is often overlooked and under-equipped in her church. Thrive exists to help address a critical need by creating communities of lead pastors' wives and equipping them with practical tools to help navigate life, ministry, and relationships in their unique context. Though this is primarily accomplished through Thrive Groups, relationship-oriented groups that emphasize skills and tools for spiritual growth, last year we added some new facets of the ministry which brought light and life for more women amidst the ongoing challenges much of the world has faced.

The most important change to Thrive in 2021 was the addition of retreats. We hosted three multi-day retreats to address the deep felt need of wives by providing a space to connect with the Lord and other pastors' wives with a unique experience. We learned how vital these retreats are by how quickly each of them filled up. Due to women's overwhelmingly positive response to the retreats, we are working to add more of these types of opportunities to the Thrive calendar in 2022.

Another edition was Kindred Spirits, a quarterly newsletter with information and encouragement to help the 70+ lead pastors' wives in our District connect, be encouraged, and stay up to date with what's going on with Thrive and how to be involved.

The last two years have been traumatic for many of us. Because we want to address real felt needs in Thrive, we also added a Training Time to our calendar: "Trauma Training for the Pastor Wife." We did this for the purpose of equipping pastors' wives and other women in ministry leadership to address personal trauma and to lead others through trauma towards peace too. We had 26 women attend the inaugural Training Time. Since so many women benefited from the training, we have decided to continue offering Training Time to equip women in practical and meaningful ways for everyday life and ministry.

The ministry of Thrive is marked by God's enduring love and provision. We have seen Him go before us in new ministry endeavors, as well as His faithful tending to the deepening and establishing of others. The goal of Thrive is not to create clubs. It is to see spiritual fruit that multiplies. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, this influence is not limited to the individual but reaches beyond to families, churches, and communities. This coming year, we look forward to adding another retreat to our calendar and as the District continues to multiply and grow healthy churches, we are eager to invite more pastors' wives into this meaningful ministry.

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EFCA TX-OK DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

**CONFERENCE**

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