

week one:

AUGUST 6-12

FOCUS: COMMITTING TO COMMUNITY

The story of Ruth embodies a profound commitment to relationship, to family, and to community. We move from acting out of a sense of generosity to meeting as equals. Christian Horizons is committed to building communities of belonging, communities where we meet not above or below one another, but as equals. This month we join in prayer for the communities in Southern Ontario, in and around London. We also remember the Elim Lodge Family Retreat.

"Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God."

~ Ruth 1:16, NLT

PRAYER POINTS

- Volunteers are vital to supporting families seeking the Christian retreat experience at Elim Lodge near Peterborough, ON. Pray that this need would be met, and consider how you might make others aware of this unique and rewarding opportunity.
- Remember in prayer families on the waitlist. We pray that they would find the renewal and rest that they seek.
- As we build communities of belonging, we pray for church leaders to visit the Family Retreat to learn how they can be involved or reach out to families in their own community.

Feedback or requests?

CHRISTIAN HORIZONS ORGANIZATIONAL & SPIRITUAL LIFE

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Dawson and Brigitte enjoy a boat ride at the 2016 Christian Horizons Family Retreat at Elim Lodge. We need volunteers from August 28-September 1st, 2017. To learn more about how you can be involved, or to share this opportunity, visit:

www.christian-horizons.org/what-we-do/family-retreat

PRAYER GUIDE

August 2017

"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

~ Joshua 1:9, NIV

week two:

AUGUST 13-19

"Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy."

~ Psalm 68:5-6a, NLT

THOUGHT: The psalmist proclaims that God is a father and defender for those who are lonely or marginalized. He recognizes their need and also places them in families and communities, places of joy and belonging. Who might you be "community" for today?

PRAYER POINTS

- Keep the Supported Independent Living (SIL) location in Chatham in your prayers. There is a vacancy, and the ladies shared that they are hoping for someone "just like us so we can get along."
- Patsy has broken her leg and is moving into a new home in Sarnia. Please keep her and the team there in your prayers through this time of transition. We pray for healing and peace for Patsy.
- We pray for all transitions through these summer months. For people new to Christian Horizons services, and for Program Manager transitions.
- Praise for existing church relationships such as with St Paul's Congregational Church, and prayer for new and deepening relationships with these communities.

week three:

AUGUST 20-26

"But Moses pleaded with the Lord, 'O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.'" ~ Exodus 4:10, NLT

THOUGHT: Do you ever get tongue-tied? Struggle to be heard? How much more so for people with disabilities that affect communication. Praise be to God for the Holy Spirit who prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise for the ways that people are contributing to their communities. We give thanks for a new opportunity for someone we support to deliver the Faith & Friends magazine from the Salvation Army. We give thanks, too, for a gentleman who has found a new job with the help of his mother at a local restaurant.
- We pray for involvement in strategic direction for Youth Unlimited in Woodstock. Prayer for enhanced volunteer opportunities with Christian Horizons. We also pray for new opportunities for respite youth to belong and contribute to a community of friends and peers. We don't know for sure what may arise from this partnership, but we praise God for what He has in store!

week four:

AUG 27-SEP 2

"So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet."

~ 2 Samuel 9:13, KJV

THOUGHT: David had once been the origin of the phrase "The blind and the lame may not enter the house." (2 Sam 5:8). Yet here David embraces as family the disabled son of Jonathan. How might we similarly be agents of change in challenging stigma in society?

PRAYER POINTS

- It's the week of the Christian Horizons Family Retreat at Elim Lodge! Pray for excellent weather, strength and wisdom for volunteers and leaders, and a meaningful and refreshing time for all the families that participate.
- Pray for first-time families to the retreat. They tend to be apprehensive about whether it will meet their needs. We trust and pray that this will be a beautiful time of reconnection as they enjoy a supported retreat environment!
- Give thanks for the volunteers who make this week possible. We ask that God would bless them, that He would make His face shine upon them and give them peace. We ask that they would go back to their communities renewed in their commitment to foster belonging.