

week one:

SEPTEMBER 3-9

FOCUS: WHERE IS THE COMMUNITY?

When Christian Horizons speaks about "communities of belonging," it is necessary to stretch our vision of community. Community is not just down the street or in the neighborhood. Community is wherever people are. Author and advocate Cara Milne reminds us that we know we are connected to community when we are "noticed, known, and missed." We pray that people who receive the services of Christian Horizons will always belong to communities where they are *needed*.

"In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary."

~ 1 Corinthians 12:22, NLT

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise for 1000 new textbooks purchased for students in Haiti. Typically, students are required to purchase their own textbooks. Students can now spend their money on other needed items.
- Pray for the children and teachers who begin another school year in September. Pray that they would embrace new perspectives on what community involves and who it includes!
- Praise for Horizons Academy in Ethiopia, serving as a model of inclusive education. Keep them in prayer as they begin their second school year this September.

Feedback or requests?

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This month's international and donor-related prayer items focus on Christian Horizons' child sponsorship program. You can learn more about this opportunity at the following site:

[www.christian-horizons.org/
sponsorship-program](http://www.christian-horizons.org/sponsorship-program)

PRAYER GUIDE

September 2017

"He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'"

~ Matthew 18:2-6

week two:

SEPTEMBER 10-16

"The Lord called me before my birth; from within the womb he called me by name."

"See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands."

~ Isaiah 49:1, 16, NLT

THOUGHT: Speaking respectfully about disability and identity can be tricky, as it's different for each person. In Isaiah, we hear from a God who knows everything about us, and who calls us by name. May we, too, look beyond labels to get to know each person.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for people to come forward to be host families. Praise God for those who already experience these rewarding relationships and keep in prayer people who are on the wait list.
- This month we pray for the Essex and Elgin communities of Ontario services. Remember Annette in LaSalle in your prayers, currently in palliative care.
- Praise God for a move from various sites into one space for Windsor/Essex office supports, community participation, host family and SIL services! We are grateful to be able to build communities of belonging out of this new space.
- Continue to pray for passionate and competent Direct Support Professionals to join Christian Horizons and further our Vision.

week three:

SEPTEMBER 17-23

"Each time [the Lord] said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me."
~ 2 Corinthians 12:9, NLT

THOUGHT: We are all composite beings, assembled with strengths and weaknesses, abilities and limitations. In a society that too often glorifies power and mocks weakness, we must remember the God who is glorified in all creation, and in every body.

PRAYER POINTS

- In Southern Ontario, we are working to equip employees to in the principles of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA). We hope to have the first five support plans in place over the next couple of months for people who have been waiting for them. Please pray that these new approaches will result in greater belonging in community. Pray that the plans will equip people to use their God-given gifts both at home and in their neighborhoods.
- Pray for an upcoming opportunity to host an exciting lunch and learn event with pastor and plumber alike! From working with us as an electricians or other skilled tradespersons, to offering spiritual support, we will be highlighting what Christian Horizons is all about.

week four:

SEPTEMBER 24-30

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'"

~ Matthew 11:28, NLT

THOUGHT: We remember parents and caregivers who love their children and family members with disabilities and yet continue to carry heavy burdens of caregiving responsibilities. May we follow in Christ's footsteps in bringing rest to the weary.

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for all of our child sponsors. Thanksgiving for the impact that sponsors are making one life at a time.
- Pray for new sponsors. We have a waiting list of children needing a sponsor. Pray for the children who need sponsors, and for those whose sponsors have had to stop their support.
- Praise God for the inclusive education programs in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Pray for these students who are entering school break – for health, safety, and growth as a community.
- Prayer for wisdom and united vision for national and international teams. Pray for guidance and for deepened experiences of belonging within community for children who are sponsored and their families.