

week one:

Dec 31-Jan 6

FOCUS: A PICTURE OF BELONGING

As we head into the New Year, we remember the many employees and volunteers that make up the ministry of Christian Horizons. We are committed to the people we support experiencing belonging, and also those who provide support. We pray that each person who has joined the mission of Christian Horizons will experience an environment where their God-given gifts are valued and respected. We give thanks that together we comprise a "picture of belonging."

"I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." ~ 1 Cor 1:10 NLT

PRAYER POINTS

- We are thankful that with the diversity of those working with Christian Horizons, we share One Vision, One Ministry. We pray that each person would experience a community of belonging in their time with Christian Horizons.
- Take a moment to give thanks for others who, like you, pray for the ministry of Christian Horizons. We can accomplish what we do thanks to your prayers and the wisdom that God provides.
- Give thanks for those who partner with Christian Horizons in various ways, including through their church or individual giving.

Feedback or requests?

**CHRISTIAN HORIZONS
ORGANIZATIONAL & SPIRITUAL LIFE**

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Once again, families and volunteers will converge on Galilee Bible Camp just outside of Ottawa, Ontario for the Winter Wonderland Family Retreat. This month we keep those families and volunteers in our prayers.

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

January 2018
PRAYER GUIDE

"Belonging is the place where we grow to maturity and discover what it means to be human and to act in a human way."

~ John Vanier, Becoming Human



week two:

JANUARY 7-13

"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good."

~ Genesis 1:2b-4a, NIV

THOUGHT: There are times when our lives are 'chaotic.' Whether through disability, illness, or other limitations, even our bodies can feel 'out of control.' God, the Source and Sustainer, gives us assurance that none of this falls outside of His loving presence.

PRAYER POINTS

- This week is the Winter Wonderland Family Retreat near Ottawa. Pray that the families would experience the love of Christ in their time away, along with rest and encouragement in their journey.
- Pray for safety at the Family Retreat. With dogsleds, snowmachine rides, tubing, and a wagon ride there are many exciting activities, each with a degree of risk!
- Pray for our speaker, Pastor Bob Davies from Kanata Baptist Church. May families be blessed by his experience as a pastor and father of a child with disabilities. May his family have a fantastic time at the retreat as well.
- We ask for inspiration and wisdom for those who are interested in the possibility of opening new family retreat opportunities in other areas.

week three:

JANUARY 14-20

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

~ Genesis 2:15, NIV

THOUGHT: Humanity was created, from the beginning, to *work* and to *care*. Too often, people with disabilities are not included in these life-giving activities. God invites all to contribute in this care-giving vocation. How might we become people who invite and encourage these gifts in others?

PRAYER POINTS

- We are praying for the Toronto area communities of support this month. We give thanks for the years that Executive Director Claudine Cousins has invested in the work of Christian Horizons, and we pray for wisdom and blessing as she takes a new role as Executive Director with Simcoe Community Services.
- Pray for Central District leadership and employees as they navigate this change, and for a competent and qualified replacement to step into the role of Executive Director.
- As people supported travel on supported vacations over the coming year, we pray for safety and that they would experience rich enjoyment and encouragement in their God-given gifts through these times.

week four:

JANUARY 21-27

"The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."

~ Genesis 2:23, NIV

THOUGHT: Difference often brings about isolation or separation in our world. Rather than only looking to disability as a source of difference, we must first recognize the "sameness" of what it means to be created in the image of God, together. How might we better live into this reality today?

PRAYER POINTS

- There are a number of exciting initiatives taking place in the GTA over the coming year. A retreat for people supported, events to resource and equip pastors to nurture communities of belonging, and a group for families are all in the works. We pray that these opportunities would impact the lives of all who attend and, in turn, the lives of people with disabilities in our communities.
- The end of winter/early spring is a time when many people wrestle with flues and colds. For those with already-compromised immune systems, these can be particularly concerning. We pray for peace and renewed body and mind for the people we support as they navigate these illnesses, and for their Direct Support Professionals as well.