

week one:

MARCH 4-10

FOCUS: LENT & CHRISTIAN FAITH ROOTS

Through the season of Lent, many Christians practice self-denial. This may range from taking a break from daily coffee to committing to periods of fasting and prayer. Rhythms of feast and famine in our lives remind us that we are dependent upon God and one another. Living with less can free us to give more to others. Prayer for others is one way in which we give of our time to invest in the lives of others. In prayer, we give thanks for their part in our story and their communities.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

~ *Philippians 2:2-4, NIV*

PRAYER POINTS

- Many employees and people we support participate in Lent and celebrate Easter. We pray that these are spiritually meaningful times for each person to connect with their communities.
- This month a small team travels to Ethiopia to meet with potential partners, working with new friends to help people with disabilities in their communities. We pray for continued good relationships for Christian Horizons in communities and with the government there.
- Horizons Academy in Asella, Ethiopia, is growing! We pray for sustainability and for continued growth and leadership.

Feedback or requests?

CHRISTIAN HORIZONS ORGANIZATIONAL & SPIRITUAL LIFE

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Meskelu is the young Ethiopian man pictured in this photo with his mother. His name means "cross."

This month we give thanks for and pray for supports and services provided through Christian Horizons Global in Ethiopia, along with those provided in the Peterborough, Ontario area. We are grateful for all that God does and will continue to do in the lives of people in these communities.

PRAYER GUIDE

March 2018

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

~ Max Lucado

week two:

MARCH 11-17

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"

~ Isaiah 58:6, NIV

THOUGHT: There is value to fasting from food, or coffee, or something else that we prize for a period of time to invest in our relationship with God. Ultimately, though, the fasting that God looks for is to address injustice and barriers in the lives of those around us who have been marginalized.

PRAYER POINTS

- This month we pray for supports and services in communities in and around Peterborough, Ontario. Pray for leaders and Direct Support Professionals in this area as they value people and foster belonging.
- Pray for the Host Family Program in Peterborough as it provides another residential option for Transitional Age Youth. Times of transition aren't easy for any of us, and we pray that these youth will experience communities of belonging in their new support relationships.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment in planning housing options for people supported internally and externally. We pray that people's God-given gifts will be valued and respected in these services.

week three:

MARCH 18-24

"Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.'"

~ John 12:14-15, NIV

THOUGHT: Crowds followed Jesus everywhere he went toward the end of his earthly ministry. They were shouting "Hosanna!" as he came into Jerusalem – not on an expensive steed but a donkey. Christ is a King who comes with gentleness and peace, not with fire and fury.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for qualified candidates to discover a rewarding career working with Christian Horizons. We ask for wisdom as we fill internal vacancies, and that the people who are hired will be an excellent "fit" with the people they support.
- We give thanks for employment opportunities for people we support and pray that employers will continue to see the potential and contribution that people with disabilities make in meaningful jobs.
- Pray for families, friends, and teams who have supported people who have recently passed away. We ask for peace and comfort as they adjust to a 'new normal.'

week four:

MARCH 25 – 31

"Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what 'rising from the dead' meant." ~Mark 9:9-10, NIV

THOUGHT: As with the disciples after coming down the mountain of transfiguration, we cannot fully comprehend what "rising from the dead" means. Yet we work towards opportunities for people to experience *new life* in their homes and communities. How is Christ revealing new life in you today?

PRAYER POINTS

- We pray for Christian Horizons' ministry in Ethiopia. Political and societal unrest has been growing there and has begun to impact our services. Pray that everyone continues to be safe and that we would be able to support vulnerable people well.
- The end of March is the close of Christian Horizons' fiscal year. It is a time when we have the opportunity to demonstrate diligent stewardship in both our donor-funded and government-funded services. Pray for everyone who invests extra time and effort in honouring God with our financial resources at this time of year.