

*week one:*

## APRIL 1-7

### FOCUS: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Christian Horizons' commitment to value people applies to everyone. One way we demonstrate value to others is by communicating in a way that each person will understand, and listening in the way that people communicate – whether this involves words or not. When we read that “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” (Jn 1:14, ESV), we know that God went to great lengths to speak *our* language. We value people by seeking to do the same with those around us.

“May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

~ Psalm 19:14, NIV

### PRAYER POINTS

- We pray that we would learn how best to speak to others, to be understood but more importantly to understand. May we take the time to hear from people who communicate in different ways, and to discern self-determination with people who do not use words to communicate.
- We pray for wisdom as we work towards strategic outcomes over the months to come. We are thankful for a strong Vision and leaders to guide our direction. We ask that God would continue to inspire innovative and transformative approaches to seeing people experience belonging in their communities.

*Feedback or requests?*

### CHRISTIAN HORIZONS ORGANIZATIONAL & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Dr. Neil Cudney (Director)  
Keith Dow (Manager)  
Chantal Huinink (Coordinator)

(519) 650-0966  
[ministry@christian-horizons.org](mailto:ministry@christian-horizons.org)



*Karla and her friend Bryon, both from the Durham area, enjoy spending time together as spring approaches.*

This month's Prayer Guide highlights the communities of Cobourg and Durham, along with Guatemala internationally.

# PRAYER GUIDE

*April 2018*

“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.”

~ John 1:14, NLT

week two:

## APRIL 8 – 14

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

~ Colossians 4:6, ESV

**THOUGHT:** It’s strange to think of salty words. But salt was a precious commodity in biblical times. *Salary* derives its root from salt’s value. As we speak, let us consider the richness of our words. Let us speak words of beauty and flavour, words that provide lasting encouragement and peace.

### PRAYER POINTS

- In Durham, Ontario we are offering new services and new locations are opening. Please pray for the people who have chosen these services and for the teams that will come together to provide support.
- Pray for these neighbourhoods into which people are moving. May neighbours and new friends come to value and respect the God-given gifts of people with disabilities.
- We continue to pray for people who are entering an end-of-life phase and the families, friends, and support providers of people who have recently died. May God bring each peace and comfort through this time of loss, and may moments of connection be treasured.

week three:

## APRIL 15 – 21

“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”

~ James 1:19, NLT

**THOUGHT:** We live in a time when words are released more quickly than ever, and time to sit and listen to someone else is rare and precious. Yet James commands *you must all* be people who are known as listeners - people who *take time* to understand before answering, lest we respond in anger.

### PRAYER POINTS

- Author and speaker Cara Milne from Alberta is working with various communities across Ontario this week as she presents *A Search for Meaningful Moments*. We pray that these workshops would equip Direct Support Professionals with new ideas, strategies, and inspiration to work with people they support to foster belonging in their communities.



[CHRISTIAN-HORIZONS.EVENTBRITE.CA](http://CHRISTIAN-HORIZONS.EVENTBRITE.CA)

week four:

## APRIL 22 – 28

“There is one who speaks rashly, like a piercing sword; but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

~ Proverbs 12:18, HCSB

**THOUGHT:** When we think of healing, doctors and medicine are often first to come to mind. But what powerful potion might be contained in wise and thoughtful words? Your speech today has the potential to cut and destroy or to bring healing to hearts, relationships, and faith. Consider wisely your words, for therein lies life.

### PRAYER POINTS

- In Guatemala, we praise God for expansion construction that is underway at our preschool in Lake Amatitlan. This preschool prepares children with and without disabilities to succeed in a crowded public school system in Grade One.
- Pray for repairs underway to the preschool in the Mayan village of El Zapitillo that was damaged by a recent earthquake. May the restoration go smoothly, and we pray for safety for all involved.
- Pray for the children we are reaching in communities that have high rates of violence. We pray our educational opportunities will open doorways to a better future.