

week one:

MAY 6 - 12

FOCUS: SUPPORTING FAITH & CULTURE

Christian Horizons is a Christian faith-based organization committed to supporting people in their faith and cultural beliefs. This month we focus on supporting and partnering with Muslims in Canada and around the world. Many communities in which we work in Ethiopia and Kenya, for example, are predominantly Muslim. We pray for our Muslim employees, people we support, and partners. Together may we work towards communities where *everybody belongs*.

“Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.”

~ 1 Peter 3:8, NLT

PRAYER POINTS

- We pray that people would experience Christian Horizons' core values, as grounded in Christian faith roots. May those whom we interact with encounter Christian Horizons as a rich expression of the Christian faith that communicates value and respect for all people.
- We give thanks for people who work with, receive services from, and partner with Christian Horizons from diverse faith traditions. Together may we work towards a future where *people who experience disabilities belong to communities in which their God-given gifts are valued and respected*.

Feedback or requests?

**CHRISTIAN HORIZONS
ORGANIZATIONAL & SPIRITUAL LIFE**

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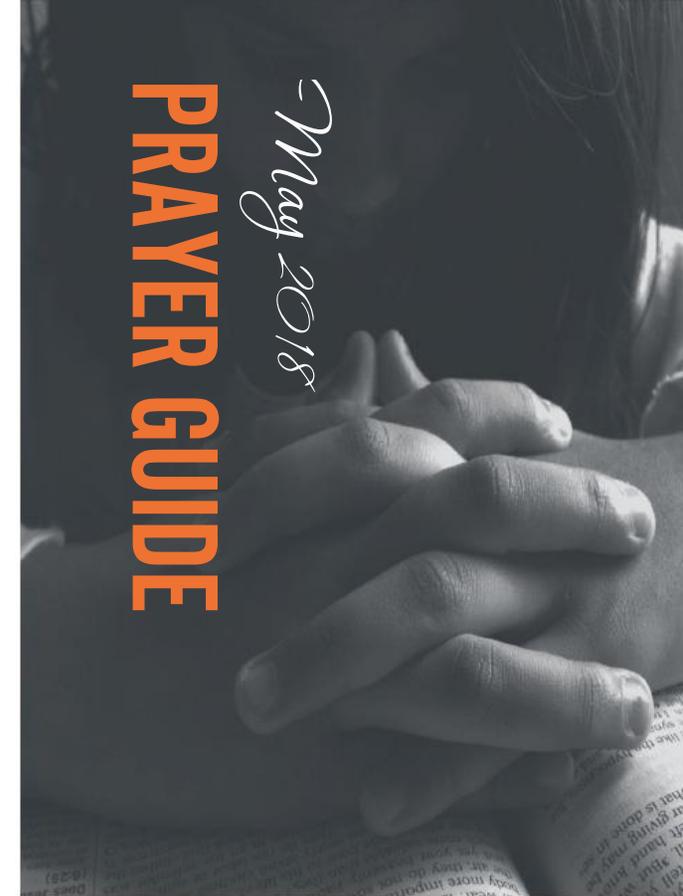


On April 7, John (left) and Stephen (right) participated in the Belong 2018 conference in Ottawa. They helped with the Christian Horizons booth and Stephen spoke as part of a panel. Ruthann (centre) Direct Support Professional was also on hand to assist.

This month's Prayer Guide highlights the communities in and around Ottawa. We also pray for international communities and partnerships, particularly with predominantly Muslim communities.

PRAYER GUIDE

May 2018



“A Christian community should do as Jesus did: propose and not impose. Its attraction must lie in the radiance cast by the love of brothers.”

~ Jean Vanier



week two:

MAY 13 – 19

"Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"

~ James 2:5, NIV

THOUGHT: There are many ways that people are "seen" as poor. People with disabilities are often seen in light of the "dis-" and communities are impoverished because of this, missing out on the gifts and abilities of so many people. May we learn to be rich in faith, regardless of whether we are seen as rich or poor in the eyes of others.

PRAYER POINTS

- Keep in prayer a number of transitions that are taking place in Ottawa-area communities. These include people who receive services who are transitioning into new support locations, as well as employees who are moving on or changing roles.
- In particular we give thanks for Jill Black's years of service with Christian Horizons. As she retires, we pray for Jasmine Duckworth who will be taking on her role as Community Development Manager.
- We pray for people who receive services who are transitioning to new supports. We pray that the technical aspects of these transitions would go smoothly and, most importantly, that people would experience belonging in their new communities.

week three:

MAY 20 – 26

"For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves."

~ Luke 22:27, ESV

THOUGHT: One of Christian Horizons' core values is *servicing others*. This means that we see great value in sharing our gifts with other people and, in turn, being willing to receive gifts *from* others. These "gifts" may be talents, work, time, a listening ear... the list goes on. What gift will you share with others today?

PRAYER POINTS

- In Ottawa (along with other communities), teams, friends, and families are grieving losses of people supported who have died or are transitioning to palliative care. Grief is an expression of the value and joy someone has brought to our lives. We give thanks for the difference that each person made in the life of their community and pray for peace for those who have cared for them and have known them.
- We give thanks for the success of *Belong 2018: Strangers No More*, a sold-out conference held at a local church in Ottawa in collaboration with a number of partner organizations. May churches and faith communities build on this momentum in becoming places of belonging with all people!

week four:

MAY 27 – JUNE 2

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

~ 1 Peter 4:10, ESV

THOUGHT: It's tempting to hide our gifts when we think of gifts being only for ourselves. We think that we're being humble. Yet, gifts are given *to everyone* in order to be shared. What might it look to live in *gifted communities*, where we each look to receive and share gifts with people of all abilities?

PRAYER POINTS

- Christian Horizons works in many communities in Ethiopia and Kenya that are predominantly Muslim. We give thanks for strong partnerships through diversity. May Christian Horizons be experienced as a grace-filled expression of Christian faith.
- We pray for church leaders in Kenya who are being equipped to lead churches that welcome, include, and receive the gifts of people who experience disability.
- Continue to pray for Ethiopia, in particular for the peaceful transition of the Prime Minister there. We give thanks for the work that Christian Horizons is doing and pray that people with disabilities will be valued and respected through this period of transition.