

week one:

JUNE 3 -9

FOCUS: EVERYDAY BELONGING

Zacchaeus the tax collector was not tall enough to see Jesus over the crowd, so he climbed a tree. Jesus came to the spot, looked up at him and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." Cara Milne says that we belong where we are noticed, known, and missed. Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus paints a picture of what it looks like to foster moments of belonging. What might "everyday belonging" look like in our communities today?

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."

~ Psalm 100:3, NIV

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that wherever Christian Horizons works, meaningful moments of belonging will take place today. May our communities be places where people are known by name and where we recognize how much we need people of all abilities.
- God is always seeking people who have been marginalized by communities. John Swinton reminds us that Christ didn't just go to the marginalized but actually shifted the margins to be the centre of His work. May we be open to receiving Christ's welcome and extending this welcome to those around us.

Feedback or requests?

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Shelley was a beloved part of her community, shown here celebrating a bonfire put on for her by the Kingston Fire Department in April. Shelley recently passed away and will be dearly missed.

This month's Prayer Guide highlights the communities in and around Kingston, Ontario. We also pray for international communities and partnerships, particularly in Haiti.

PRAYER GUIDE

June 2018

"Community is actually right where you are! It is not something you leave and then go back to. It is where you journey, it is the path you walk. It is at home, on the bus, at work, at a coffee shop or walking home. It is the people around you, wherever your day leads."

~ Cara Milne

week two:

JUNE 10 – 16

“I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way” ~ *Jesus in Matthew 15:22, NIV*

THOUGHT: Jesus always paired compassion with action, action that often met people’s practical needs. In his divine humanity, he knew what it meant to be hungry and weak, to experience limits and disappointments and pain. May we, too, seek to understand the experiences of others before taking compassionate action.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that as we lead and serve, following Christ’s example, we will fulfill our roles with humanity. May our systems and structures make room for and enable flourishing within community.
- Continue to pray for Shelley’s community in Kingston as they grieve her passing. Pray for family, friends, and Direct Support Professionals of other people we support who have passed away recently.
- We pray for courage to respond to new opportunities, to connect with new partners and in new service models to see where God leads. We give thanks for new services being launched in employment, housing, activities etc.
- Pray for employees who are in transitions and for the people who will be stepping into these roles.

week three:

JUNE 17 – 23

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.”

~ *John 15:16, ESV*

THOUGHT: To be *chosen* is a powerful feeling. To know that we are a valued part of a community, someone who can contribute, someone who can “bear fruit” as Jesus describes above. How might we let someone know that they are an indispensable part of our lives, community, and world today?

PRAYER POINTS

- We are thankful for increasing recognition of the God-given gifts and abilities that people who experience disability have to offer. At Christian Horizons we are excited to welcome increasing contribution and direction from people we support in service provision in the years to come.
- Pray for discernment for leaders across the organization. May we continue to pursue our Vision with passion. Pray for Program Managers that they would continue to lead and manage well.
- We give thanks for all of our Direct Support Professionals and volunteers. Pray for resilience and that we would continue to attract and retain excellent employees who are excited to build communities of belonging.

week four:

JUNE 24 – 30

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

~ *Proverbs 19:21, NIV*

THOUGHT: Plans change all of the time. Some work out, and others do not. We pray that, through all of our planning, intentions, and ambitions, God’s purpose is the one that prevails. How might we learn to better hear where He wants to lead us, and have the courage to step out in faith?

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray over strategic outcome planning over the coming months, that we would plan in such a way to continue to be open to God’s leading and direction.
- In Haiti we praise God for the end of the school year and for the learning and growing that took place in communities where everybody belongs. More students with high needs were able to participate in school thanks to new Educational Assistants.
- Pray that those of us in North America would find the joy of serving out of gratitude for all that we have received.
- Pray for increased and/or continued stability in the countries where we work. 2018 has been particularly problematic for political upheaval. Pray for teams working in these environments.