

week one:

APRIL 1-6

FOCUS: PEOPLE DIRECT THEIR SERVICES

Christian Horizons' second strategic outcome is that "People direct their services." This isn't new, but it is a principle that we are increasingly committed to in the way that we *value people*. As pastor and theologian David Fitch writes, "God comes humbly in Christ. He so loves us, he never imposes himself on us. Instead he comes to us, to be with us, and in that presence he reveals himself." We seek to be humbly present to people, not imposing our own values but listening to the desires and direction of people who use our services.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

~ Ephesians 4:2, NIV

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the annual turkey dinner that Somerville hosts with people who use Christian Horizons' services and their families in Durham. It's the highlight of the season!
- Thank God for his provision and the connection with a local church in Durham who provided Christmas gifts to everyone at Sideline homes.
- Praise God for Ezra John, born early this year to Sarah, our Somerville manager. Pray for health, rest, and joy for this family over the coming months.

Feedback or requests?

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Early in March, Program Managers from across the communities of Peterborough, Cobourg, Durham, and Kawartha Lakes gathered together for a workshop on compliance, "The road to 100%" We give thanks for our dedicated and hard-working leaders across Christian Horizons.

This month's Prayer Guide highlights the work of Christian Horizons in Somerville, Durham, and Guatemala.

PRAYER GUIDE

April 2019

"O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven and earth. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion."

~ Solomon, 2 Chronicles 6:14, NLT

week two:

APRIL 7-13

"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

~ Romans 14:17 NLT

THOUGHT: Thankfully, God's kingdom is not about particular religious practices. Instead, it is about God transforming our hearts. We live in God's kingdom, insofar as we practice goodness, peace and joy toward one another, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER POINTS

- Lift up in prayer the overall health of the Somerville community in Durham. Pray especially for Val, a well-loved volunteer who will be missed as she takes time off due to health concerns. Pray, too, for Deborah, who lives in the Somerville community, as she adjusts to new medical concerns.
- Pray for people across Christian Horizons through the aging process. Pray that God would provide relief of ailments, aches, and pains. May they continue to contribute their diverse gifts in meaningful ways within community.
- Pray for comfort for families and employees who have recently lost loved ones. May we continue to be an empathetic community who "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15, NIV).

week three:

APRIL 14-20

"You love justice and hate evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else."

~ Psalm 45:7, NLT

THOUGHT: When we are disheartened by injustices in the world we can rest assured that our sadness is rooted in godly desires. We can be encouraged because our joy does not depend on strength within ourselves but rather, it comes to us from our God in heaven.

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for another school year that began in Guatemala in February. Pray for the 100 children who learn together in inclusive preschool settings. Praise God that kids of all abilities are growing and using their God given gifts together.
- Pray for the three women who use Christian Horizons services in a home in Guatemala. May they develop new relationships as we look toward more community-based support in the future.
- Pray for political and social stability in Nicaragua and ongoing partnership conversations in Ethiopia. Thank God for the growth at Horizons Academy and at the Child Development Unit.

week four:

APRIL 21-27

"For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people."

~ 1 Corinthians 14:33, NLT

THOUGHT: When our lives or those of our loved ones seem chaotic or tumultuous, it is important to remember that God is a God of peace and order who is in the process of renewing all things. May we serve as agents of peace for all those we encounter today.

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks to God for another season of the *Faith, Hope, and Charity* Bible Study, where people who experience disabilities participate, build friendships, and grow in their spiritual development.
- Pray for those who provide supports in challenging service environments, for wisdom, grace and gentleness so people can be supported well.
- Pray for leaders in Cobourg, Peterborough, Durham, and Kawartha Lakes communities. We give thanks for their ongoing support and encouragement and pray for wisdom and strength over the months and years to come.