

Prayer Partner LETTER



May 2017

Dear prayer partners,

Thank-you for your prayers. Here are some follow-ups from the March prayer letter.

- You prayed for the four week series that was presented to a church in the Didsbury area and God heard. Here are comments from the pastor, "The talks have opened up and started more candid sharing at weekly prayer groups and on Sundays." It was wonderful to hear God is using Shalom to support and encourage his people. The series of talks encouraged dialogue.
- You prayed for fundraising opportunities and God opened doors for Shalom to be part of Parkland Mall's Mosaics of Hope (<http://parklandmall.ca/events/item/mosaics-of-hope/>), an opportunity to raise up to \$7,500. In addition he opened another door with Value Village that we hope will generate \$2,500, for a potential total of \$10,000.
- You prayed that a significant funding application would be favorably received. Thus far it has. Shalom was invited to present in person, which occurred in early April. We now await the final decision; continuing to pray and trust that this application will be approved.

As I considered the answers to your and our prayers of the past while, I was reminded of God's purposes for us to be in community, even small community of two or three. Thank-you for standing with us in community, sharing our concerns and bringing them to the feet of the Prince of Peace.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
Matthew 18

**Benno Fath, Executive Director
Shalom Counselling Centre**

Thankful for:

- Praise God for opportunities to speak in churches about the work of Shalom. We are so grateful for the encouragement and support of the church community in Central Alberta. We thank God for their support and commitment to the work of Shalom.
- Thank Him for the consistent turnout at the four week series presented to the church near Didsbury, and for the positive impacts the information is having on the interactions of people who attended.
- We continue to be thankful for the board members who serve in leadership, and for their direction and oversight.
- You have been praying for those individuals who come through our doors that they may sense God's presence, leave with a greater sense of peace, as well as a hunger to seek deeper fellowship with the Prince of Peace. We are encouraged. Staff are hearing feedback from visitors and clients that just coming on site they sense a peacefulness. Praise God for his presence and for his peace that people are experiencing when they visit Shalom.
- While I continue to fret about finances, God is meeting our day to day (month to month) needs, for which I am grateful, and ask that we thank and praise God the Father for his continued provision.
- We continue to appreciate the volunteers that serve us so willingly at Shalom, from stuffing envelopes, to clearing snow, to spring yard care. Thank God for those who volunteer their time to support the work of Shalom in big and less big ways.





Below are some client responses that will give you some sense of what their progress and needs are as they work towards greater shalom in their lives.

- I am thinking clearly about my position in Christ as well as my relationship in Christ and my relationship with my spouse and the work needed to be married.
- Feeling better about showing my emotions; they are okay and I'm made that way.
- Realizing more what is mine to carry and what is not.
- Feeling more that I made the right choice to seek counselling. Feeling validated in my emotions and feeling hopeful.
- I am much better at processing and implementing boundaries.
- Being able to express openly and hear, feel, see my progress.
- Feeling validated. Feeling like something was accomplished.
- Learning new things, helping relieve some of my stress.
- I appreciated my therapist's heart and understanding.
- I am thankful my spouse and I have started this journey.
- I am hopeful for the future and how I can grow as an individual and together as a couple.
- I feel there is hope out there.
- I learned that I was focusing too much on my fears.
- Learning tasks so that I can start to lessen anxiety when it comes up.

Requests:

- Shalom greatly needs another registered therapist. Two past recruitment efforts were unsuccessful. We are currently in the midst of a further recruitment effort. Pray that God would provide. Pray for those of us involved in the recruitment process that we would have wisdom, discernment, and patience. Pray that God has a person for Shalom and that he is working in that life, drawing them to Shalom Counselling.
- Please pray for a family that has lost a loved one. When someone young dies we can have so many questions about God's love and His plans. Pray that this family find in God strength, healing and peace.
- We thank God for fundraising opportunities he has provided. One such opportunity is to collect goods for Value Village. Pray that our advertising will be heard and that many will hear and drop off at Shalom things they would have taken to a thrift store, so that we can make the delivery for which Value Village will provide us a payment.
- Pray for staff members who are looking for answers to health issues. May their physicians have wisdom and insight as they assess and treat the staff, that they may quickly be restored to better health.
- Pray for the pastors' forum on May 10. May it be a morning from which pastors leave enriched, encouraged and renewed.
- Pray for a family who is in chaos with a teenage child. The chaos has escalated to physical violence from the child and it is seemingly hopeless. May God reveal options on how to deal with the situation in a successful way.
- Pray for a single mom who is having major struggles with securing child care support for her children while attempting to work. It seems like her family is actively working against her; not only failing to provide support but also making it worse by pushing her down.
- One counsellor is seeing an influx of single parents struggling financially and emotionally who are lacking support. Pray that God would provide caring people and resources that we may direct these single parents to.
- Continue to pray that God would direct our fundraising paths. We praise him for the doors he has opened. Pray that we may have eyes and ears to see and hear the opportunities God will continue to provide, and pray that he would prosper our paths to his glory.
- Continue to pray for each individual who does come through our doors that they may sense God's presence, leave with a greater sense of peace, as well as a hunger to seek deeper fellowship with the Prince of Peace.
- Pray that God would bless our financial supporters. May he provide for their every need, such that they will have the freedom to continue to support Shalom.