

SHALOM'S VALUES

Faith-Based

Shalom is a faith ministry, recognizing our dependence on a sovereign and generous God for provision and direction. Our faith is an important part of Shalom's success, as it provides us with the strength, grace, and confidence to serve those who are hurting and in need, no matter what their background, in a way that is respectful of their beliefs.

Christian Ministry

Each of our Team share a commitment to live out our Christian beliefs, so that we seek to exemplify Christ and show Christian love in all that we do. Shalom's Mission Statement makes it clear that all that we do is to be motivated by Christian love. With the blessings of God's Spirit, we seek to serve our clients with the grace and integrity taught in our faith and we find the strength and wisdom to love and perform our responsibilities with a servant outlook. We seek to be directed by God's Word and led by His Spirit, and we are supported and empowered by prayer. Those of us involved in Shalom's ministry commit ourselves to prayer, walking in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and are in community with a local church. Counselling and education is offered from a biblically-guided worldview. We recognize that Christian counselling can benefit from a wide range of the best ideas and research, methodology and training available from the counselling profession provided those insights are consistent with the truth revealed in God's Word.

Value and Importance of Each Team Member's Spiritual Life

We are committed to the Christian faith and we exemplify the following characteristics or qualities in our life and relationships: a passionate love for the Lord and for His Work; a Spirit-led life with a heart for service and compassion; an integrity to live in godliness; an openness about our spiritual life as one practicing accountability; a demonstrated humility as a team player who draws out the best in others; a teachable leader and a self-motivated worker for the kingdom. We will maintain our spiritual, physical and mental health through prayer and with regular time for spiritual renewal. The Christian faith to which we hold is seen in Jesus Christ and the Word of God. Those serving with Shalom may identify themselves with many different denominations yet we share the common foundational tenants of the faith as historically expressed in the Apostle's Creed. We are involved in a local church, showing evidence of personal qualities appropriate to those who are living in service to Christ. (Luke 22:25-27, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9) We will live out our faith in our relationships with family, friends, and associates. We will seek, live, and demonstrate a spirit-directed life. (Galatians 5:22) Our work calls us to assist others by giving a sense of hope, love, and grace. Living our faith with our families and other relationships prepares us to assist those who come to us for help with their own brokenness. We will hold Christian marriage and family as sacred. We will reserve our expression of sexuality to the purity of oneness within the commitment of Christian marriage between a man and a woman.

Shalom's Values

- Faith Based
- Christian Ministry
- Spiritual Life
- Serving Others
- Cooperative Ministry
- Non-profit
- Accountable

Providing Services to Central Alberta

We offer quality Christian counselling for individuals, couples, and families dealing with emotional and relational concerns. Our counselling will respect each client's dignity, uniqueness, and choice as one made in the image of God. We serve as a resource for education, assisting the church and community in issues of family life and in areas of emotional and relational well-being. We assist in equipping the Christian community in areas of care giving and peer support. We support and encourage pastors, leaders, and those involved in para-church ministries.

Co-operative Ministry

We recognize and value the contribution made through working co-operatively with Christian leaders from a variety of denominations, as well as with other ministries and where possible joining efforts with other community-minded agencies and businesses, to promote healing within our community. We seek to reach out to meet the needs of our Central Alberta community, serving as an extension of the church's healing ministry, responding to their referrals as one part of a collaborative caring response. We are guided by Shalom's Board of Directors, which consists of Christian leaders from various denominations, who share a vision to the benefit of the Kingdom and community.

Non-Profit

In keeping with our Mission Statement, Shalom serves others on a not-for-profit basis.

We strive for excellence in the stewardship of all of our resources, investing them generously in God's Kingdom purposes. We use these resources carefully for the sake of the people we serve, using resources well and judiciously to extend God's grace in all that we do. As a guiding principle, we will pursue a priority of providing quality care, even when doing so may result in less quantity of service or less monetary return. The gifts of God's people - whether monetary, material, or physical acts of service - will help make our ministry accessible to those in need.

We seek to maintain high ethical standards in how we raise funds. We embrace the concept of Friend Raising rather than fund raising, which calls on us to develop relationships and to care for people as friends rather than seeing them simply as targets of potential support. How we build friendships and partnership with Shalom supporters is something in which we all share a part. There is an often-asked question: Is there any profit in the way we at Shalom do business? The soul of Shalom is to be more than a business. At Shalom, we take the notion of being a not-for-profit organization very seriously. There are many things we choose to do, not for monetary profit but rather to profit God's Kingdom. While there is a cost in providing care, God is providing through His people an investment that lasts. Lives are renewed and leaders are equipped and encouraged.

Accountable

We are accountable before God to be directed by His Word and His Spirit in all our practices, policies, and plans. As an incorporated society and registered charity, Shalom is led by an Interdenominational Board of Directors who guide the ministry on the basis of our Core Values.

We seek to maintain a high standard of professional accountability adhering to the ethical codes of standard of practice for counselling professionals and for a Christian charity. We are committed to ensuring an ongoing process of evaluation of the ministry. We value the need for a balanced life in the context of spirituality, family, work, and relaxation; we also recognize the organization's need to have its resources managed well. Therefore, we will manage our time to

ensure that we are not over-extending ourselves and that we create a healthy balance at home and at work. We encourage all who share in the work of this ministry to experience shalom.

APPROACH TO COUNSELLING & PREVENTATIVE EDUCATION

Unique World View

We believe in counselling and preventative education and wellness training done a worldview that uses the Scriptures and the Spirit of God to see people with new value, as those made in the image of our God.

Choice

We respect and allow for choice just as our God provides us choice and as such Counsellors offer a relationship of respect in which people are encouraged to consider the choices they do have and the effect their choices will have on themselves and others.

The Person of the Helper

Christian values are not an expectation put upon those we serve but an expectation that those we serve can rightly place upon those of us at Shalom. Our clients and those taking courses may or may not profess or practice the Christian faith. They can expect to be treated with a high level of respect and dignity.

Benefits of Christian-based Counselling

Christian-based Counselling and Family and Wellness Education has the advantage of understanding people and their choices in light of what God has revealed in His Word. The Scriptures, when respected as God's inspired word, provide a framework for understanding our deep motivations, our beliefs about life, our thoughts, our goals and our emotions. We also have the advantage of being supported by the power of prayer. We have the opportunity to work as an instrument of God's healing power and to offer His life changing grace. Open Minded Christian-based Counselling and Family and Wellness Education can benefit from all the good ideas, good research, and good methodology the world has to offer provided such insights are consistent with the truth revealed in God's Word. We have the advantage of being able to look at all of life without denying any of life's harsh and troubling realities. Our confidence comes from a greater reality, the reality of an all-powerful, all-loving God whose grace provides healing and hope.

Encourages Deep Change

Christian-based Counselling, and Family and Wellness Education desire to assist those we serve to do more than cope. We can help those we serve find lasting change by learning what motivates their choices or shapes the ways they react.

One of Many Alternatives

Some problems require other specialized care, such as medical care, legal assistance, or even another counsellor with a unique specialty. As such, we call on the resources of the community to respond to the physical, social, and spiritual needs of individuals.

Responding Respectfully to the Perceived Needs of Those We Serve

The task of Christian-based Counselling and Family and Wellness Education is to respond to each person's recognized need by hearing their stories and helping them find their next step in life's journey. When we have the opportunity, we show the way to true peace – shalom – a peace and wholeness found near our Lord.