

## Greetings Dear Prayer Partners,

After all my years, I still often find myself asking, "If our Father God knows already what he is going to do, why do I need to pray?" Yet, Paul's admonition to the Colossian church reminds me that irrespective of what I may think, God calls us to prayer.

*Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Col. 4:2*

I am so grateful to each of you who have committed to pray for Shalom. You make up for my sometimes wavering questions. Things that we at Shalom can be thankful for and be watchful for or ask for, follow.

I thank God for your commitment to stand with us in prayer, and pray that each of you might know an extra measure of God's peace and joy this Christmas season. *Benno Fath, Executive Director*



## Thankful for:

- The steadying and caring work of Fred Lane who shepherded Shalom through a period of transition as our interim Executive Director.
- The dedication of each of our staff to the work they do serving individuals, couples and families. They are Christ's hands and support to hurting and struggling people. As one client commented:
  - I appreciated my counsellor's responses, feedback, and their prayer at the end of the session.
- Individuals and families who this Christmas season will experience greater 'shalom' as a result of the time they spent with a counsellor at Shalom.
- Whether or not they are Christ followers, God is working in the lives of those who visit Shalom. For this we want to thank and praise our Father. Below are a few client comments that reflect God's work of reconciliation, growth, and greater peace in their lives.
  - I am going to work on re-establishing relationships with people I have been avoiding.
  - Spending more time with God in prayer, learning to listen to God has been the biggest change I have made that has been helping all aspects of life.
  - I feel more at peace with my parent.
  - It was really good for me to go over the last month and to see all of the growth that I have had and positive things I am doing for myself.
  - What I found most helpful was learning to recognize when I need to take a step back and rely on the Lord.



*“For where two or three have gathered together in My name,  
there I am in their midst.”*

*Matthew 18:20*

## **Requests:**

- 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 for all staff as they too consider adjustments to schedules and activities that may assist Shalom to continue to serve, even during this time financial challenge. They too will need God’s wisdom and grace to be open and flexible.
- Pray that God would provide sources of income that will sustain and prosper the work of Shalom.
- For staff, also pray for God’s peace to cover all of our interactions with each other such that those who come through our doors might sense that God is in our midst.
- In early 2017 we will be offering a group counselling opportunity. These are most helpful sessions if we have enough participants. Pray that enough participants will register to allow the sessions to proceed and that those participating will find greater peace and wellbeing within the community they form.
- Pray for our board members. In the present difficult economic environment, they carry additional concern for Shalom and need God’s wisdom and encouragement in the decisions they make in difficult financial circumstances.

### **Caring for God’s Creation**

If you would like to receive your prayer partner letter via email, instead of a paper copy, contact us at 403.342.0339 or email us at [info@shalomcounselling.com](mailto:info@shalomcounselling.com)

### **You can also visit our website**

[www.shalomcounselling.com  
/media](http://www.shalomcounselling.com/media)

to read our Prayer Partner Letters (both current and past) online.

## **Some client-related stories offering cause for both rejoicing and intercession:**

*A couple who came to our office highly conflicted and in major crisis, left a recent session making the choice to treat each other with honor and respect, rather than following their old patterns of shame, addiction and distancing. They will need your prayers to continue on this new path.*

*The man who has unresolved grief has been pushing those he loves away with his drinking and his displays of anger. Please pray that he will return for needed help.*

*Please pray for a woman who feels alone, abandoned and betrayed after reporting crime in which she was the one violated and left to bear the consequences.*

*Join us in being thankful for a young leader who is learning how God is able to use his difficulties to help others.*

*It is so good to see a couple who lived very distant lives, now connecting at a much deeper level, and enjoying being together.*

*And please continue praying for a woman who was able to leave an abusive relationship and is now regaining health and dignity.*