

# Prayer Partner LETTER



March 2017

Dear prayer partners,

*Today I think of how precious your prayers for Shalom are. I have times when I can only marvel and rejoice in what God is accomplishing through the work of our counsellors and staff. Then there are other times; times when we are labouring in God's vineyard. The harvest is yet to come, and our hands are weary from pruning and tying the vines or from working the soil. It is in these times that your prayers help sustain us, when working with a client seems not to go well or when administrative plans and directions meet with little bumps along the way.*

*Yet, we continue to look forward to 2017, and the opportunities God has provided and will provide. He has provided many new contacts in the community; contacts that could lead to financial and other support. Here too, the work is very much tending and watering, trusting for a future harvest. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf through the rejoicing times and the labouring times. Your prayers are a source of strength that sustain us and encourage us to continue to trust in God as our provider as we serve Him and others.*

[We serve] with the strength God provides, so that in all things **God** may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 4:11**

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

## **Thankful for:**

- Praise God for the faithfulness of our supporters. We finished 2016 with a tiny surplus, but that surplus compares to a major deficit in 2015. To God be the glory.
- 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 and thank God for that support.
- The group therapy session we asked you to pray for in the last newsletter had sufficient numbers to allow the group to proceed, and has become a place of healing and growth for those attending. Praise God for his work in lives and for the success of this group session. It is due to conclude later in March.
- We are thankful for the board members who serve in leadership, and for their direction and oversight.
- Thank-you God for our dedicated and committed staff. Each one in their various roles desires to contribute to health and healing in the lives and relationships of those who come to Shalom.
- "The LORD GAVE AND THE lord has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised!!" An unexpected \$10,000 grant which was approved at the end of 2016 was rescinded when we posted an operating surplus. Praise God that the funds are being used elsewhere in Red Deer to better the lives of individuals in need.

*"...and sometimes we are labouring in God's Vineyard"*



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.

Question: *“What is changing in your life?”*

- I am learning how to better understand my partner and how they are feeling.
- I’m reflecting more on God’s character work in me versus his ‘need’ to work on others around me.
- Patience is growing and fear diminishing.
- Not feeling resentful of my spouse’s expectations. Understanding their need to feel wanted.
- Everything the Lord is changing – the mindsets I have that I don’t need anymore.
- I am having successes in ways I almost didn’t think possible with my kids. I’m a happier mom in lots of ways.
- I am realizing I need to calm myself in situations that make me upset. I am slowly becoming a more patient person.
- Self confidence, humor, and joy are back; peace of mind.
- Not always feeling sad and depressed. (from a young teen)
- As much as the children are growing, they still need me (mother) for some things.
- Making myself change my thinking. I know it won’t be easy but I will keep going to work, gym, and writing.
- I am more open to my spouse’s feelings. We are able to discuss our priorities and needs without conflict.
- Not take in the things I need to work on as personal failures.

### **Requests:**

- In March and April Shalom will be presenting at four educational sessions in a church in the Didsbury area. Pray for the people that God brings to the presentations. May they gain information and knowledge that will be of help to them. Pray also for our presenter; for clarity of thought, for the right words, for safe travelling to and from the presentation location, a rural location.
- The annual general meeting is on the calendar, 24 April 2017. Pray for sufficient attendance to effectively conduct the business of the general meeting. Pray that God will lead individuals to step forward to fill leadership roles on the board. Pray for God’s shalom for each of us that have a role to play in preparing for this important gathering.
- Raising funds for the work of Shalom is an ongoing activity. Continue to pray that God would direct our fundraising paths. May He show us the way he has prepared. May we have eyes and ears to see and hear the opportunities God provides, and pray that he would prosper our paths to his glory such that Shalom can continue to serve those who come to us with their hurts and heartaches.
- Amongst those who seek support and services at Shalom are those in Christian ministry. Pray for them, and all who serve in ministry leadership, that they would find peace, encouragement and strength to continue to serve God and his people.
- Some of our clients are stuck in old unhelpful patterns. Pray that their counsellors would have God’s wisdom to know when to push them harder, when to step back, and even when it is time to conclude the therapeutic relationship; compassion mixed with goals that would see clients make progress.
- Various staff will be attending training and development opportunities. Pray that their time away from the office be a time of learning and that they will return to work encouraged and refreshed with new thoughts and ideas and skills to practice.
- God is good. We have completed and submitted our application for a major grant. Staff members worked hard to provide the information needed within the timelines for the application. Pray that this application for funding will be favourably received. If it is, we will be called to an interview in April, when we will again desire God’s wisdom and presence as we advocate for the work of Shalom.
- 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.

