

Prayer Partner LETTER



July 2017

Dear prayer partners,

If you also receive the Shalom newsletter, in the most recent edition you will have noted the reference to George Mueller and to WEC Canada.

Over his life, George Mueller provided care for “as many as two thousand orphans at a time – more than ten thousand in his lifetime. Yet he never made the needs of his ministries known to anyone except to God in prayer.”¹

WEC International’s approach today is the same: We try to get others to join us in a circle of prayer.” When there is a circle of people with hearts burdened for the important thing – the salvation of others – God will take care of all the minor things like money”.²

Yes, Shalom’s focus is not specifically evangelism. Yet, as we witness the struggle and pain others experience, we know that restoration and reconciliation are “important things” to him. On my heart, especially, this month, are families. Each day we are reminded of the hurt, sorrow and pain that occurs within families - often behind closed doors. We know that God’s grace could begin to ease some of this hurting. You will find that this month families are highlighted in the prayer requests. One prayer is that in addition to the support, compassion, care and acceptance they receive from the staff at Shalom, may God kindle in their hearts a desire to seek his peace.

Yes, also noted is financial need,² but as we focus on what is important to God, may he grant “the minor things like money”.

Benno Fath, Executive Director

18 And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

² Cor.5 (NLT)

¹ <https://www.crossway.org/blog/2015/07/what-george-mueller-can-teach-us-about-prayer/>

² <http://www.wec-canada.org/money>

Thankful for:

- The dedicated and caring staff at Shalom and their hearts to serve.
- God continuing to provide opportunity to share Shalom’s vision and purposes with church groups, community groups, and business contacts.
- Every one of our volunteers whose support and service help Shalom fulfill its purposes and vision.
- For answers he is providing to staff with health issues; answers that offer relief in knowing the cause of their health limitation, answers that offer hope for helpful treatment options.
- The success that the Mosaics of Hope fundraiser was. We are rejoicing for over \$7000 in new income that was realized. This fundraiser was a gift from God and we are so grateful.
- Approval of a major grant application. You have been praying regarding this major grant application. It was an application to FCSS (Family and Community Support Services). We were approved to receive somewhat over \$100,000 per year for 2018, 2019, 2020. This will provide a degree of added stability for Shalom over the next three years for which we are most grateful.
- For the Pastor’s Forum; it was a morning that offered pastors enrichment, encouragement and renewal.
- For those dedicated individuals who sit on our board, and faithfully serve Shalom. Pray that God would bless them in their commitment, and prosper the work of their hands.

²⁵ “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten

²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you. Joel 2 (NIV)

Requests:

Continue to pray for Shalom's need for another registered therapist. Recent interviews did not provide a successful outcome and we continue to wait upon God. 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 that he is preparing.

- Pray for families. Pray for couples struggling in their relationship, that they would find peace and patience and wisdom in their relationships with each other and the children in their care.
- Pray for families. Pray for individuals seeking to rise above difficult family histories. Weekly I am reminded of the hurt caused in families, and the lasting pain and limitations this has had on children, now adults, trying to find their way and come to terms with their pasts.
- Pray for families. Pray for parents struggling to overcome hurt and pain from their pasts so that those past hurts don't interfere with their ability to be good parents to their children.
- Pray for families. Pray that the therapists at Shalom would have God's wisdom, compassion, and understanding as they work with individuals, couples, and parents in need of healthy family.
- Pray for families. Continue to pray for the many single parents struggling financially and emotionally and have limited supports and resources. Pray that God would provide caring people and resources that we may direct these single parents to.
- Pray for clients implementing and trying to maintain sustainable change.
- God has provided for our financial necessities thus far in 2017.
 - Pray that he would continue direct our fundraising paths.
 - We praise him for the doors he is opening, though the harvest from stepping through those doors may lie in the future.
 - Pray that we may have eyes and ears to see and hear the opportunities God will continue to provide.
 - Pray that many of these opportunities will bear financial fruit that will allow us to continue to serve hurting families.
- Above all, it is my desire that those coming through our doors at Shalom may experience more of what God desires for them, abundant life. Pray that those who know him, will find greater strength, perseverance, comfort and HOPE in him. Pray that those who may not know him might leave having sensed God's peace in our midst and with a hunger to know more of that 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.

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 becoming more peaceful and accepting of my decisions, feelings, thoughts, and what I want.
- The way I think about our conflicts is less about who is doing/not doing something wrong and more about what is underneath.
- Realizing what I'm gaining – strength, boundaries and awareness.
- I don't feel as angry as I used to.
- I feel I am more connected to my children.
- I am thinking clearer. I am staying focused on my individual therapy and healthy living.
- I can stand up for myself with less fear. I am more positive and have a lot more self respect.
- Feel like my old self.
- Feeling content and acknowledging my improvement.
- Taking time to see the positives that have happened and how far I have come.
- Models I have been given to help on my journey.
- That the children felt safe enough to talk about their difficult experience.
- To be able to talk honestly without feeling judged.

Broken things can become blessed things, if you let God do the mending.