

Prayer Partner LETTER



November/December 2017

Dear prayer partners,

The weeks and months pass by so quickly. A full year has passed since I joined the team at Shalom, a team that included you, our prayer partners. I am so grateful for your dedicated prayer support, it is so important to Shalom and to me. I have often mentioned to others that it is one thing to trust God for the needs of my family, but I still fret about trusting God for the needs of an organization. Thank-you for your prayers - that have upheld me and Shalom through the past year.

I am excited about two stories I will share with you this month in place of some client comments. They encourage me and remind me that our labour at Shalom is not in vain.

Wishing each of you a blessed holiday season filled with God's best for you and your family.

Benno Fath, Executive Director



Thankful to Father God for:

- A board of directors that have a heart to see Shalom grow and prosper, and who are stepping out in faith, listening to God's direction as they develop plans for Shalom's future.
- Seeds. One never knows what God will produce from a contact here or a connection there. I am thankful for the seeds of contact God has provided, and wait with anticipation to see what he might provide from the seeds of those contacts.
- Each and every staff member, their commitment, and their support for each other.
- The success of our Fall Friendraiser. Yes, the number attending continues to decline, but God was present and praised at this event for which we give thanks. We also rejoice in the new friends and first time donors that we met.
- Volunteers. The Friendraiser again reminded me of how important our volunteers are. Their support and time make possible activities and events that we could not manage on our own. Thank-you Lord for the hearts of service of our volunteers and our sponsors.
- Stories of God's work in the lives of individuals. In the recent past we have heard two stories of individuals whose contact with Shalom began a search that led them to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. May God continue his work in lives to his glory.
- God's provision. Every week I am reminded that Shalom is God's ministry, and that he is carrying us and providing for our needs. So often I am distracted by what financial needs may not have been met or attended to, and forget to remember what God has already provided.

Requests:

- Pray for us as staff at Shalom:
 - For the counsellors as they compassionately interact with clients, that they would have God's insight and understanding as they support their clients on their journey to greater well-being.
 - For reception and admin staff as they fulfill critical roles that undergird the work of others.
 - For me, as director, to fathom the best choices and decisions to meet each days challenges and needs.
 - Pray that each of our lives will reflect God's grace and love such that our lives will be an invitation to those receiving our services to seek the one who can heal the deepest needs of their souls.
- Pray for the individual in the second story (beside) that as they seek to be a better parent, that God would also lead them to seek out the Father of life, and the peace he can bring.
- We continue to work on a grant application for submission in early November. Please continue to pray for us who are working on the application to have God's wisdom in preparing the request. Also continue praying that God would cause the reviewers to favorably receive and consider our application.
- Another grant application is being reviewed and considered. Pray that with this application God would provide abundantly more that we could ask or imagine.
- Pray that whether from grants like those noted above or from donations, God will continue to provide the funds that enable Shalom to offer our services to clients with limited income.
- The year ahead is the final year in the term of some board members. Pray for the nominating committee in their search for others who might share a passion for the work that Shalom does. Pray for others to have, and a willingness to give of their time.

Above all, it is my desire that those coming through our doors at Shalom may experience more of what God desires for them - peace and joy and hope. Pray that those who already know our Father will find greater 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 seek out the Prince of peace.

Client Stories:

1. After a recent presentation by our community relations coordinator an individual approached her and shared part of their story: Some years previous, as a non-believer the person had sought counselling at Shalom. Shalom was a counselling service that was affordable to the individual. In the course of counselling a moment arose where the individual was invited to name the name of Jesus when they were next confronted with a specific fear. Sometime later, facing that same fear, the individual did call on the name of Jesus, and experienced relief that started them on a path of searching. Their search eventually led them to the cross and they became a believer. The individual is now serving the Lord of life and hope and credits that past invitation from their therapist as an important marker on their journey to becoming a Christ follower.
2. A single parent sought counselling at Shalom. Here is part of their story.
 - Growing up the individual suffered significant abuse in. As a teenager and young adult the person turned to drugs to mask their pain and hurt.
 - At some point the individual entered a relationship, one that was also fraught with conflict and pain. That relationship ended, but there was now a child of the relationship.
 - The now single parent made progress in their life; they secured work, drugs do not hold the same grip on their life. Now, this single parent wants their child to have a better childhood than they experienced, they want to be a better parent for their child, and this desire led them on a path to Shalom where they are now receiving support on their journey to become the parent they want to be.

Both stories reflect the heart of Shalom - because of the concern and financial contributions of our supporters, individuals like these two are able to come through our doors and access services to support them on their journey to better emotional and relational well-being, and in one case to eternal joy. Pray that for the other, their journey too, might lead to the cross.