

Dear Prayer Partner,

Recently I was encouraged when reviewing comments that clients had provided about their experience at Shalom. Their comments included words that spoke of growth; words like - *slowing down, calmer, listening, stronger, more confident, and hopeful*. These words speak to clients having a more expectant and optimistic anticipation of what their tomorrow holds. What a joy it is for our staff when they see such growth. It is encouraging and reinvigorating.

For others, the hard work and challenges of growth can be wearying. One client commented about having to talk about the hard topics, and for some the hard topics and hard work weigh them down, and hinder their journey towards healing and restoration in their lives and relationships.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

As you pray for us these next weeks, please remember all of our clients, those experiencing growth and those feeling weary. Pray that for each one, their experience at Shalom will be a step along the path that will lead to the rest that can only be found in our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you for your faithfulness in standing with us in pray. With your prayers and God's grace, we at Shalom can do all things through Christ who is our strength

Benno Fath
Executive Director

Thankful for:

- God's faithfulness. We asked last letter for prayer that God would provide for our financial needs. Today we gratefully acknowledge that he is providing. Like he provided for the Israelites in the desert, he provides enough for each day/ month.
- The time for rest and rejuvenation that staff enjoyed during vacation this summer.
- God's provision of a part time registered therapist. They started in mid-August, working one day per week, and are currently building their caseload.
- Answered prayer.
 - You prayed for one of our therapists preparing to write an accreditation exam. We are thankful to God who provided her focus and perseverance during preparation for the exam, and the clarity and recall to successfully write the exam. Shortly she will receive her designation as a fully registered psychologist.
 - You prayed for the NHL Alumni game planning. It is a lot of work, but with each of us sharing the load we are progressing. There is still much to be done, but already God has been at work. We have a presenting sponsor and a number of other sponsors who have already indicated their support for this event with large and smaller financial commitments.
- Opportunity. God brings through our doors individuals whose lifestyles and choices are far removed from God's plan. We get to serve, support and accept them as individuals loved and cherished by God. That is our role when God brings them to our door, and we trust that God is at work in their lives in accomplishing his eternal purposes.
- Opportunity. We at Shalom are rejoicing with one of our long time staff who is following God's direction in his life. Yes, it will mean a loss for Shalom, but we are delighted for Benton Schultz and the opportunity God is providing him to work more closely with those in the first responder community. Please pray with us that God would open doors for Benton to not only serve and support first responders with the work related stress they experience, but to also have opportunity to speak to their spiritual needs.

Requests:

- Please continue to pray that our Father God will continue to provide our every financial need through the end of 2018 and into 2019. Pray for me also, to rest in his daily/monthly provision. Oft' times I want enough to store up for next month - like the Israelites who tried to store up manna for the next day. Like the Israelites God seems to have called us at Shalom to trust Him for our daily/monthly bread.
- We continue to do the planning for the NHL Alumni hockey game. Pray that God would smooth the way before those of us working on this event, and provide us wisdom and insight to make sound decisions. Pray that we would continue to work well together and maintain the harmony that has marked our work so far. There is still much work to be done, but already we are seeing God at work with a number of sponsors supporting us, including a presenting sponsor.
- Pray for our Board who will be making a decision regarding another fundraising event. The event has the potential to earn Shalom a helpful amount, but carries the risk of only breaking even. Pray that they may have wisdom to know which way God is leading. The fundraiser has the potential to be the beginning of a series of yearly or every second year events and we are seeking God's direction.
- Also pray for the board as in the upcoming months they will be reviewing and updating our planning document. This will be an important time and activity as they make decisions that will guide our future at Shalom.
- Please pray for our clients. Especially pray for those who are struggling to make their desired progress toward their counselling goals. Clients gather the courage to come through our doors, they make initial progress, but change is hard work, and their motivation to further their journey to emotional and relational health can begin to wane. Pray for our clients that God would provide them perseverance, motivation and courage to complete the hard work that confronts them.
- We will be initiating the recruitment for a registered therapist. Past such initiatives have been disappointing. Pray that the time is right for the person or persons God has chosen to join us at Shalom. Pray that God would lead those persons to contact us. Pray also for those of us involved in the process, that we will understand and trust God's leading and timing.

Continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will dwell in our midst at Shalom, such that those coming through our doors may sense God's presence and peace. Prayer that they would leave encouraged and with a hunger to experience more deeply the source of all peace.

Below are some recent client comments that tell a bit about their journey and progress.

- Staying calmer and not jumping to conclusions.
- Slowing down and trying to listen.
- Stronger emotionally, more confident.
- I feel stronger and more confident when choosing not to do only what please others.
- Worry less about what others think.
- Learning to take responsibility for my own reactions.
- I am hopeful for the future.
- More excited and positive about things in general.
- Learning to accept my feelings.
- Taking control of my attitude and behaviour.
- Greater peace, beginnings of optimism.