

## Dear Prayer Partner,

The fall is a challenging time for me at Shalom. It is the time of year when the winds and waves of financial need buffet Shalom the most. It is so easy to see and fear the winds and to take my eyes off of Jesus. Sometimes I find it so easy to think of Peter and say, "Oh Peter, if you had only had more faith." But it was this same Peter who in explicit faith said, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you *on the water*."<sup>1</sup> Maybe it is easier to have faith when we are still in the boat. When Jesus says, "Come," we eagerly step out, but then fully experience the power of the wind, and begin to question our faith, or think maybe we misunderstood God's direction.

This is my third autumn at Shalom, and again I have cried out, "Lord save [Shalom]!" Like past autumns, just enough comes in to get from month to month. God continues to provide - just enough - for Shalom, but it does not get easier for me. I don't like being out in the wind and the waves.

A board member has provided encouragement from God's words to Gideon, "Go in the strength you have .... Am I not sending you?" As I reflect on their words and your prayers, I am reminded that God calls us to be 'part of'; we do not have to walk alone. God sends each of us out in the strength we have, and he will provide others to walk with us to support and sustain us through challenging times.

The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" Judges 6:14

I thank God for such words of encouragement, and even more for your continued prayers - prayers that uphold Shalom when it is hard for me to take my eyes off the wind, and keep them on Jesus. Thank-you for walking with Shalom

Benno Fath  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 14:28

## Thankful for:

- The many dedicated volunteers who contributed to a successful 'garage sale'.
- Since the last letter you have been praying for the board as they prepared to review and update some core directions. At a recent Board session reviewing our vision and mission we prayed for clarity and direction. As members shared their individually prioritized items, we marveled at the unanimity of the answers. Truly we felt God directing our paths. We are thankful for this display of God's presence and for your prayers that sustained us.
- Reminders that God is using Shalom. Recently a person from the education sector approached Shalom about providing a short presentation at their institution. The individual explained that they had accessed Shalom for personal counselling noting it had, "Changed my life," leading them to seek out Shalom staff to present at a student event.
- God providing our daily bread. It is the time of year when cash flow is a challenge, and I fret. Yet God has provided, sometimes at the last day, our month end needs this fall. We are so thankful to our Father God and for individuals and congregations who have heeded God's prompting and supported us financially during this time.



## Requests:

- Last prayer letter we gave thanks for a new part time therapist. The LORD gives and the LORD takes away, blessed be the name of the LORD (Job 1:21). Due to their personal situation, the therapist was not able to continue. We continue our search for a full time registered therapist. In early November we will be interviewing two candidates. Pray that they might be a fit for Shalom. Both are recent graduates and it may be God's plan that we build into their professional development as Shalom did with some current staff who began their careers at Shalom as recent graduates. Part of hiring recent graduates would require having a senior supervisor to work with them. Please also pray that God might provide an individual with a heart for Shalom to fulfill this role.
- Pray for a couple of health needs. One staff is recovering from injuries sustained in a MVA, another is due for minor surgery. Pray that both will recover quickly.
- Please continue to pray that God would show us his way and his plan for financial sustainability at Shalom. First, please pray that November and December would be months of strong support as in past years, such that we can enter 2019 with confidence. Second, I hope it is not wrong to pray that God would lead and direct such that we can find a path that heralds a less tenuous financial future for Shalom.
- Shalom has opportunity to support and encourage a group of men seeking healthier interactions with their former partners such that their children would have healthy access to both their mother and their father. Pray that in supporting this group in small ways that we would be able to also share the message of hope, healing, and reconciliation available in our heavenly Father.
- Regarding the planning for the Boston Bruins Alumni hockey game we are encouraged by the progress thus far and the funds starting to come in. Please continue to pray for direction and God's blessings that this joint event with the Mustard Seed would bring glory to God and raise abundant funds for both our organizations.
- Please continue to pray for families. I was recently again reminded of how the evil one desires the breakdown of relationships and families. Pray that God's Spirit, working through his people, his churches, as well as through Shalom Counselling, would strengthen and sustain families.
- Continue to pray that the Holy Spirit's presence would overshadow Shalom and all who enter our midst at Shalom. Pray that those coming through our doors may sense God's presence and peace, and will 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.

- Recognizing that worrying about events that haven't happened only increases anxiety and stress.
- Seeing that I can make changes that will help the other.
- Becoming more thoughtful, curious, and noticing things regarding the other.
- Willingness to consider what seemed unreachable before - reconciliation.
- Being more positive every week.
- Trying to see things from the others perspective instead of just mine.
- Growing ability to deal with setback.
- Moving forward.
- Able to acknowledge past hurts and trauma and move on.

What did you like best about the session?

- I feel very comfortable with and accepted by my therapist.
- Feeling welcome from the moment I came in.
- Opportunity to look back and see how far we have come.
- Having someone to use as a positive sounding board.
- Feeling heard.
- Gaining understanding of what causes some conflicts.
- Being able to talk freely about how I am feeling.