

week one:

Feb 28-Mar 6

MY LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

During the pandemic, each person who uses Christian Horizons' services has a unique story, faces unique challenges, and offers unique gifts to their communities. In Ottawa, Ray Ellis looks to Psalm 46:10 for strength, and continues to advocate through *Our Voices Matter*.

"Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be honored among the nations,
I will be honored in the earth."

~ Psalm 46:10, NIRV

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that ongoing safety measures (distancing, masks, face shields) would be effective to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in our international classrooms as well as in Canada.
- Pray for people who use Christian Horizons services, family members and substitute decision makers as they are informed about the vaccine and decide whether to give consent.
- Pray for resilience and refreshment of people who use Christian Horizons services and employees as it is tiring for everyone to follow all the COVID-19 guidelines.

Feedback or requests?

ORGANIZATIONAL & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Mark Wallace, MTS
Keith Dow, PhD
Chantal Huinink, MDiv, RSW

(519) 783-6810
ministry@christian-horizons.org



Above: Diane was overjoyed to connect with family and friends during her virtual personal plan!

This month's prayer guide highlights the work of Christian Horizons in the North District of Ontario and Christian Horizons' work internationally.

2021
PRAYER GUIDE

March

"Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, [Jesus] must also be lifted up [on the cross]. Then everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

~ John 3:14, NIRV

Christian Horizons

week two:

March 7-13

"Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples. He said, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross and follow me.'" ~ *Mark 8:34 NIRV*

THOUGHT We may be hurting, afraid, lonely, or tired of physical distancing in this pandemic Lenten season. Jesus also experienced these feelings as he went to the cross for us. He *chose* to endure all those painful things so that people could be saved: That is how much Jesus loves us!

PRAYER POINTS

- In coordination with people who use Christian Horizons services, their families and MCCSS, the North District is working towards opening a space on the lower level of a home to be used as an apartment for people living on their own. Praise God for making this collaboration possible. Pray for a good match as vacancies are made available and for God's blessing on this exciting initiative!
- Thanks be to God for the learning of ways to connect virtually with families and friends. The photo featured in this month's prayer guide shows Diane's first time seeing her brother and sister-in-law on a video chat.
- Pray for peace and stability in Ethiopia and Haiti.

week three:

March 14 -20

"...They live by the truth with God's help. They come into the light so that it will be easy to see their good deeds."

~ *Mark 3:21 NIRV*

THOUGHT: This verse offers a description of people who are faithful to God. We do not feel the need to hide our actions, nor do we seek credit for ourselves. We can let people see what we are doing in the name of Jesus and give him all the glory.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the Church network that Christian Horizons Global works through in Kenya: They continue to look for ways to remove barriers for people with disabilities in their congregations and communities.
- Praise the Lord for the protection from COVID outbreaks in all the communities in North District.
- Pray for all who are struggling with mental health at this time, especially since it may be exacerbated by the shorter days of winter and pandemic related restrictions.
- Thank God for social media and innovative ways for people to connect with family and friends throughout the pandemic and beyond: Some employees have come alongside people who use Christian Horizons services to create their own Facebook accounts.

week four:

March 21-27

"My soul is troubled. What should I say? 'Father, keep me from having to go through with this'? No. This is the very reason I have come to this point in my life. Father, bring glory to your name!" Jesus, *Jn 12:27-28 NIRV*

THOUGHT: The Bible verses above include a prayer that Jesus prayed the night before he faced death on the cross for all people, past, present, and future. We can use it as an example of what to pray whenever our souls are troubled if we face something difficult or painful.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for district leaders who are managing shifting needs that occur when schedule changes happen. This is especially complex as COVID-19 safety guidelines are constantly changing.
- Give thanks for the many ways that employees and people who use Christian Horizons services are staying grounded together in simple practical ways of making each day enjoyable.
- Pray that God would give strength to host family providers. Pray that God would equip other host family respite providers to come alongside them.
- Christian Horizons continues to advocate for the availability and priority of vaccines of people who use services and employees who support them. Pray that this advocacy is fruitful.