

Spring 2026 Church Newsletter

Together We Are Rooted in Faith

Helping Churches Grow in Belonging

Churches across Canada are asking deeper questions about disability, belonging, and the life of the church. At Karis Disability Services, we are grateful to be part of this important work already.

The “Anglican Journal” recently highlighted the Diocese of Niagara’s work in disability theology. Together, we are helping churches reflect what it means for people with disabilities to be not only welcomed, but fully included in the life, leadership, and community of the church.

We are grateful to be supporting the Diocese of Niagara in this journey, and are encouraged to see churches taking this work seriously and exploring how belonging grows when every person is valued and every gift is recognized.

This is just one example of the work Karis does to support churches and communities in fostering belonging and becoming places where everybody is valued, needed, and celebrated.

[Read more: Diocese of Niagara begins disability theology work in the Anglican Journal](#)

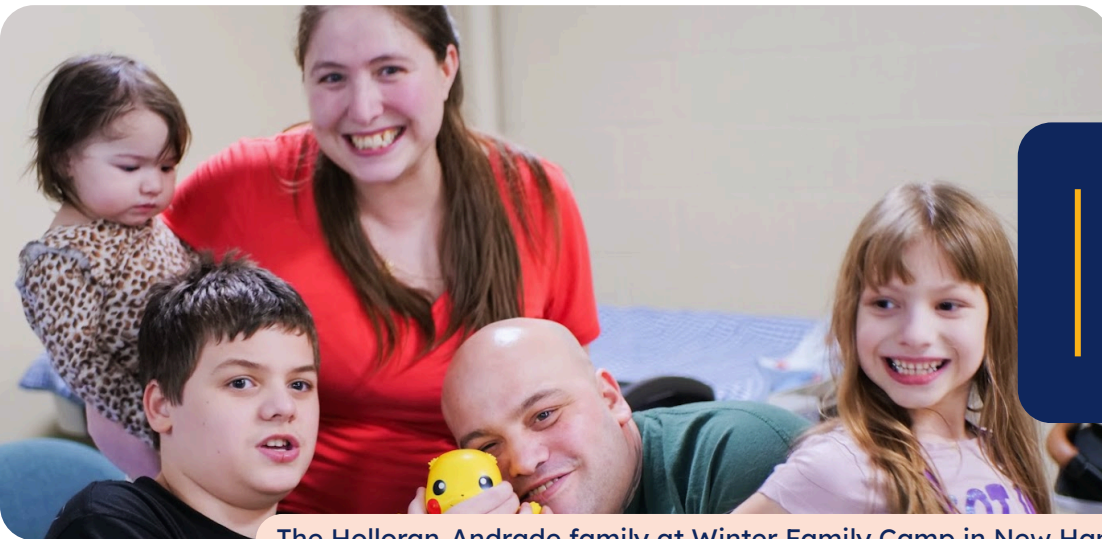
Join our Church Newsletter mailing list to receive updates, stories, and opportunities to help your church become a place of belonging. Subscribe at karis.org/churches.

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Finding Joy at Winter Family Camp

Family Camp



Join us at
[Family Camp](#)



The Holloran-Andrade family at Winter Family Camp in New Hamburg, ON

This winter, seven families gathered at Hidden Acres Camp in New Hamburg for Karis Disability Services' Winter Family Camp. Hosted January 9–11, families enjoyed sledding, crafts, horse-drawn wagon rides, and a comedy juggling performance, all while stepping away from the usual pressures of daily life.

Family Camp is one of the best ways Karis comes alongside families impacted by disability. It creates space for the whole family to be supported, not just one person. Parents and caregivers have opportunities to rest, connect with others who understand their day-to-day realities, while children and siblings enjoy activities, friendships, and the support of volunteers. Throughout the weekend, families were also encouraged through worship led by Chad Pilon of Hamilton, Ontario, and teaching from Pastor Mike Mackneer of Parkwood Gardens Community Church in Guelph, Ontario.

For one first-time family, the weekend was especially meaningful. Mercedes shared that attending Family Camp was “truly life changing” for their family. As a large family of children with disabilities, she said it is rare to find a space where everyone feels seen, supported, and included. She described it as a time of rest for their minds, hearts, and souls, and a place where their family could grow closer to God.

That is the heart of Family Camp. More than a time away, it is a place where everybody is valued, celebrated, and belongs.

Get Involved: We'd love to partner with your church in providing more family camps!

This summer, Family Camp will be at Joy Bible Camp in Bancroft, ON, from July 13 - 17, 2026, and Elim Lodge Conference Centre in Lakehurst, ON, from August 24 - 28, 2026.

Learn more at karis.org/familycamp.

Karis Global: Michael's Journey

Global Programs



Michael enjoying time outdoors in Ethiopia.

Learn more:
[Global Programs](#)



Michael and his family's lives changed drastically after receiving support from Christian Horizons Ethiopia. Around the world, disability is viewed as a curse, and Michael was abandoned as a baby. He grew up under the care of Ms. Gelane, his adopted mother. Together, they live in Bekoji, Ethiopia, with Ms. Gelane's three other children. Michael's disability severely impacted his physical movements. He couldn't walk or go to school, and he spent most of his time alone inside.

Ms. Gelane wanted something better for Michael and her family. She reached out to Christian Horizons Ethiopia and Michael began much-needed physiotherapy. The accessible education program could accommodate Michael's needs, and he learned stronger communication, received nutritious meals, and made friends with children his age. What once seemed impossible became a reality: Michael started taking steps on his own!

Today, Michael is no longer the isolated child he once was. His transformation demonstrates the power of holistic programs that address a child's diverse needs—physical, emotional, and social. It is a testimony to the strength of a mother's love, the dedication of Christian Horizons Ethiopia, and the vital role of community support. Together, these efforts have given Michael not just mobility, but a future filled with promise.

[Learn more about Karis Global and how we serve families experiencing disabilities.](#)

Pray for us as we serve in Canada and in the world promoting communities where everybody belongs. Find our monthly prayer guides at [karis.org/churches](https://www.karis.org/churches).

On Saturday, June 6, 2026, help us raise awareness and support people with developmental disabilities in Canada and around the world. Sign up at [belongathon.ca](https://www.belongathon.ca).

Sharing Images of God on 100 Huntley Street

Images of God



Watch:
[Full Interview](#)



Cheryl Weber interviews Ryan, Keith Dow, and Janet Noel-Annable on 100 Huntley Street.

Karis Disability Services was recently featured on 100 Huntley Street, where Janet Noel-Annable, Keith Dow, and Ryan shared about **Images of God**, a project inviting the Church to listen more closely to the faith and experiences of people with intellectual disabilities. Images of God highlights the truth that every person is made in the image of God and has something important to share with the wider body of Christ.

[Watch: Ryan, Keith Dow, and Janet Noel-Annable on 100 Huntley Street](#)

Banquet of Belonging

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Join us across Canada at **[A Deeper Communion: Banquet of Belonging](#)**, a one-day gathering that invites disabled and non-disabled Christians, pastors, and families to explore what it means to grow as the body of Christ together.

Register at adeepercommunion.org/banquet-of-belonging

Virtual Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Join us as we discuss disability and belonging in children's ministry. This online session will encourage churches to think more deeply about how families experiencing disability can be welcomed and supported within the life of a local church.

Register at bit.ly/karislunchandlearn

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