

# SANCTUARY LONDON

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New stories posted every other week!

## UPDATE Christmas 2012

**I'll be HOME for Christmas:** Last week, I spoke with one of our friends from street level who makes a few extra bucks every year around Christmas as a mall Santa. He was surprised to hear we'd be open around Christmas – not closed for two weeks. “Don't you want to be home with family?” he asked me. “You ARE my family...and I will be HOME.” I responded.

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**Reckman Family update:** 2012 has been a very exciting year for the Reckman family. Sarah and I both began the year in school. School is where we first met and got to know each other, way back in September of 2006. Since then, Sarah graduated with her Bachelor of Social Work in 2010, and worked for a year. A year ago, Sarah took a leave of absence from her job as a crisis worker with CMHA in Oxford County, in order to complete her Masters in Social Work. She officially graduated in October... Keener! In that same amount of time, I have been working on an undergraduate degree in Sociology on a part-time basis for WAY too long. However, I completed my last course in April and officially graduated in June.... Finally!

Sarah decided not to return to CMHA, but instead accepted a position as a child protection worker with CAS here in London. Having cared for many of our friends at Sanctuary who were going through difficult CAS situations, Sarah was quite nervous about taking the job. But, after just five months of being there, she seems to be settling in and doing a great job. While the workload is extremely heavy, perhaps Sarah's biggest challenge so far has been trying to get her clients to agree to terminate their files. But who can blame them... Who wouldn't want a personal home visit from Sarah every week? I'd be fighting to keep my file open too!

On top of our ongoing commitment to friends and family, we also decided that we should probably put more money into eating healthier, and to try and do some travelling. While we can still certainly improve on our eating habits, we have already had the opportunity to do some travelling. In September, Sarah and I spent two weeks on a road trip through the States en route to the the east coast of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and back through Quebec City and Montreal, camping and staying in a few B&B's along the way. It was a magnificent trip! We already have a wedding invitation for a close friend in BC this summer, so perhaps 2013 will see a trip to the west coast for the Reckmans!

Ever since Gil and I joined forces in 2007, we have never really had the opportunity to vacation together. We've always taken turns being away so that one of us would be in London to make sure our programs ran smoothly. However, recently we were given an invitation to go to a church-planters conference, all expenses paid, in beautiful Banff, Alberta. And that's an offer we couldn't refuse! So in November, Gil and Bonnie, Sarah and I flew away for five days, leaving our community to take care of itself for the first time in six years. And the community responded well. All our programs ran seamlessly while the four of us spent some time working on our marriages. What an amazing blessing that was! Thank you to everyone who helped to make that possible. You know who you are!

Christmas is definitely our favourite time of year. It's always a great time to remember our loved ones. It's also a reminder for me about how important it is to make sure I am constantly re-defining who 'family' really includes as many of our friends at Sanctuary may not have other family to spend with.

Sarah and I would like to wish you the warmest of Christmas blessings. Our prayer is that you too will find ways to invite the 'other' in to share the season as part of your closest friends and family. Merry Christmas!



**Sarah and Darryl in Banff at a Church Planters Retreat.**

### Clelland family update

This past Saturday felt typical for our household. Joseph, Isaiah, and Jacob all played a hockey game at 1pm in three different arenas in London. While Bonnie and I raced in our car between two arenas, we had help from a member of our community who got our third son to his game on time. It was busy and exhilarating. Joseph's team won and he scored three goals, Isaiah scored 4 goals, and Jacob's team remained undefeated. Busy and exhilarating!

This summer past was great for many reasons. Earlier in the spring, Isaiah was nominated by his hockey coach for a citizenship award (fitness, leadership, teamwork, and community involvement). He won! For all Ontario. The prize was a four day trip for two to the Olympics in London, England. We went for the last four days of the Olympics where we saw volleyball finals, and the third last night of track and field. Highlights included the tour through London, seeing Sherlock Holmes residence, and cheering with 80 000 people at Olympic park.

Joseph and I went away for five days to Algonquin Park where we canoed and camped (and to Joseph's chagrin, we had to portage quite a few times). The fishing wasn't great. But it was a joy to hang out with my oldest son.



We camped as a family a few times and I spoke at some camps/retreats over the summer. It was relaxing and healing...but not perfect. As you might know, my wife Bonnie had post-partum depression after the birth of our second and third children. With prayer, medication, a healthy diet, and coping mechanisms, we were able to reduce the effects of the depression greatly. But this spring, Bonnie wanted to come off her medication completely. She weened herself off the medication by March.

And by July, the depression came back full force. For Bonnie, it was horrible. She could not sleep. She could not focus. She lost all joy. Our young family tried to walk with her in the midst of her struggles. By September, under the guidance of a new doctor and new medication, the symptoms began to lessen. And by October, Bonnie was feeling mostly like herself again. We praise God for His faithfulness and thank each of you for your prayers along the way. We continue to find we are drawn to our God who gives us His strength in our weakness. This fall, Bonnie started teaching a new ESL class to young adults between the ages of 18-24. It is a great

fit for her gifts and talents.

Finally, I am going to run a marathon - 26 miles (at my pace - about 4 hours of running)! This September, I began to work out and eat a bit better. I lost some weight - which was good. But I wanted a better goal than just weight loss. So, I began to train to run a marathon. This past week, I signed up for the Mississauga marathon on May 5th. As I train, I am increasing the number of miles I run each week. This week, I ran 11 miles! This marathon seems like a crazy goal but I am set on it. And I hope you will come along with me. I am looking for sponsors for this run. It will be approximately 40km's. Will you sponsor me? All money raised will go directly to Sanctuary's work (specifically hiring a female staff member). I will send out info soon on how to sponsor me for this run!



### End of Year donations:

As the calendar year 2012 winds down, you can help Sanctuary get a good start on 2013. We are dreaming of hiring at least one more staff (a female co-worker) Please consider sending your year end donations to help us in this way!

Send cheques to:  
**Sanctuary London**  
736 Glasgow Street  
London, ON N5Y 1V7

### Meet the Board of Sanctuary London

As we continue to be established as a church and non-profit organization, we knew a board of elders would be in order. They would guide us, hold the staff to our mandate, and offer wisdom in decision making. The board for this year is:

**Jay Gurnett – Chair**  
**Eric Buckley – Vice-chair**  
**John Sloan – Treasurer**  
**Karima Cassidy – Secretary**  
**Eithne Griffiths**  
**Sharon deVries**

Food!

You are invited  
To join us in celebrating

Party time!

Music and Dancing  
Featuring 11 Watts!

Sanctuary is  
two years old!  
YAY!!!!

**Sanctuary London's 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**

**Friday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**  
**at 513 Talbot St, London ON**

Community Art Work  
And writing