



At Sanctuary, we are becoming a healthy, welcoming community where people who are poor or excluded are particularly valued. This community is an expression of the good news embodied in Jesus Christ.

Finding Home...

...Because everyone needs to belong!

February 2015

Looking back on the past year.

Let it be said that God provided for Sanctuary London in 2014!

The year was filled with many ups and downs. We mourn the lives we lost, and take great joy in the new births we are surrounded with; 4 new babies, 6 baptisms. In June, Naomi Elizabeth Judith Reckman was born to Darryl and Sarah. In September, Gil and Darryl biked/ran 100 miles to raise funds and awareness for HOME.

Sanctuary hired for the first time since our foundation in 2011. We welcomed Jeremy Jongejan and his family to our community, and they have been a great fit! On February 3rd they finally made the move to London from Goderich and

Jeremy is excited about having his family more deeply immersed in the community and about all that he is learning.

More inside!



Time to Party!

Join us!

Please help us celebrate Sanctuary's 4th year anniversary, and welcome Jeremy and his family to London!
Saturday March 7th, 2015
7-10pm @ 513 Talbot Street



“What would a good home look like for you?”

"I'm not sure, that got ruined a long time ago."

I was having a dream session with one of our young friends from the street. Stuck in the rut of going from shelter to shelter, Rick wanted out of that pattern. So together we dreamed. We chatted about a job, schooling, and whatever the future may hold. When I got to this question about home, his answer surprised me and messed me up. For some reason, I keep forgetting that our friends do not choose this life. For many of them, it was chosen for them. And I was struck how in spite of all my desires to do so, I was not going to fix the problem there or anytime soon.

The longer I do this, the more I realize how multifaceted the problem of poverty actually is. It would be easy if some of our preconceived notions were true. If only, our friends were just lazy. We would just need to find the right motivation for each person. And everything would work out fine. If only they lacked education or a job, we could just provide the right opportunity and things would work out great! But it's bigger and much more challenging than those things. Yes motivation plays a role - but so does generational poverty, social pressures, self-understanding, abuse, violence, government programs that

actually make it harder to find help sometimes, and terrible assumptions about our friends by so many people. I read the "comment" section online for local newspaper articles. If the article is about the poor, you can guarantee someone spews words of hatred towards our folks. What must it be like to read those words about yourself? What then do you believe you are worth?

While we have discovered some similarities and patterns over time, most of our friends from the street have individual needs, dreams, stumbling blocks, and "solutions" that can only be garnered by talking. We can study poverty from afar. We can read this article and many others by those who think they know, all in an effort to figure out the poor. Or, we can go among, do life with, eat with...and just be. I don't think we give up pressing towards solutions. People should not sleep outside, friends should not be alone, and everyone should have a home to grow up in. But because many times those things don't exist, we press on. We challenge for government reform and low income housing that is suitable for life, voting with wisdom and an eye for those with less, and giving from our own surpluses. But, I sense the best thing is friendship. And that only happens among. It only happens over time. It only happens by giving and allowing someone in. You don't need to join us downtown. Weren't we asked to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'now, answer, who is *your neighbour*?

-Gil Clelland



Casual Conversation

It was a very regular Monday morning at one of our drop-ins, the shuffle of people trickling in from the street was back dropped by the sound of the coffee perk bubbling as people eagerly awaited their first cup of the day.

I was sitting with one of our friends who very faithfully helps out. She shows up nearly every time we have a gathering, sometimes she will show up hours early and wait outside before any of us can even get there to let her in. We engaged in casual banter at first, but the conversation deepened as time went

on. She shared with me that she has no friends or family in the area. The family that she does have, she does not have a relationship with, and has not seen in many years. "This place is one of the only things I look forward to. I mark each and every drop-in on my calendar... they are the highlights of my week", she said as she stirred her coffee slowly. "I don't know what I would do without this place"

-Jeremy Jongejan



cont.

Just as Sanctuary started to get nervous about our financial situation because of unexpected expenses, an amazing opportunity came up for Gil to lead a research study about the shelter system. The experience has huge potential to create positive change for many of our friends living in the shelters, not to mention the incredible learning Sanctuary would receive through Gil sharing his experiences; we could not resist the opportunity. And we were reminded once again that God provides in mysterious ways, as Gil's salary would be covered for 4 months! As a result of this, and thanks to your faithful giving, Sanctuary was able to finish the year in a positive financial position. With new costs associated with the office space, and Gil returning full time to Sanctuary in April, and our ever-increasing numbers, would you consider supporting, or increasing your support to help Sanctuary be just as successful in 2015?

Please Pray!

At Sanctuary London, we have so much to be thankful for. We praise God for guiding us through 2014. Although we added many expenses this past year that were not in the budget to begin with, He provided for all of our financial needs. As expenses continue to increase, we ask God to continue to walk with us throughout 2015 and beyond, and to provide for the needs of all of his people. Please also keep the following items in your prayers:

- 1.** Pray that God will help us to settle in to our new office space, to find ways of using it to it's fullest potential, and to make it a home for our friends.
Pray for Jeremy and His family as they begin to settle down into a new city with new schools for his daughters. Pray for Gil as he finishes his work with Mission Services, that he would have renewed energy and new wisdom to share with us upon his return in April.
- 2.**
- 3.** Pray in particular for all of our friends who struggle to live and sleep outside in this cold and dangerous weather.

Thank you Father for walking with us.

When everyone belongs: Local and Global

We are exploring what it means when we say that everyone belongs in the Kingdom of Heaven. We have a tendency to want to be an exclusive group of people who are 'in' because when certain others are allowed in, it has a profound effect on my sense of belonging. We struggle sometimes in the context of Sanctuary London to allow others to join us, but what does it mean when we say that people who live halfway around the globe belong too? As we continue to learn and grow, Sanctuary has committed 2015 to exploring the idea of what it would mean to support an impoverished community overseas. We pray this will help us to lift our eyes beyond our own situations to see what God is doing globally.

100 Miles for HOME!



Sanctuary has found a place to call HOME!

For many years now, Sanctuary has operated all of our programming out of the beautiful atrium of Talbot Street Church. The folks at Talbot Street have done a great job of making us feel welcome, and now they have given us even more to be thankful for. The main floor offices right next door to the church at 531 Talbot Street have been donated for use by Sanctuary. We finally have our very own designated space! Of course all of our regular programming will continue to happen at the church, but the offices will allow us to meet with people more readily, and helps to cement us as an organization. Please be sure to visit us soon!

We owe a huge thank you not only to Talbot Street Church for the space, but also to a number of individuals who have contributed office furniture and supplies to help make our new space operational. In particular we would like to thank Rodney Lover from *Lover's AtWork Office Furniture* for his substantial contribution.



CAN YOU HELP? Please visit our website to see what items are still needed. www.sanctuarylondon.ca

Your Name Here

Street Address and Number
City, Prov., Postal Code

Sanctuary London

531 Talbot Street
London, ON N6A 2S5



Call us! Darryl: 519-280-8895
Gil: 519-902-9775
Jeremy: 519-955-3937

Sunday Worship 6-7:30pm
Monday Lunch 11am-3pm
Wednesday Dinner 3-9pm (Dinner at 5:30)