

sanctuaryLondon.ca



FINDING HOME.
TOGETHER.

SANCTUARY LONDON



PLANTING SEEDS

At Sanctuary London, we deeply believe in the reconciliation of all things. For this reason we participate every year in what we consider to be an important spiritual practice... Planting Seeds! How amazing it is that our Creator invites us to participate in a small way in caring for the rest of creation. The seeds are left here in our windows, until it is time to plant them in the garden. Our community members love watching as they begin to grow.



SANCTUARY SHORTS (STORIES)

Extending Grace

We have a particular community member here at Sanctuary who is extremely difficult to understand. Sleeping rough for years and years has taken its toll on their body. This leads to all sorts of frustration for this person, and sometimes it comes out in short-tempered and aggressive ways. Quite regularly we get complaints from other community members; "Why are you so patient with that person?" "You shouldn't put up with them treating you that way." "Why can't you kick them out?" These are the types of comments we hear all the time.

I often find I'm asking myself the same questions. I just gave you food, and socks, and a new pair of pants, can't you show some appreciation, rather than yelling at me for not finding a shirt that fits too? I've been standing here trying to understand what you are saying for over ten minutes, how can you say I never listen?

It can quickly feel like we are extending grace *all the time*. Thankfully, I have the great joys of working with a team of amazing coworkers who are quick to remind me of how many of our community members must feel all the time. Imagine being the person who is so hard to understand. Imagine trying to have your needs met, and being asked to repeat yourself over and over and over again, only to be told, "sorry, we're not sure how to help you", and then being left with needs unmet. Imagine every night having to find a new place to rest, regularly being woken up throughout the night and told to pack your stuff up, you can't stay here.

I don't think I can even begin to imagine the amount of patience and grace it must take our community members to deal with *me* in each interaction. I don't understand their situation. I can't comprehend what it must be like to feel completely abandoned and forgotten by the rest of society.

I am reminded that people are not impoverished because of some poor decision they have made, or because they

are lazy. Everyday I observe community members working way harder than I ever have (literally), just to survive. These people are not immoral or sinful. Rather, they are a product of a broken system, overrun by the rule of oppression.

There is enough in this world, provided by our Creator, to sustain a quality of life for all. But sadly, a small percentage of the population holds on to the majority of wealth, while others are left with little or nothing. And I'm not *just* talking about material wealth, but also moral authority, dignity, love, and a sense of meaningful, belonging in community.

When I think about grace, my mind often goes to the gospel stories, and the life of Jesus. As I delve deeper into these stories, I begin to realize that nearly every time Jesus extends grace, it is given to people who are impoverished, oppressed, and abandoned. I think of the woman who was caught in sin from John 8, the man at the Gadarenes from Luke 8, and multiple people with leprosy, blindness, and more.

But to those who are wealthy and powerful, Jesus offers little but warnings and woe (see Matthew 10, Luke 11:37-54, 12:13-21, etc). According to Jesus, it is not the poor and oppressed who need to repent, but those who are hoarding wealth. The poor need not repent; they need justice. In this way, if grace is present, it flows from the oppressed to the oppressor, from the unsheltered to the homeowners, from the colonized to the colonizers. For with privilege comes great responsibility. Therefore, it is not an act of grace to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. It is our duty, our moral responsibility.

As I write this, I am faced with my own privilege, and I find myself at a crossroads: Do I want to continue on the path I am on, or am I willing to accept the grace being given to me... and begin taking steps towards sharing what I have more generously, and learning and actively seeking to lower mountains and raise up valleys (see Isaiah 40). **03**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY



FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

At least four times a year we put on a big event for no reason other than to celebrate the goodness of life together. This time around, our spring celebration was a Festival of the Arts, where our community members contributed all kinds of talents from paintings, drawings, and needlework to poetry, singing, dancing, and playing the harmonica.

SILENT AUCTION!

**JOIN US AT OUR FUNDRAISING EVENT ON JUNE 9TH
FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN THESE EXCITING
ITEMS... AND MUCH MORE!**

Please view next page for event info...



Chicago Getaway!

A midweek stay at a private timeshare in Chicago. A great way to experience this incredible city with great architecture, amazing venues, river cruises, and deep dish pizza!



Cheesecake Every Month for a Year!

Imagine that! 12 cheesecakes in a year. Choose from a variety of recipes for delivery or pick up. Arrange a day and time that works for you and our baker. A great way to celebrate birthdays, and other special events.

Follow Sanctuary's [Facebook Page](#) to see more auction items and learn more about the fundraiser!

Can't make it to the fundraiser?

Please consider supporting Sanctuary anyways. We've got so many exciting opportunities presenting themselves. We would love to have you get involved in some way. Please reach out if you would like to hear more!

[Donate Here!](#)

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EVENING IN THE COUNTRY

Sanctuary London

JUNE 9, 6:30 - 10PM | 33453 COURSEY LINE,
LUCAN, ON

DINNER

PIG ROAST | SALADS

DESSERTS | REFRESHMENTS

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE MUSIC | A STRING AND A PRAYER
SILENT AUCTION

A SANCTUARY PRESENTATION
WITH AN INVITATION TO SUPPORT
CHARITABLE RECEIPTS ISSUED

YOU'RE INVITED | GOOD PEOPLE | GOOD FOOD | GOOD FUN

GET YOUR \$30 TICKETS AT

[AN EVENING IN THE COUNTRY](#)

