

**The
Davenports**

Moving Forward

December, 2021

**Sarnia, ON
Canada**

New Beginnings

I can only think of one year that has had this much change and “newness” connected to it. That would be the year 2004. In 2004, we moved from Detroit to Vancouver and started a whole new life in Canada and in Youth With A Mission. This year, 2021, is very similar in that regard. We started off 2021 living in Thunder Bay and by mid-February, we had sold our home and moved down to Windsor to start our lives over again. We were blessed to be staying at a friend’s home in Windsor greatly reducing our monthly expenses but were still wondering where we would end up and what we would be doing. By the beginning of June, we had part of our answer as I was offered a job serving in the Ontario Public Service as the Chaplain at the Sarnia Jail. What I discovered though was that security checks needed to work at the jail took three months to obtain! Once those clearances finally came through and a starting date was established, now I had to face a two hour commute from Windsor to Sarnia each way. Let me tell you that four hours in the car every day to get to and from work was brutal. That being said, I was still thrilled to be working again. At least now we knew that a move to Sarnia would need to happen but buying a house in this market was a difficult and expensive task. It took us a couple of months of looking before we finally settled on a home in Sarnia and the best thing I like about it is that it’s ten minutes from my job. No more two hour commutes!

Now at the end of December, we are mostly moved into our new place and we are slowly getting to know Sarnia. Given that this is our SEVENTH move since 2004, you could say we’ve become experts in packing, taking down and setting up new living spaces. However, we are also way older than we were back in 2004 and so the process has taken a toll on us physically and emotionally. It seems that every time we say that “We’re never going to do this again!” we find ourselves doing it again. Now that most of our boxes are unpacked, we are hopeful that we are staying where we are at for a while. In fact, we hope that we’ll NEVER have to do this again but we’ve said that before so who knows?

So as we approach the end of 2021, we are thankful for new jobs, a new home, a new city, weather we are enjoying, no snow shovelling, proximity to family and friends, and a fresh outlook on what God has next for us. We want to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you who have checked in on us and cared for us during this significant time of transition. There have been plenty of moments of frustration and struggle but we are relying not on OUR strength and understanding but on the One whom we worship and adore especially at this time of year.

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*“Trust steadily in God,
hope unswervingly,
love extravagantly”*

For tax deductible contributions in the USA you may send and make your checks payable to:

YWAM
PO Box 3000
Garden Valley TX 75771

In Canada:

YWAM Project Funding
PO Box 57100
RPO East Hastings
Vancouver BC V5K 5G6

For those of you who don't want to have to remember to send your monthly check, both the Canadian and U.S. YWAM locations offer a monthly automatic withdrawal option. If you are interested, please contact us.

Please do NOT put our names on checks. Include a note in your envelope that the contribution is for Mark & Karen Davenport—YWAM Vancouver.



YWAM NEWS

It's been three months now that Karen has been working as the personal assistant to Randy Parizeau who is our Canadian Director. Karen and Randy have been able to conduct zoom meetings twice a week where Karen is able to assist Randy with the administrative support he needs. This has been right up Karen's alley as she has been serving in administration and organization for most of her working life. It's been amazing to watch what she's been able to accomplish in the short time she's been doing this work.

As we shared in our last newsletter, we've been trusting God to supply the finances we've relied on when she worked at the law firms in Thunder Bay. If you are inclined to support Karen in this work, please contact us and we'd love to share with you more about how you can give to this work as she does not receive any wages for the work she does in YWAM.

I'm continuing to work in partnership with YWAM Vancouver in my work at the Sarnia Jail. It's been surprising to see the level of connection and relationship I've been able to develop with the inmates in my short time there. My work there has included running two separate Alpha Groups and it's been my privilege to lead four inmates in prayers to receive Jesus. In addition, I'll be conducting a couple of baptisms as well. How awesome is that? I'm going to need to be creative in how we accomplish that but for the two men who've asked to be baptized, they are ready to take public their decision to follow Jesus.

Family News

Alex and Josh are coming to Canada! We're so excited to see Alex and her husband Josh next month. The plans are for them to fly from Melbourne, Australia to Toronto on January 30th and for them to spend about six weeks with us. Our plans are to have a REDO wedding for them at the end of February so all of Alex's friends and family in Canada and the U.S. can participate in their celebration since NONE of us could attend their wedding this past February 14th when they were married in Perth. We can't wait to introduce Josh to all of our family and friends and introduce him to Canadian winter! He's never seen snow before so we are anxious to plan some winter activities for all of us to do together. We hope that includes taking him to a Red Wing hockey game in Hockeytown!

Simeon has transitioned to school at the University of Windsor and has been taking his classes online this entire fall term. The plan is for him to continue taking online courses during his winter term as well. So far so good for Sim as he continues in the pursuit of his Computer Programming Degree.

Jake is also still with us here in Sarnia. Please continue to pray for him as he continues in his journey to seek out next steps.



Mark at the Sarnia Jail



Our new house in Sarnia!