

## Fall 2012 Family Picture



It has been a whole year since our last newsletter and boy has that year been busy! Much has changed in our lives and we have grown a lot in this past year! New experiences, new faces, and new, exciting possibilities for serving the Body of Christ— This has been our year...



## Adding one more (Ba) nanna to the bunch!

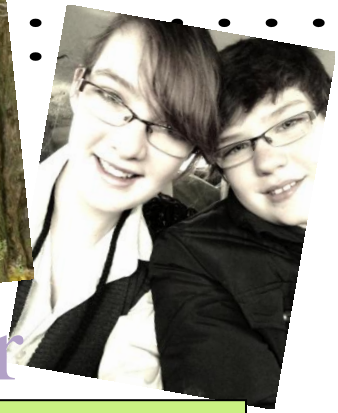
The day was finally here. We had been preparing for this day for weeks! Nanna was moving in! We had been trying to convince Maren's mom to move in with us for a couple of months now. It wasn't until March when she came down for a visit that she decided it was time for a change, and on June 11 2012 she moved in! From Uxbridge to Hepworth, it was a big move but we did it! Now she has been living with us for just over 8 months and we are so happy to have her here with us. She has helped us out a lot and is a real blessing in our lives, we are so happy to have this time with her.

## The Knee Injury

Maren has been having trouble with her knees for many years now, but it wasn't until April 2012 that things went downhill (and fast!). We were invited to go to a ranch for Easter to just have some fun with friends but she ended up giving up early on the egg hunt after her knee slipped out many times. In the next few days her left knee swelled and walking became very difficult. She went to the doctor that week and they told her she needed an MRI but they were pretty sure that it was a torn meniscus. She was recommended to continue icing until the MRI results came back. Once the results came back they discovered that her meniscus was not torn but that all the cushion behind her knee cap was gone, causing the bones to rub together and slip out of place. Since then she has met with a surgeon to discuss a knee replacement but was told that she was too young as the replacement would only last 10 years. She said that she was upset that they turned her down but glad to hear that she was too young for something! She has been doing physio-therapy for several months, is able to get around without crutches and has resumed most of her activities! Though her knee will never recover the lost cushion she is learning to get by without it and is getting back to doing things that we take for granted sometimes.

The injured knee though it slowed her down and was discouraging at times didn't stop her from enjoying life. The slower pace gave her lots of time to catch up on paper work and spend time in God's word! God had her right where He wanted her at the time. Here we are a year later with many new great prospects and adventures on the horizon, Maren is feeling refreshed and raring to go!

Keanna had a great learning experience this summer as she went to Camp Cherith for their Leadership training course. It was a difficult 3 weeks as she hadn't been to any of their summer camps before. Noah and Maren went to camp the 2<sup>nd</sup> week that Keanna was there. Maren worked in the kitchen while Noah enjoyed being a camper. Even though Keanna had a hard time she learned much and is going back this summer to finish up her training. Luckily this time it is only for 2 weeks.



## Kids Corner

They both continue to grow like weeds, Noah is just a little bit shorter than Maren now at 5'9" and Keanna surpassed Maren, at 5'11". Both are doing great and are excited for what God has in store for our family next!

Both kids very much enjoy the homeschooling drama group that Maren runs and has had a blast rehearsing for the play "Johnny Unforgettable". They performed the first weekend in March for a small group and will be presenting the drama to two local churches in April. Keanna plays the part of Laura- the Christian who brings Johnny to Christ and Noah plays the part of a Christian Assistant to Johnny the detective.

Keanna and Noah are both doing great in school. Keanna recently started a Co-op position with a drama group in Owen Sound (which Noah attends) and is having much fun helping the kids put together a bullying presentation that they hope to put on to many schools in the area. Being that Keanna is homeschooled and rather ahead in her studies, she just recently found out that she will be able to graduate a year early! That means only 3 more semesters! Noah is also a year ahead, doing grade 9 instead of 8.



## The MANY Projects on the go...

- ~Writing Leadership Manuals and ministry materials
- ~ New blog: <http://4hisministryblog.wordpress.com>
- ~Planning for the first woman's retreat hosted by 4HIS Ministry
- ~Eric has taken on more hours at work and loves the 1 on 1
- ~ "Johnny unforgettable" drama by homeschoolers as an outreach ministry

We are now attending and assisting the **Pentecostal Church in Warton**. We are very excited about the prospect of planting roots with this church as our family plans to be in this area for a time. They are a small country church with huge potential! Our first project focus is on developing a youth group followed by working on outreach plans. Please pray with us as we start on this new project!

## PROJECT: LODGE

We have an amazing opportunity that we need your help with! Many of you are aware that God has put a desire in our hearts to develop a ministry and retreat center; A project which would allow weary pastors to take a break, a place where we could house leadership training and various retreats as well as reach out to future generations through a teen restoration program.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> we traveled to Red Bay to look at a piece of property that was brought to our attention, for some reason we felt compelled to learn more about it. It currently serves as a lodge. The property has 15 cabins- 2 of which are winterized, 8 hotel rooms, an apartment for the owners, dining room, rec-hall, indoor pool, all of which lay on a 50 acre piece of land.

This property is perfect for the retreat center that we thought wouldn't happen for years. It has all the necessities needed for the Retreat center and more. The property is outdated and needs some repairs but with some TLC it would be wonderful. It reminds me of the potential God sees in us! It needs a new roof on a portion of the building, new windows in the apartment and a bit of decorating but very little to start with.

This property is located 20 minutes from here and only 30 minutes from Tobermory. Right now being that this is a lodge; the property is usually fully booked for all long weekends in the summer meaning that there is a steady income during the summer. We would designate times for: cottagers, retreats, pastors time of rest etc., allowing us to use the income stream as a means to provide for pastors and churches to use the retreat center.

We ask that you would pray with us over this new opportunity as we are starting up many new fundraising efforts to raise the money for the property. All sponsorships earn rewards that can be applied to your pastor for time away as well as discounts for yourself and your church to use the facilities, have a holiday or book a retreat. If you feel that you can help us financially in any way, please contact us as everything and anything helps. An online sponsorship form and rewards system can be found at... [https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=MHpBuI7jvs\\*tk4E5eV\\*Qzg](https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=MHpBuI7jvs*tk4E5eV*Qzg)

We are also looking for opportunities to partner with churches to do fundraising events and or church presentations. Please share the vision with your pastors.

If this is God's will we pray that it would be done.

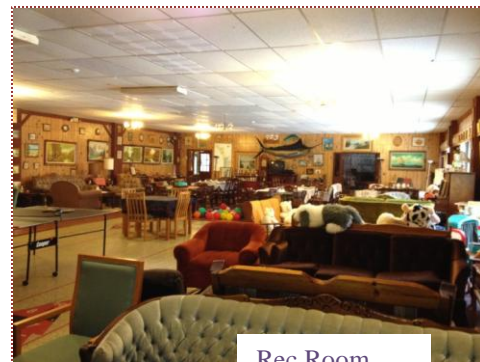
Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder. Look past the outdated photos and see with Kingdom eyes the potential for rest, revitalization, training, restoration, fun, rejuvenation and time with God in the great outdoors. (It helps that I love to decorate and do it well on a low budget!)



(up) front of main building  
(down) Indoor pool



(up) hotel room  
(down) cabin



Rec Room

For more information on the lodge please visit: our blog (section: retreat center project) @ <http://4hisministryblog.wordpress.com>  
Or visit: [www.4hisministry.org](http://www.4hisministry.org)  
Phone us: (519)935-3731  
Email us: [Brandsma@4hisministry.org](mailto:Brandsma@4hisministry.org)  
We would be glad to answer all of your questions!

# Sponsorship

## Ongoing Sponsorship UPDATE

March 2013

As you know we rely on readers like you, family, friends and churches to support our call to minister to churches and pastors in crisis and transition. We work with churches who cannot afford to pay for help yet desperately need help in order to become healthy and thriving Bodies which can reach out to the lost.

Unfortunately we are not good at fundraising – we are good at ministering to churches and pastors. We have not done well in the area of fundraising or raising awareness of the needs out there. Fortunately God has provided in ways we could never have imagined and we are very thankful for His continued care.

At this time we are in great need of monthly sponsorship. This is not regarding the retreat center – any donations for that must be designated. This is regarding our daily lives – we have never raised enough money to draw a salary from the ministry only enough to pay for expenses. Eric works a second job to assist in supporting our family and we have completely lived by faith. Recently one of our church sponsors was unable to continue its monthly support, we are very grateful for their past care for us. We do not at this time have enough sponsorship to pay for the expenses of the ministry or the care of our families needs.

As we begin to pour our time into a new church in need and care for the community around it as well as endeavor to take on the new project we need your support more now than ever. Adding to that the kids growing and their needs growing we feel it necessary to once again ask you to consider as friends and family, fellow members of the Body of Christ to support this much needed ministry. Your monthly support enables us to keep pouring into these pastors and churches and in turn the communities. Many, many people have been reached because of this revitalization ministry and the churches God has allowed us to assist in continue to grow and reach out.

Please consider a monthly sponsorship – EVERY dollar helps, All donations are tax receiptable as 4 HIS Ministry is a registered charity governed by a Board of Directors.

## Donations can be made through:

Online Donations:

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?charityID=s96157>

Mail In Donations:

Download and print form at:

[http://www.4hisministry.org/Support/SponsorshipForm\(mailin\).htm](http://www.4hisministry.org/Support/SponsorshipForm(mailin).htm)

Mail to:

4 HIS Ministry,  
c/o John Nolan (Treasurer),  
7 Langevin Drive,  
Wasaga Beach, ON  
L9Z 1C6

Thank you for helping us care for  
the Body of Christ and the  
Shepherds God has blessed us  
with!

Our family greatly appreciates  
your support as do the churches we  
work with!

May God bless you in your  
giving.

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