

## Addicted in Sarnia

<http://www.drugfreesarnialambton.com/>

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** ESV

OSJ

### Quotes from the Sarnia Observer 2011-2012



EAT ME!

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

**James 5:15-1**

*A Sarnia woman caught stealing from two stores to support a drug habit has been sentenced to 20 days in jail.*

*A young man caught with 84 oxycodone pills worth \$5,000 has been sentenced to 18 months of house arrest.*

*A nursing home staffer who peeled pain medication patches from residents to satisfy her addiction has been sentenced to nine months of house arrest.*

Just after 1:30 a.m. officers arrested a 31-year-old woman and 32-year-old man at the home. The male suspect is being held in custody pending a bail hearing. Officers seized methamphetamine and marijuana, as well as over \$1000 in cash.

*A young man who stole and pawned his mother's jewelry to buy drugs has been placed on a year's probation in Sarnia court.*

Priya Singh says she isn't surprised that six Sarnia residents died last year from accidental drug overdoses. Singh spends her days talking to children about recreational and prescription drug abuse.

Children as young as seven have admitted to trying prescription drugs found in their parents' medicine cabinets, Singh said.

"They see their parents take them and they think they are safe. I get a lot of dumbfounded looks when I tell them it's not."

Singh is program co-ordinator for the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton's Drug Strategy.

We have a drug problem. It's the abuse of prescription drugs which kills hundreds of Canadians annually. Whether it's because of ongoing pain, depression or the urge to get high, more and more people are heading to their doctors -- not the neighbourhood pusher -- for a fix. As the International Narcotics Control Board noted in its 2009 annual report, the abuse of prescription drugs in North America is second only to the abuse of cannabis. We love our pills. North America has the world's highest consumption of prescription opioids, such as OxyContin, and we're gobbling them up faster than ever.

Are we honest about this reality or inclined to say it doesn't apply to us?

How can we as Christians best support the work of local agencies in this area?

"We've got to open the doors on substance abuse in this city. Most people I speak to feel the situation is getting worse in Sarnia."

Lambton County council has supported a detox centre by earmarking \$250,000 for one in its 2012 budget. Mayor Mike Bradley has said an unnamed partner is willing to donate property, but nothing more has come of it.

"We've got a lack of resources and we have to do something about it," Brian White said. "Someone with an addiction problem will reach out and be momentarily prepared to detox, but we don't have anywhere for him to go. By the time a space opens up out of town, the moment is past and the opportunity is missed."

May we work for a world more open, less suspicious; more generous and less self-serving; for a world more righteous and infinitely less self-righteous. May we all find ways of seeing this frail and fragmented world with the eyes of our Saviour as a realm so unspeakably precious that he abandoned his place in glory to become frail and riven, just like us. May we live as best we may out of that impossible vision and in the hope that in doing so, we are exalted; that in our exaltation all are lifted up.

Bob Sweetman  
President, Institute of Christian Studies

## Growing Up Female *Girls are the world's most squandered gift.*



Although many cultures value hard work, child *labour* is almost always a response to economic hardship, which may be caused by any number of complicated local, national, and international factors. Girls work more than boys, but very often their efforts are both unpaid and unvalued—that is, not considered to be “work.” It is labour that becomes invisible. Yet, taking into account the enormous incidence of girls working as domestic help, where they are away from home and vulnerable, girls’ work may be some of the most dangerous around. Often girls are subject to violence and sexual abuse.

Girls do contribute to their societies with their labour, but at a heavy cost. Their contributions could be so much greater if they were able to play and learn, to be educated and develop skills. Girls—all children—need to be freed from unfair labour and, when they do work, to do so in a way that appropriately values what they give. One of the most needed tools is a way to document and measure girls’ labour contributions, especially domestic labour.

### The current situation for girls

The widening gap between rich and poor has a huge effect on children. Children end up alone because their parents can no longer provide food and shelter. They may be abandoned or sent out of the home to find a means of support for the family. Others leave home because of violence or substance abuse, often amplified by poverty.

Armed conflict is another reason why children are without guardians. Parents are killed in the conflict or children are separated from their families. There are millions of girls in refugee camps around the world. Many are unaccompanied. Children in camps, especially girls, are vulnerable to rape, abuse, abduction, recruitment into armies and robbery. In camps, girls often have limited access to health, food and other services.

The rise in the number of street children throughout the world has also led to many of the same abuses. The number of street children worldwide is estimated to be 100 million. Many live with one or both parents. They may be “alone” because no one is providing for them, and their parents are said to be their colleagues in misfortune. HIV/AIDS is now a major reason why children are orphaned. Orphans are much less likely to attend school than those with one or both parents living.

In Mozambique for example, 68 per cent of children aged 10 to 14 attend school, but only 24 per cent of orphaned children attend. Children alone lack status within their communities to remedy their situations.

Finally, a group often neglected are the young widows around the world. These are girls who have been forced into early marriage and then find themselves widowed shortly afterwards. Widows are shunned in many cultures. They may be left out of family events and forbidden from participating in the community, and often are left destitute.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please respond to [theadegroot@sympatico.ca](mailto:theadegroot@sympatico.ca) with the word subscribe.*

### Calendar

Black History Month

Family Day (14)

Sarnia Justice Film Festival—Feb 18 7pm library

World Day of Social Justice(20)

April 27-28 *Social Justice and Human Rights* conference Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto

Upcoming Webinars CRCNA <http://network.crcna.org/webinars>

- February 8 - The Network - Your Ministry Connection
- February 15 - Praying for God's Global Mission
- February 22 - Update on CRWRC's Disaster Response Services Program
- February 29 - The What, Why, and How of CRC Safe Church Ministry
- March 7 - Discipling and Enfolding New Christians
- March 14 - Walking Alongside our Muslim Neighbours

### CRCNA—The Network

This website is all about connecting - with each other, with resources, with experts - for ministry.

<http://network.crcna.org/about>

CPJ and the *Dignity for All* campaign for a poverty-free Canada's “What's Next: How Do We Address Poverty in Canada?” event in Ottawa, on **February 14, 2012**. With an aim to renew national conversation on poverty issues, the event will feature a panel discussion and Q&A with MPs, people with lived experience of poverty, and social policy & advocacy groups. You can also encourage Pat Davidson to attend this event by calling their constituency office or sending them a brief email explaining why you think poverty demands their attention!

Just in time for Lent and Easter, Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) has released [Living Justice and the Psalms](http://www.cpj.ca/en/living-justice-and-psalms-lenten-bible-study), a free 6-week online Bible study based on the Psalms and CPJ's ecumenical prayer and action guide, *Living Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty*.  
<http://www.cpj.ca/en/living-justice-and-psalms-lenten-bible-study>

This newsletter is a publication of the Social Justice Team of Redeemer Christian Reformed Church, Sarnia ON  
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[www.crcjustice.org](http://www.crcjustice.org) and *Kairos Times*, a monthly e-newsletter of KAIROS, the social justice organisation of eleven Canadian churches and church agencies.  
[www.kairosCanada.org](http://www.kairosCanada.org) and of Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ)'s monthly newsletter *OLA* <http://cpj.ca/index.html> and the *Mo-*