



*This year marks the first full year we have spent in our Hamilton home. At this time last year, the walls were bare (having been stripped of up to three layers of wallpaper, two shelving units, and many years of home fashion history), our living room was full of unopened boxes, and we had a basement and a garage full of leftovers from the last resident (a gentleman in his eighties who had lived here since the late forties). We began the year by finally wallpapering, painting, and organizing our belongings, and as we approach Christmas, it feels good to be able to put up a tree and decorations for the holiday season. It feels like home.*



*We have both been continuing our education this year: In January, Rachel will begin her last semester at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, graduating in April with an Honours B.A. in English and Global Studies; James is slowly but surely continuing to work on a Bachelor of Church Music degree at Heritage Bible College in Cambridge, and hopes to be done by next Christmas. Meanwhile Rachel has been working with Christian Horizons in a group home for adults with physical and developmental disabilities, and James has been working at the local Long and McQuade Music store selling sound systems and musical instruments.*

*We have been blessed and encouraged by moving into a community with a wonderful church which we have been able to connect with, serve, and be served. Wentworth Baptist is three blocks away from our house and from the first Sunday we attended, we have been inspired by and welcomed into the family there, and it has become an integral part of our lives and is a second home for us. We regularly participate in the worship team on Sundays and have been involved with a number of weekly ministries. James cooked soup last winter for Out Of The Cold, while Rachel has helped with our Agape Drop-In center, helping fill the needs of the homeless and needy communities in Hamilton.*

*In the coming year, we look forward to completing our undergraduate degrees, continuing to update and personalize our home, and contributing to the ministries and community at Wentworth.*

*Our hope for you is that this holiday season and coming year would be filled with wonder and possibility.*

*Be Blessed,*

