

Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

November 2011

Introducing Edson's New Pastor...

Aaron Kauffman and Family

Last month the Edson Mennonite Church welcomed Aaron and Kate Kauffman and their four children into their church as their new pastoral family. Aaron was officially installed as pastor by Conference Minister Mal Braun on October 9th.

While Aaron has had a passionate desire for ministry for years, his resume shows a wealth of training and experience: agriculture, forestry, construction, and ambulance attendant. He has done outreach in Italy with YES Discipleship Service and toured Canada in a band called Morning Star. He has been a Youth Pastor, led a Missions Trip to the Northwest Territories, chaired a Board of Directors for a Youth Drop In Centre and led a Drama Team and Worship Band.



Aaron
Kate
Ava
Willow
Janna
Logan

Aaron lived his early years in the Eaglesham, Alberta area where his parents, Elton and Esther Kauffman worked in the Eaglesham Church. The family then moved to the Fairview area and became involved in our Bluesky Church. He took agriculture at the Universities in Camrose and Saskatoon, and theological training at Briercrest College. The family has just moved from Chetwynd, B.C. where Aaron served as a Youth Pastor and Ambulance Attendant.

Kate was born in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and her family moved to the Fairview, Alberta area when she was 11. She attended Peace River Bible Institute for a year, and then went on to Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, B.C. where she graduated with a diploma in Outdoor Recreation. After returning to Fairview she worked as a Teacher's Assistant at the Fairview High School. She met Aaron while sponsoring a Youth Group at the Hines Creek CSSM Church. She has also worked as a Care Aid.

The Edson Church has welcomed them gladly, and Interim Pastor Noel and Melanie Dwarika continue to attend. We welcome Aaron and Kate and children into our Northwest Family.



Calgary's New Hispanic Pastor

The Calgary Iglesia La Gracis De Dios (Church of the Grace of God) has called Fredy Lopez as their new pastor. Fredy, his wife Doris and their 18 year old daughter Natali arrived from Costa Rica on October 6th. They left two married daughters and two new grandchildren behind in Costa Rica.

Fredy grew up in a family with 10 children and he turned to the Lord at age 17 when his parents divorced. He went to university, then pastored 5 churches in 26 years. He is a passionate and interesting speaker and the Calgary Church is pleased to welcome him in their midst. The Installation Service will be held on Nov. 6th.

Many thanks go to Pastor Ciro Serrano who has acted as Interim Pastor for the Calgary Church for several years. Ciro and Loly and family have been a blessing to that congregation.

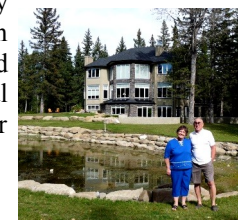
Ray and Joyce Landis Minister to Pastoral Couples

Former NWMC Conference Minister Ray Landis and his wife Joyce continue to use their gifts in "retirement" as they host pastors and their spouses at Kerith Creek Retreat Centre just southwest of Calgary.

The Retreat Centre is a ministry of Focus on the Family. It provides a 7-day retreat for four pastoral couples at a time which includes daily teaching sessions, personal meetings with an experienced ministry couple, and unstructured time for rest. The facilities are excellent and the grounds beautiful.

Ray and Joyce live in a beautiful home on the grounds. Joyce uses her cooking skills to make gourmet meals, and Ray does everything from maintenance to making coffee. They delight in "spoiling" the couples who come and with their many years of ministry experience relate with warmth, sympathy and humour to the pastoral couples who come for refreshment.

See kerithcreek.com



Newspoint

Did you know...

***Salem Mennonite Church** has a new website. See it at www.salemmennonite.ca.

***A Ladies' Retreat** for all NWMC ladies is being planned for May 25-27, 2012 at Camp Silversides.

* **A Men's Missions Trip** is being planned by NWMC for El Salvador for January 19-26, 2013.

* **Tour Ethiopia** with Darrell and Florence Jantzi on February 8-25th, 2012. More info at nwmc.ca or contact Darrell at jantzi@golden.net or (519) 669-4356.

* **El Salvador Project:** the water well is completed and functioning. After a hurricane muddied many shallow wells, people are coming from 5-6 km. away to get the good, clean water it provides.

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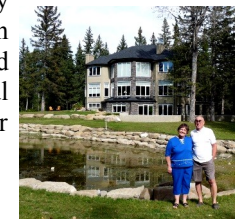
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