

Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter December 2012

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."



All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"— which means, "God with us."

Matthew 1:21-23

May your Christmas be filled with a joyful sense of the presence of Christ!

INTRODUCING THE NEW CONFERENCE MINISTER

On October 1st Dave & Joanne Peters began their ministry in the NWMC as Conference Minister. They have moved to Airdrie Alberta to be more central to all the churches.



Dave came to faith in Christ as a 13 year old and by the age of 14 was aware that God was calling him into fulltime ministry.

Joanne grew up in a Christian home and came to faith at an early age. They met at what is now Nipawin Bible College and were married Dec 30, 1972

In the fall of 1979 they began their pastoral ministry in the Parry (SK) Alliance Church. Those 5 years were formative in ministry and full of blessing. Then in the fall of 1984 they took on the pastoral ministry at the Bethany Mennonite church near Watrous SK. were they spent another 5 years of growth and development. It was during this time that they first encountered the NWMC through the Sharon Mennonite Church in nearby Guernsey. The Bible centered evangelistic zeal from the people at Sharon made a lasting impression.

In the fall of 1989 Dave and Joanne took on the pastoral leadership at the Pleasant Hill Mennonite Church in Saskatoon. During the next 23 years this became their place of worship and a center of ministry the delighted to call home. (We apologise if from time to time you hear us call it "our church".) During this time three of their five children married and blessed them with 8 grandchildren from ages 1-10 and one grandchild to come In May of 2013.

It was through Eduardo & Laura Guinez that they connected again with the NWMC. (Their presence at PHMC also connected them with former Conference Minister, Ray Landis.)

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For You to know so you may PRAY

Pastor Werner and Linda Zacharias from the **Blue Sky** church have resigned for health and family reasons. We regret to see them move on so quickly, but we praise God for the willingness of **Stan Burkholder** to step in as interim pastor. Pray for them as they search for a pastor.

Pastor Daryle King in Hines Creek is planning to do some sessions for the community to deal with difficult issues. Dealing with the issues that surround suicide will be the first in this series.



The **Red Deer Church** is in a time of transition. Pray for them as they will be going into a search for a new pastor and pray for Luis & Yadira as they seek God's direction for their future.

Iglesia La Gracia De Dios Fellowship has been blessed with a new to them facility. Their new address for worship services is. 1227 48 Ave NE, Calgary,



West Zion Mennonite Church in Carstairs is enjoying the interim pastoral ministry of our previous Conference Minister **Mal & Eleanor Braun**. Pray for the church as they are also in the midst of a pastoral search

Mens Mission Trip to El Salvador Jan 19-26, 2013 Pray for safety and effectiveness in ministry .

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On March 18 2010 their lives changed in mere seconds. A driver coming in the opposite direction entered their lane causing a high speed head-on collision. By God's grace injuries were minor for the passengers and other driver. But Dave was trapped in the SUV for about 1½ hours before being transported the 50 km back to Saskatoon. After resuscitation and hours of surgery inserting a permanent rod and plates God granted the ability to walk again. So when you see an awkward walk, praise God for the many miracles and healing received.

The experience had a great impact on them in many ways and perhaps helped them to be willing to move on to a new ministry role. The PHMC was gracious and caring as he recovered and returned to ministry. Perhaps one of the hardest thing they feel they have had to do in ministry is to leave a congregation that they loved so very much.

For us the decision to serve the NWMC is one of faith. We believe that God has prepared us for ministry in the churches of the NWMC and trust that God will enable us to be a blessing.

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We look forward to seeing how God will open doors, and bless ministries and build His kingdom.

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