



A MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

*formerly Gracefield Camp & Conference Centre*

2009 December 18

### **A Time of Transition: Introducing the New Executive Director...**

After 15 years of faithful leadership as Directors at Gracefield, Alan & Dorothy made known their plans to retire and purchased a lovely home not far from the camp.

Directing a camp such as Gracefield requires the kind of enormous dedication that we have enjoyed with Dorothy & Alan for many years. These times of transition always leave us with conflicting emotions. While we are excited about what God has in store for us we know times of transition always come with mixed feelings as Dorothy and Alan hand the torch to the next leader who will carry Gracefield into a new year and a new season in the life of Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre.

It is with great excitement and confidence in God's leading that we are pleased to introduce Relena Lyddon Myers as Gracefield's new Executive Director. Relena will be moving up to Gracefield with her husband Tommy and son Toby at the end of this year and will be starting in her new position on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, just before Toby's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday on January 10th.

Relena comes to us with a great deal of experience and enthusiasm. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Administration from the University of Northern Colorado and is completing her Masters Degree in Public Administration. Relena has strong leadership and management skills accumulated from increasingly senior roles and experience in both business and not-for-profit organizations. Relena demonstrated a strong foundation in the Christian faith and seeks an opportunity to contribute to the mission of Gracefield in the development of a rich Christian ministry. Her experience working with boards of directors, managing \$3 million budgets, and providing caring, nurturing guidance, leadership, and service resonated strongly with the selection committee, as did her candour and direct approach.

Relena comes to Gracefield from the position of Executive Director at the Ft. Kearney Chapter of the American Red Cross serving twelve counties in central, rural Nebraska. There Relena has co-ordinated the work of over 500 volunteers. Prior to that she worked as administrator of a healthcare facility.

She and her husband Tommy look forward to coming to Gracefield. Together they enjoy tent camping, canoeing, sailing, waterskiing and almost any outdoor activity. Relena was a competitive swimmer in high school and university, a lifeguard and a swimming instructor, as well as an aquatic specialist in a therapy centre. Relena says she even likes to shovel snow.

Let me end by quoting for you Relena's personal mission, "To live life fully with excitement and passion; and enjoyment of other's company, thoughts, emotions and ideas; encouraged through openness and understanding compassion and support. To share my gifts, talents, and thoughts through example to help physically, spiritually and emotionally."

We are excited to move to the next phase of development at Gracefield and welcome Relena, Tommy and Toby to our family.

Ruth Draffin – Gracefield Board of Directors - Personnel

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