

Beautiful Bodies pt. 1

Submitted by: Pastor Randall Koehler

God created each one of us as whole persons (mind, spirit, body, heart, and maybe more) with related parts that affect one another at any one moment in time. What scripture has highlighted and current research seems to be affirming is that each one of us is unique and beautifully complex.

In each of our lives, mental, social, and emotional stress can affect us physically. Physical injury can affect our mental health. Insulting yourself or talking yourself down can have affects on your emotions, spirit, and body. God has created us in God's very own image, and we have the opportunity every day to reflect the best of who we are and who God is to those around us.

However, I realize too that something about God's intended wholeness or holiness for us has been disrupted, distorted, and broken, sometimes by our very own selfish intentions and sometimes by the misguided and selfish actions of those around us, those even far away from us.

Before I came to South Dakota, I was a farmer and a mechanic and a lay leader in my church... (and a father and a husband and a son and a brother). I was much more active then, on my feet every day moving this way and that from project to project, trying to manage all that I had volunteered for or had been volunteered for by someone else. I maintained my body shape well and didn't have to think much about what I was eating anytime.

I did have my unhealthy and destructive tendencies then too. I would work way too many hours (most often 60 or more a week). I would often make excuses for not taking a vacation or spending time with those that I loved most, and what was most dangerous about it was that what I was doing was "normal," if not admirable, according to the expectations and cultural assumptions of my local community (often those who were doing the same things that I was or felt compelled to keep themselves as busy and exhausted as possible).

Do you notice some of these same factors and tendencies playing out in your life or during a particular season of your life? How do you feel or think about that season or time now? What has changed since then?

Upcoming Events at HMC

- March 5: Baby Dedication/Consecration for Matt and Violetta Tschetter
April 2-5: Holy Week Services at Bethany Mennonite Church at 7 PM. Our speaker will be Dr. David Hatch, retired professor of Historical Theology from Sioux Falls Seminary. Make sure to clear these evenings in April to share this special time with our Anabaptist brothers and sisters here in the Freeman Community.

Birthdays

- 4) Vernon P. Hofer
4) Shirley Hofer
6) Donovan Friesen
10) Mildred Hofer
11) Charlene Friesen
12) Rina Hofer
13) Todd Koerner
16) Savanna Timmerman
20) Cole Hofer
22) Morgan Koehler
24) Isabel Waltner
24) Bonita Hofer
26) Jaden Thomas
27) Vernon J. Hofer



Anniversaries

- 3) Brandy Hofer & Sergio Lima
25) Delmer & Shirley Hofer

April Connection! submissions are due by March 29.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Attendance, Income. Rows include January 29 (No Service), February 5 (\$4,877.00), February 12 (\$3,240.00), February 19 (\$1,415.00), and Online Giving (\$350.00).

March Congregational Ministries Project:

Soap or Hygiene Kits for MCC

Place your items in the receptacle in Sunday School Room #1 or contact Sharon Waltner to purchase one for you for \$25.

# Connection!

Making a CONNECTION  
with one another

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## Pastor Randall's Ordination

Submitted by: Suzanne Koerner

On Sunday, February 5, Pastor Randall Koehler's ordination service took place at Hutterthal. Guests attending the service included Randall's parents, Randy and Lucy, his older brother Rick, along with wife Morgan and three of their four children, close friend Alex Ehrich and his wife, CPMC Minister for Ministerial Leadership Susan Janzen, Pastor Corey Miller, and Pastor S. Roy Kaufman. The children's time was led by Les Rensink, who talked about learning to be faithful and responsible when you prepare for a vocation. Scripture passages were read by Randall, Lucy Koehler, and Corey Miller. Randall and Morgan played and sang Wood and Nails, by the Porter's Gate, and Pastor Roy Kaufman gave the message entitled, "Owning, Using, and Sharing Our Power." He encouraged all of us to use the power God has given us come alongside others to foster growth and potential instead of dominating and controlling others inappropriately.

Susan Janzen led the ordination service. She said that for most congregations, an ordination service is typically a once (or very few times) in a lifetime experience. For many of us, it was the first ordination that we have been a part of. For Mennonite pastors, ordination credentials will follow them into any future ministries in which they may be called. She then led both Randall and the congregational through a series of questions followed by a prayer of consecration where hands were laid on a kneeling Randall, who was then anointed with oil. Susan and Pastor Corey presented Randall with a special Bible called "The First Testament," which she explained is a translation as close as possible to the Hebrew wording. She also presented him with a certificate of ordination. Pastor Corey, Randall's mentor for the past two years of licensing for ministry, recalled his own ordination 23 years ago at Tabor Mennonite Church, also with two young daughters in the pew. He shared that one of Randall's greatest gifts is his gift of humor and laughter, because it seems to stem from a deep knowledge that God loves him profoundly. Deaconess Charlene Friesen presented Randall with a large coffee mug that says, "fueled by the spirit...and coffee," as well as a desktop plaque. Pastor Randall closed the worship service with a few words of thanks, reminding us that we have been part of this journey with him. He also recalled his journey of faith and mentioned the people and experiences which have brought him to this moment.

Following the service, a meal in the fellowship hall was enjoyed by all. Steve Schmeichel prepared pork loin, and Deb Beier made delicious side dishes.



## HMC Links

- Website - [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://www.hmcfreeman.org)
- "Like" Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch](http://www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch)

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