

Youth opportunity to visit Argentina for \$1,250

The Saskatchewan Synod Companion Synod Committee has planned a working trip to Argentina April 24 to May 9, 2011 to assist in completing the parsonage at Esquel. There may be a chance for sightseeing, possibly to Comodoro Rivadavia to visit pastor Gustavo Gomez and St. John the Baptist congregation and day care. Funding is available to assist four young people to participate.

Flight will be from either Saskatoon or Regina to Buenos Aires then to Bariloche, and then by bus to Esquel. Total cost for flights, ground transportation, accommodation and meals is about \$2,500 of which CLWR will pay \$1,250. Each youth must raise the balance of approximately \$1,250 for themselves.

For information on the Companion Synod Program and the trip (as it is available) visit: www.sasksynod.elcic.ca/companion-synod.htm. Information will also be sent to congregations.

Four young people will be selected based on essays submitted. To submit an essay you must:

1. Be a member of a congregation in the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC.
2. Be from 16 to 25 years old (inclusive) on April 24, 2011. If you are under 16 on April 24 you can apply only if a parent will accompany you at their own cost.
3. Be prepared to raise sufficient funds locally to pay the balance of the cost (approximately \$1,250) and to provide your own "spending money".
4. Have a valid passport by the date of the visit and expires no less than 6 months after return..
5. Be prepared to share your trip experience with other young people (not at your expense).
6. Obtain your parents' written permission if you will be under 18 on April 24.

Apply with an essay of 250 to 350 words titled "The Mission of the Church as Companions in Faith" in which you detail how important it is to be companion to a church such as the one in Argentina, and what you personally hope to contribute to and gain from this visit – in particular your interest in and desire to learn about justice, poverty and world hunger.

Please include the following information with your essay:

1. Full name, address and home phone number
2. E-mail address if you have one
3. Date of birth
4. Home congregation
5. Letter of reference from your home congregation, including a statement on the amount of support (including financial) that the congregation can offer you
6. Original hard copy note signed by parents giving permission if you are under 18.

Submit your essay and information by mail to:

Patagonia Passion
Box 538
BUCHANAN SK
S0A 0J0

Or by e-mail to “Patagonia Passion” bvedwards@sasktel.net if you are 18 years or older

Applications must be received by: January 30, 2011

Selection will be made by: February 17, 2011

A pre-trip gathering and orientation is scheduled for either Saskatoon or Regina on March 26.

We look forward to receiving your application and reading your essay.