



## REFLECTIONS

## “Connecting - for REAL!”

Our theme for Family Camp this summer is ‘Connecting - for REAL!’. This theme is birthed out of the concern that, although our families are connecting more and more into all the technological opportunities that exist, in essence we are missing out on real, face to face connection. I can’t tell you the times when I’ve met someone in person and wanted to tell them about something going on in our family life - only to have them say, ‘I know’. How did they know? Facebook. Need I say more? Men - you know what I’m talking about! My wife has been pretty dedicated in keeping the world ‘in the loop’ on our family journey through Facebook; robbing me the opportunity of sharing ‘news’ with anybody. Everyone seems to know exactly what is going on in our household. Some even know more than I do (that’s scary). But do they really know? Sure, they know we bought a car or listed our house for sale... but do they know what is really going on in our hearts, our minds?

Healthy relationships are critical for healthy living. Healthy relationships require physical proximity. No matter how much I talk on the phone with my son, no matter how much I chat with him through Facebook or MSN, or text on our cell phones, our real relationship has developed when we were together physically. When we played together, watched movies together, ate together or just sat and talked - together. That’s when we really built the bond of father and son. Not to say that cyber connections aren’t great ‘stop-gaps’ for connecting - however, they pale in comparison with ‘being’ together physically. I am thankful for these technological ‘stop-gaps’ but our relationship will not survive long if we don’t re-connect face to face.

Our hope and prayer is that your family will consider and plan ways to really connect with each other, in person. Perhaps a week of summer family camp should be an integral part of this plan?

Connecting face to face is also critical in your relationship with God. Hey - wait a second. Our relationship with God is a spiritual relationship. How dare you say it depends on a face to face connection? But, it does - right now we depend on a spiritual connection (our technological stop-gap) with God but this is only a foretaste of what really awaits those who call themselves children of the Living God. 1 John 3:2 alludes to the fact that when we do finally see him, we shall finally be like him. 1 Corinthians 13:12 indicates that now ‘we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.’ The culmination of our relationship to God will actually take place when we are finally physically in His presence. This is the great JOY that awaits us: Connecting - for REAL! This experience is described so well in my life verse in Revelation 21, especially verse 3: **“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.”**

So, make sure to take time to invest in your physical relationship with your family here on earth. Be together! Eat together! Play together! Talk together!

And also invest in your relationship with God through prayer, quiet times of listening to His voice, reading His Word and fellowship with other children of God. BUT, be assured that one day we will be in His presence physically, and oh my - the things we’ll know and see! I can’t wait!

I look forward to seeing you sometime in 2010! For REAL.

John Friesen  
Executive Director, Fair Havens Ministries

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### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS DISCOUNT

## 7 nights for the price of 5

If you’re planning to come to Fair Havens during any of weeks 1-3 or 7-9 of Summer Family Camp, make sure to take advantage of this special accommodations discount. Visit the website for more information as well as other discounts.

## Family, Faith & Fun at Fair Havens



*Paul and Donna have been coming to camp as a family for fifteen years. They keep coming back because they feel God blesses their family and faith.*

Paul and Donna like the family aspect of camp so much, that there is very little that keeps their family away from Fair Havens: even Donna giving birth to twins. Donna gave birth to her youngest daughters in the hospital only three and a half hours after coming home from Fair Haven, because her family wanted to get their week at camp.

Paul thinks that incident is just one of many ways God has blessed his family. "God's care and provision, it was just cool," he said. "And God waited so we could get our vacation week at Fair Havens." Family time is important to Paul and Donna, which is

one of the reasons they like all the activities Fair Havens has to offer their whole family. Some of their favourite activities include shuffleboard, tennis, and basketball, and other team games. They even entered the scavenger hunt and won first place. "That's because we know where everything is," Hannah, Paul's oldest daughter chuckled. Though Paul and Donna spend many afternoons with their daughters, they also feel blessed that they can leave their children in program, while they spend quality time together. Donna likes golf with Paul. This lets her catch up with him and discuss pressing issues in their lives. "The slow time is good," Paul agreed.

Every evening, Paul and Donna gather their family around a campfire to wrap up their day. One of the things they do is sing camp songs. Sometimes the children's grandfather visits with them and sings silly songs about cows.

In addition to singing, Paul and Donna discuss Bible stories with their family. Sometimes they dust off stories they don't remember well. Other times, the events of the day remind them of situations they read about in the Bible. What Paul really appre-

ciates is how God takes his family's informal Bible times and turns them into memorable lessons.

Due to several days of rain at camp, Paul told the kids about The Flood. A day later, his family saw a large rainbow over Fair Havens. "It really brought it home to the kids," Paul said.

Since camp is such an important part of their lives, Paul and Donna try to share the blessing with others. Due to their efforts to help others enjoy the same camp experience they do, 30-40 of their extended family members come off and on to Fair Havens.

It is hard for Paul to think of going to any other camp. "This is where we share and create all our family memories," he said.

"It would be weird, not coming here," Hannah agreed.

*Written by Peter Frieswick. This article was originally published in the Fair Havens Memories Newsletter for Week 7 (Aug 8-15) of 2009. To read more Memories Newsletters, visit our website.*

## stepping stones in Costa Rica

BY ALLAN BAXTER  
STEPPING STONES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

On January 6th the ten stepping stones interns, shared between Fair Havens and MBC, travelled to Costa Rica for a month long cross-cultural missions experience. During this wonder filled experience the interns served at Campemento Roblealto ([www.roblealto.com](http://www.roblealto.com)), on a mountain side overlooking the country's central valley and took a small trip to experience local culture.

Schools are off during the month of January, to enjoy the sun and warmth of the dry season. This means that it was summer camp season and the Intern team jumped in to help with both feet. The team served in a great variety of ways from leading games to building a wood shed, from clearing trails to washing dishes, all along side the Costa Rican camp staff. Though language was sometimes a barrier, the interns were able to make close friends that continue to this day.

This was a life changing experience for the

interns and many expressed how God spoke to them through both the beauty of His creation, and through the Costa Rican people. They also learned lessons on flexibility and patience as they encountered 'tico time'.

Please continue to pray for the interns as they finish their year with us. During the rest of their term they will be instructing in our Maple Syrup season and OCE, serving retreat groups, studying 1st and 2nd Corinthians and more.

We are looking for young men and women (post high school) to participate in the 2010/2011 stepping stones internship. Please call or go to [www.fairhavens.org](http://www.fairhavens.org) for more details.

*"It was a great learning experience, and being there and seeing the culture was mind-blowing. I would do it again in a heart beat."*

*"I had never travelled before and enjoyed the*



*culture. They [the Costa Ricans] were so friendly and open."*

### Stepping Stones Student Fund

This year we have a new way to support our summer stepping stones students. Each summer, students serve with Fair Havens and we want to support them as they save for their futures. Please consider supporting these wonderful young people both in prayer and financially.

\* This year we are unable to accept donations to specific students.

GET OUTDOORS WITH BRIAN

## Creation Stewardship: Not Just the Latest Fad

The “Green Revolution” is sweeping through the globe; there is a “green” alternative to almost anything in your home, from dish soap and groceries to light bulbs and cars. There have been changes at Fair Havens as well. This fall two solar air heaters by Cansolair were installed on the Fair Glen chapel. New fluorescent lights were installed in *all* rooms, a 50% energy



reduction. The goal of full time staff this winter was to reduce energy and heating costs wherever possible. These all have economic offsets, but for Christians there is a higher purpose in considering more stewardly options.

As people loved by God, we are to love all else that God loves and made. The earthquake that hit Haiti made us all extremely aware of our imperative duty as Christians to love our neighbours. The very familiar text of John 3:16 assures us of God’s love for us, but we must not overlook that God so loved *the world*, the whole world, and gave his Son for it. The Lord created and called it *all good* (Gen. 1). So many of the psalms are praises to God for what he has created. Job was convinced of God’s sovereignty by looking at the storms, the stars and the animals (Job 38-41). We cannot deny that God is an awesome creator and loves what he has made. Let us join together to love *all* that he has made and prayerfully consider how we may better love His people and His creation. Look out for more ways that Fair Havens / Fair Glen is seeking to serve our Creator in this coming year.

Join Fair Glen & Fair Havens Family Camp for our 1st Annual

## Run for the Son

**2k & 5k Fun Run**

July 12, 2010 with 10am start

**Registration:**

\$10 adult / \$6 children 16 and under

Additional funds raised go to support the Youth Ministry at Fair Glen CABIN-AID project (new all-season cabins).

Prizes for runners & most funds raised!

Learn more at [www.fairhavens.org](http://www.fairhavens.org)

**Questions?**

Contact Brian MacTavish  
([bmactavish@fairhavens.org](mailto:bmactavish@fairhavens.org))  
or Kira Langendoen  
([klangendoen@fairhavens.org](mailto:klangendoen@fairhavens.org))

## Ministry Spotlight

▪ **Fall Vacationers**

September is a beautiful time of the year to enjoy God’s creation. If you are 55 years or more, now is the time to mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 12 - Friday, September 17**.

You are invited to register at the Fair Haven’s Office (1-800-430-5059) or email [info@fairhavens.org](mailto:info@fairhavens.org) for a week of fellowship with like-minded folks who find Autumn a wonderful time to be participating in outdoor or indoor activities. We are planning for all kinds of weather!



There will be daily Bible sessions with music that touches the soul. You can choose Lawn Bowling, crafts that are completed within 2 hours, Walking Tours, Boat Cruises, and even an opportunity to work on your swing with a Golf-Pro!

There will be a Day Outing to get to know more about special places nearby in Ontario. Of course, if you want to relax, do puzzles, talk with new friends or take a nap, you’ll find time to do that too!

Plan to be with us and bring a friend. Enjoy the delicious meals in our Dining Room.

*Dianne Nolson, Program Coordinator*

▪ **Summer Family Camp**

The summer will be upon us sooner than you can imagine! The lineup this year promises to deliver another season of life changing experiences for people of all ages. If you haven’t already booked your room or campsite, now is the time!

We have a great special for accommodations - book 7 nights for the price of 5 during weeks 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9!

Our summer program team is busy planning an exceptional summer with some new activities, seminars and opportunities for your family to connect. Be sure to join us and invite others to come as well!

**Summer 2010 Speakers**

1. JULY 3-10	Don Howard
2. JULY 10-17	Bob Beasley
3. JULY 17-24	Garth Leno
4. JULY 24-31	Sunder Krishnan
5. JULY 31 - AUG 7	Rick Reed
6. AUG 7-14	Marvin Brubaker
7. AUG 14-21	Bill Thornton
8. AUG 21-28	Rob Cochrane
9. AUG 28 - SEP 4	Leando Tarrataca
OCT 9-11	Dr. Michael Haykin

## Partnership Report

I just want to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have been so faithful in supporting Fair Havens with their financial gifts. Our desire is to see Fair Havens as a thriving Kingdom ministry that is focused on using all God has provided for the expansion of His Kingdom and the encouragement of families and youth in their relationship with God and each other.

In the past five years Fair Havens has invested more than \$1.1 million into capital improvements and expansion, while at the same time not incurring any new long term debt! We praise God for His faithfulness.

Fair Havens has seen positive net operating income in each of the past seven years but in the past two years it has incurred a small working capital deficit (2.5% of annual operating budget or a total in two years of about \$120,000). We do not want to see this trend continue and so we are looking at all of our operations and programming to ensure our pricing strategies are covering costs where they should and our costs are as streamlined as they can possibly be. We realize that for a few years our pricing

strategy did not keep up with the increase in expenses associated with our programs and services, including things such as utility rate increases, minimum wage increase, etc.

To help ensure a positive working capital position in 2010, we are reducing our capital expenditures to just under \$100,000. We have also changed our pricing structure for certain programs and services to ensure a viable operating model while trying to remain accessible to our guest families.

Our partnership donation target for 2010 is \$300,000. In 2009 we received \$276,000. Our 2010 capital and operating budget, along with these donations would provide Fair Havens with positive working cashflow for the year and put us back on track with our financial stability objectives.

The \$300,000 in donations will be used as follows:

- \$100,000 for capital projects
- \$100,000 for ministry expenses (children's program, stepping stones, etc.)

- \$100,000 for short-term debt reduction and improvement in cash position.

Key capital projects for 2010 include:

- Re-surfacing the main road (\$40,000)
- Camper washroom upgrade (\$10,000)
- 2 new HK Trailer units (\$20,000)
- New flooring at Fair Glen (\$5,000)
- Road lighting on main road system (\$3,000)
- Various other projects, equipment upgrades, etc.

I'm asking you to consider becoming a special financial partner with Fair Havens in 2010 to help achieve these objectives. Why not consider a monthly giving strategy?

We thank you for your generosity and partnership in making Fair Havens a place God is using to encourage families, disciple young people and serve the spiritual retreat needs of His church family.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

John Friesen

## VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKS

We are so very grateful for all the help provided by our many volunteers. The following weeks represent your opportunity to come for all or part of a week to join in the fun as we work together!

Fair Havens will provide the accommodation and meals, you provide the hands for the work. There is something to do for all and the evenings are great times of fellowship.

Please contact **Ruth Stevenson** if you are able to join us by calling (800)430-5059 or email [rstevenson@fairhavens.org](mailto:rstevenson@fairhavens.org).

### 2010 Work Week Schedule (Monday noon to Friday noon)

- April 12-16
- May 17-21
- June 7-11
- September 20-24
- October 18-22
- November 1-5

## Upcoming Events

- Maple Syrup Festival (March 27)
- Taste of Fair Havens Banquet & Concert: The Watchmen (May 21th)
- Homecoming Weekend (May 21-24)
  - Sunday morning service - 10:30 am.
- Stepping Stones Boot Camp (May 21-24)
- Fair Havens Charity Run (July 10)
- Family Camp & Bible Conference (July 3 - Sep 4)
- Fair Havens PRESENTS (Summer Sunday Evenings, 7 pm)
- Summer Xplosion Day Camp (July 5 - August 27)
- Family Canoe Trip (July 30 - August 1)
- Father/Son Canoe Trip (September 10-12)
- Fall Vacationers (September 12-17)
- Celebrate Banquet & Concert: The Chapelaires (October 8)
- Thanksgiving Family Reunion (October 8-11)
- FH Teen Retreat (October 22-24)

Thanks for taking the time to read this update on Fair Havens. We trust that you are encouraged along with us as we see God continue to use and expand this ministry for His Glory & Honour. Be sure to drop us a note or email if there is anything that we can do for you.

Your servant in Christ,  
John Friesen, Executive Director

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