

FH Memories

The Fair Havens
Newsletter
Week 9
August 22 - 29

Highlighting the power of God in the lives of our guests and staff

Finding Love in Everyone

Fair Havens partners with Christian Horizons (CH), an organization that gives adults with disabilities a vacation. CH staff Tim, talks about the passion God has given him for being a care giver, how he feels God's love while helping people with special needs, and how he is blessed at Fair Havens.



Tim (in the front row wearing a faded black shirt) with Christian Horizons guests and staff. Tim is the assistant Christian Horizons co-ordinator.

All of Creation reveals God's glory. Our great God has created different things that make us stop in our tracks and whisper, "Wow! Look at that. God put that there for me. God loves me." For some, they need only look at the Alps to get this feeling. For others, they listen to Mozart. For Tim, the Christian Horizons assistant co-ordinator at Fair Havens, it is his guests with developmental challenges that show him the beauty and love of God.

Tim struggles with feeling

God's love personally, but his guests make him feel better. When Tim interacts with them, he is reminded that God loves everyone, regardless of their age, race, gender, or abilities. "I think God put these guests in my life to show me He loves me. I would be depressed without them," he said.

He has a harder time being patient with most socially accepted people than he does with his own guests. Tim is frustrated, for example, when people leave a wide

Why Camp?

Rev. Joe Boot shares how family camps originated from a biblical principle, and how guests can be truly blessed by coming to them.

Rev. Joe Boot, an apologist and the former director of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries Canada, doesn't just defend God, he also defends family camps.

Though he isn't actually an apologist of family camps, Joe is irked by critics who believe they are for weak Christians.

On a personal level, Joe disagrees with such statements because he has enjoyed his time at Fair Havens, saying that it has blessed his family, his ministry, and even his parents.

On a more academic note, Joe finds these comments biblically unfounded because, "The whole notion of the Christian family camp has its origin way back to the notion of Sabbath rest, Sabatical. The term *holiday* literally means *holy day*... The Christian camp conference developed out of this notion that we can set aside holy time, holy days

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From cover “Why Camp?”

for rest, for rejoicing together before the Lord and for teaching and instruction.” he said.

Rev. Joe further cites his own experience at Christian camps as a child, saying that they were “crucial in my spiritual growth...

Certainly Fair Havens is playing that sort of role in the lives of many young people as well.”

While he does not agree that camp is a holiday for weak Christians, he does believe it should be more than just a pleasure trip. “It’s not like going on an ordinary vacation where we say, ‘I’m heading off

to the beach for a week.” Joe said. “Here you’re being encouraged and strengthened by the body of Christ, as well as instructed, and having rest and relaxation thrown in. I think that’s the great benefit of something like Fair Havens.” **End**

From cover “Finding Love”

circle around one of his guests when she sings in chapel. She can only sing a single, joyful note before God, but instead of realizing she is an example of someone worshipping God with their whole being, they view her as an annoyance.

Sometimes he and a co-worker joke that when they get to Heaven, God will give them bodies with Down Syndrome; according to Tim, people with developmental disabilities often have more joy, more innocence, more laughter, and more willingness to hug than many “normal” people. “They are exactly who God made them to be,” he said.

Even though some camp guests have trouble adjusting to

Christian Horizons’ guests, Tim appreciates Fair Havens’ open invitation to use the grounds. His guests enjoy taking nature walks to the lock and are ecstatic over the splash pad. They also participate in chapel sessions, the Merry Heart Show, Praise and Prayer, and even take a weekly wagon ride.

God loves everyone, regardless of their age, race, gender, or abilities.

Tim is also thankful for the ladies in the office, and especially grateful for Liz, the camp’s Managing Director. “I feel like Liz would do anything for us,” he

said. “Sometimes our needs are so demanding and Liz is like, ‘No problem,’ and ten minutes later they’re done.”

Though his job is not rosy, it is rewarding, and Tim has little doubt that he will care for people with various disabilities for as long as he is able. “I feel lucky that God has given me this job. I don’t know what I would do without it,” he said.

In the future Tim hopes to adopt a child with Down Syndrome, because he heard that 80-90% of unborn children with that disability are aborted. He believes that all life is precious, and wants to show love to people who might not otherwise receive it. **End**

God Saved My Life at Camp: Learning He is Always in Control

Peter, the Editor of the FH Memories Newsletter, shares how God saved his life at camp. Through the experience, God taught him that He is in control of everything, as well as to make every day a close walk with Him.

Three years ago, almost to the day, I nearly died at Fair Havens. It was a Merry Heart Show night, and I had just come off the stage bloated with success. I speed changed out of my costume, then rushed outside to see the next skit. As I ran out the door for the corner of the chapel, I slipped on wet gravel and fell toward a three and half foot metal pipe sticking up out of the ground.

The rusty pipe, about three inches in diameter, had a dented rim

with a jagged edge sticking up on one side. Hitting it with any part of my falling body would be similar to getting stabbed by a blunted spike.

My knees were the first to hit the gravel, and the momentum pushed my torso forward. My head hurtled down and forward—at this point, the pole was nearly at equal height with my throat—and my arms flailed out. I caught the pole near its base with my hands, and I gasped as my head snapped back.

Obviously, I didn’t die.

My neck didn’t even hit the pole. At the last possible moment, my head whipped back, almost as if someone had grabbed my hair and yanked on it. After my head snapped back, it jerked forward and my under jaw stopped two inches shy of hitting the top of the pole.

The important part of my neck, the part that houses my Adam’s apple and jugular veins, hovered over the sharp end of the pole.

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The BUZZ: Thoughts from our youth

My Fair Havens Experience



“Fair Havens is a great place with pools and beaches... We take skills in the morning first thing, then we go to chapel and learn what God has to offer us. Then we go hangout with our teachers, see what’s up, and play mafia... All in all, it’s a great week at Fair Havens.”

Tyler, age 17

“When I came to Fair Havens it was really fun... sitting at the campfire eating smores and looking at the stars that God put in the sky for us... I really enjoy Fair Havens. I look forward to camping here every year. I love the skills they have at Fair Glen too. I love to see all the nature at Fair Havens and Fair Glen. It’s amazing here.”

Abby, age 10



Photo of the Week



Camper Alandra, age 11, “learning the ropes” during skills. Kids at the high ropes challenge face their fears while learning to trust in God. In the same way the climbing rope can hold a small car without snapping, kids learn that when they “tie” themselves into Jesus, He will never let them go. Ever.

What do you like most about God?

“He loves me more than I can imagine, even when I mess up.”
- Nick, age 10 -

“He gives me a family. He keeps me alive.”
- Rebecca, age 10 -



FH Memories editor, Peter, and the pipe outside Irwin Chapel that could have killed him three years ago.

From p. 2 "God Saved"

Had I been a little shorter, had I fallen a little later, had my head not snapped back, I do not doubt that I

would have been seriously injured, if not killed. Anyone who could have performed first-aid on me was in the chapel, distracted by the Merry Heart Show's loud hysterics—they never would have heard me scream, even if I could have at the time.

There is no doubt in my mind that God allowed me to almost harm myself. I also believe that He yanked my head back. I have no other explanation for how I was saved, because according to the physics of the fall, my head should have snapped back after I hit the pole, not before.

Early that morning I'd led co-workers in a devotion about God's sovereignty, and I found it fitting that I should watch His ultimate control play out in my own

life hours later. I've never really had a problem with God's power over my life, but the experience put it into perspective for me. God, who is King over everything, is allowed to let me live or die, and I have no control over it; and somehow, this is all okay because He's God.

The experience also reminded me, like one of the characters in a Monty Python movie, that though "I'm not dead yet," I soon will be. God didn't let me die, because He has a purpose for me, but that doesn't mean His will is for me to live forever. It made me aware that I only have today to live in a right relationship with God, and today only. There are no guarantees that I'll be alive tomorrow. **End**



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