



Reflections - Living a Singular Life

Here it is, April 6th and the snow is flying outside with about 3 inches accumulation already this morning. Isn't it about time this winter is over? I love weather when I can dress the same inside as outside instead of having to put boots, coat, gloves and hat on and off each time I leave and enter a building.

I also dislike having to live a dual life in other matters. I just came back from a speaking engagement in Winnipeg where I was asked to speak to a room full of camp directors about the 'business versus ministry' challenge in running a camp operation. This is an issue that many ministry leaders feel plagued by - "Is business or ministry dictating our decisions?" And the answer often is YES.

I prefer not to live in a world where I am torn by two masters and so my conversation with these camp directors focused on six principles of living and leading that will help us all lead a more singularly focused life. These principles are based on the example of Christ and are described to a large extent in John 5-8. May they be an encouragement to you and applicable in your family, work and community living. These can obviously be expanded in great detail but the following summaries are a start.

1. Begin With the End in Mind

Stephen Covey got some of this right in his book entitled *"The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People"*. In his second 'habit' he encourages people to imagine themselves sitting at their own funeral and listening to what people might say about them. Mr. Covey encourages us to live backwards from there; acting in such a way that will result in the kind of words we would desire people to say of us at our funeral. This is an effective practice but only goes part of the way. Christ modeled a singular life because He understood what His 'afterlife' would be - not just the end of His life. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to keep our eyes on Jesus 'who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...' Jesus knew what an eternal perspective meant and in this truth He found strength to endure great suffering. Do you reflect often on your eternal hope of glory?

2. Know thy Master

This principle has to do with making a determination that God will be your only Master. You may serve many 'kings' (whether it be employers, people, etc) but determine in your heart to serve only one Master. The Jews, at times to lesser degrees, understood that although they were ruled by many lords, they would only honor one Master (Isaiah 26:13). Jesus also came with a keen resolution to only do the will of the Father. Throughout the gospels Jesus refers to His coming as a fulfillment of doing the will of the Father (John 6:38); not His own will. Take a moment to read David's expression to his Master in Psalm 16:2.

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And the Winner is!

We'd like to thank the more than 100 families who participated in our Summer Family Camp Guest Survey in September through November 2008. We are listening and you will see some changes to this year's program as a result of your input!

The winner of the draw for two AIR CANADA tickets for anywhere in Canada is Faye & Mark Timbers of Markham, Ontario. We trust that this will be an encouragement to this family in 2009!

Stay tuned for more Guest Survey opportunities in 2009.



Faye & Mark Timbers

Coming up @ Fair Havens

Want to know who our guest speakers are this summer? How about our Sunday night FH PRESENTS lineup?

Visit our website at www.fairhavens.org to find out that and much more! You can also call our office at 1 (800)-430-5059.

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3. Know the Master's Priorities

When we know our Master we seek to make His priorities our priorities. What is the goal of our earthly life? Jesus knew without a doubt the first purpose of His life here on earth. He was sent to reconcile people to God through His death on the cross. He set His face toward Calvary and was not distracted by those who wanted to adjust His agenda. Some wanted Him as healer, some as King but He knew He must die (and rise again!). Are you clear on God's priorities? If not, I encourage you to read through the Gospels and just reflect on the words of Christ as He taught the disciples. It becomes pretty self evident.

4. Understand Stewardship

Once you know the priorities, the question becomes, not 'What is God's will for my life' but 'How can I live my life in fulfillment of God's will'. I tell ministry leaders that 'business is simply the allocation of limited resources in pursuit of a stated goal or objective'. Therefore, it is the 'stated goal' that sets an organization apart as a King-

dom ministry, not the business practices. The business is simply the effective stewardship of the resources God gives in pursuit of the objective or priority He has given us (as an organization but also personally). We have to be clear on the priorities and then effectively and efficiently line up all God has given us (time, money, facilities, people, gifts) in pursuit of these priorities.

5. Obedience

When we know our Master and seek to fulfill His priorities, we will listen to Him with intent to obey. Jesus obeyed His Father, even to the point of death on a cross (Philippians 2:8), and in His discourse on the 'vines' He exhorts us to obey Him even as He obeyed the Father (John 15:10). Our obedience to fulfill the priorities of God becomes our life mission. When we listen and obey, He provides further direction. So, listen carefully, act in obedience and watch God reveal the next step. He may not paint the entire picture but only one stroke at a time... be faithful with little and He will

reveal the big things (Luke 16:10).

6. Acknowledgement

This refers to who gets the glory of our life's activities. When we seek our own glory we can get caught up in the trap of selfish ambitions. Again, Christ Himself, although equal with God, came with the specific purpose to reflect glory back to God the Father. He was content to let God receive the glory (John 8:50) who then in time would bring glory to the Son. This principle links closely with the virtue of humility - the attitude of not taking oneself too seriously in success or failure. Do you understand that all spiritual work that you may undertake can only bear fruit as the Holy Spirit Himself works within and through you? Do you take credit or acknowledge that apart from God you can do nothing?

Together following ONE MASTER,



John Friesen, Executive Director

stepping stones

This January it was my pleasure to go to Mexico with Aaron, Nathan, Fanny and John Friesen to provide a cross-cultural experience for our interns and to encourage the brothers and sisters in Christ that we met.

From the moment we arrived we felt welcomed as Monica and Jorge greeted us at the airport; whisking us away to our first destination; an orphanage called Pan de Vida (Bread of Life). Very quickly we learned that the theme for our visit would be flexibility. In the midst of not knowing the expectations of each of the ministries we would visit, what we would be doing at each location, etc., we prayed; realizing that we were in God's hands and needed to be open to whatever came our way and help as we were able and trust God with the rest.



The first few days were a blur. We fixed an internet problem at the orphanage, visited a Word of Life camp in Barnal, ate REAL tacos (Taco Bell is no longer Aaron's favourite restaurant) and put more miles on Jorge's van than we care to admit; as Jorge proudly showed off the country he loves and what God is doing there.

Our second prime stopover was La Quemada; a centuries old Hacienda that a family is using to run Christian camps and provide employment opportunities for the local people. There we helped build the foundation for a future camp cabin and shared a thousand ideas about camp and outdoor Christian education. Sitting in these historic rooms, some still marked by musket balls from the Mexican revolution, enriched the wonderful fellowship with Christian (the operator) and his family.

From La Quemada we went to Los Olivos (The Olive Tree), a new Christian school and home to Jorge and Monica. For a week we lived, served, ate, slept and fellowshiped. During our time we started construction on an apartment for a staff member. Though we were only able to build



one room it seemed that our visit had served as a catalyst bringing a renewed sense of optimism and hope among the people who were birthing this growing Kingdom work. The encouragement came from us being with them, caring about what they cared about - simply giving of ourselves. God taught me through this experience the power of presence; simply be there and love.

There is so much to share, but this is where I'll finish. I encourage you, wherever God has sent you (or planted you) to be with the people and you may be surprised what an encouragement you can be.

Allan Baxter,
stepping stones Program Director

Get OUTDOORS with Brian!

Oh Deer! [Warning! The following may be realistic, seem harsh and include life & death struggles.] We have had a busy winter at Fair Glen and Fair Havens with renovations, many retreat groups and OCE school groups. The canal ice rink provided some good skating and was nursed through some thaws and manual reflooding (John - is that Zamboni on the "wish list" yet?).



By far the most remarkable Outdoor Creation Experience this winter was God's unique lessons for students, teachers and our staff. Through two separate instances, we learned of the brevity of life, valiant struggles against challenges and God's perfect plan for recycling without "blue boxes". Let me share one such instance with you.

When our staff came in early one Friday morning in February, blood was everywhere on the snow at the end of Fair Glen's driveway. A crime scene? Well it would require some Critter Signs Investigation for sure. A dead deer lay predated, partially consumed, as it had struggled across the golf course, probably taken down by

coyotes. In the interest of the retreat groups that evening, and before Brian could do a full CSI, it was scooped up in the tractor bucket by Mark Mertens (no, not for a new summer menu!). Mark and stepping stones intern Nathan Presley decided to take it across the highway to the forest on our farm to be a natural feed and a learning experience for future OCE classes. It sure was! We watched as each new group was first grossed out, but then they began to postulate what happened as they witnessed a process few people see. God has each animal utilize different deer parts such as bones for calcium or hair for nests. As one high school group was snowshoeing, I took

them over and we found all the remains gone. The Gr. 12 Outdoor Ed. group, without my prodding, then proceeded on a wild (deer) chase after missing parts and found them scattered by the carnivores through the bush - likely coyotes again. Each part of God's integrated creation worked its recycling; showing God's "eternal power and divine nature by what is made" (Romans 1:20).

Reality Report ... the dead deer in the snow, upon examination, had an aged amputation of part of his hind leg and was already three-legged and at a disadvantage. This deer on its own just didn't stand a chance. Let me encourage you as families to care for those around you; especially those that seem to be facing life at a disadvantage. We are called to look after our own through life's challenges and to reach out as the church to anyone needing help. It won't be easy, but in doing so we will be following Christ's example. Let us know where God leads you to serve and even "rescue" family and others in coming months.

Brian MacTavish, OCE Program Director

Team in FOCUS

Go, Team, Go!

When we think of 'team' we think of 'helping others', 'working together cooperatively', 'having a good attitude' and bottom-line 'harmony'. This is contrary to the world's pursuits for individualism, self-gratification, fame and fortune. We owe it to ourselves to consider which life-model we wish to foster and be a part of - Team or Self? God gives us clear instructions in His Word to "make your joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Phil. 2:2 & 3). What a wonderful picture of true servant-hood.



During the months of December and January, our Fair Havens team had a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate true servant-hood by serving together on the Fair Havens RENO Team. Skilled professionals, along with cooks, housekeepers, custodians and our office staff, worked

tirelessly renovating four of our lodges - Riverside West, Riverside East, Bill Crump and Chalet accommodations. Our staff traded their pots and pans, mops and vacuums, computers and mice, for paint and brushes.

It was amazing to watch the team in action. Not only did they develop new skills, but also developed a deeper appreciation for one another. We could not have completed the renovations on these lodges without the 'help' of our wonderful staff... our Team.

We each learned that true service is not about grudgingly doing for others out of obligation but is an act that flows willingly as an expression of God's love. True servants give not just with their hands but also with their hearts.

A "BIG" thank you to our staff for all their hard work and dedication to Fair Havens and its ministry!

Sincerely,
Liz Thompson, FH Managing Director

Partnership Report

2008 Summary

Guest Impact: Fair Havens was a going concern in 2008 as more than 7,200 guests attended a retreat through their church or ministry program, some 3,100 students and teachers joined in the Fair Glen Outdoor Christian Education program and Family Camp, not including our season site guests, saw 20,600 guest days booked (one day/one night registration).

In total more than 60,000 guest nights were realized, not including our day camp program (100 children) and other day visitors. Total Summer Family Camp attendance increased by an average of just over 9% from the year before. We are delighted to see this growth and trust that the lives represented in these numbers were impacted positively in their relationship with God and their family and friends.

Capital Investments: 2008 was another year of building. The highlight was the opening of the new Fair Havens Splash Park! Many other facility features were improved or added in 2008 totaling more than \$260,000 in capital investments.

Financial Snapshot: Operationally the year ended positively with cash generated of just over \$192,000 (including donations for operations and capital projects). However, with the

\$260,000 in capital investments the year finished with a negative cash flow change of \$68,000. This depleted our working capital to some degree making it imperative that we rebuild this again over the next two years.

Outlook 2009

Our ministry activities will continue to focus on encouraging families, growing young people in their faith walk and partnering with other ministries for Kingdom growth and impact.

Our primary capital project in 2009 has been a major renovation of over 32 of our accommodation units that are used year round. This project is 99% completed as of April and guests are enjoying these changes as the tiredness of the accommodations was beginning to negatively impact the guest experience. Other projects this year include Wally's Wharf - a rebuild of our Eagle's Wings II docking facilities with the addition of a gazebo waiting area. This project is placed in memory of Wally Nolson, who went to his eternal home in 2008. The beach renovation project is scheduled for completion this year as well with another gazebo overlooking the water being placed in memory of Ken Burns who also went home early in 2008.

A new walk-in fridge as well as new, high efficiency windows in the Riverside Inn complex

and solar heating panels for Fair Glen Chapel are expected to save utility costs in the future. Other projects include building the new baseball diamond / soccer pitch and significant repairs to the Irwin Chapel roof system.

Total capital and priority maintenance project costs for 2009 are estimated at \$167,000.

Our donation target for 2009 to support these projects as well as our stepping stones discipleship program and family sponsorship fund is \$300,000.

I'd like to encourage you to consider giving special thought to supporting this target in 2009. In particular, your gift at this time of year helps see us through the tight cash flow period of April and May when much of the capital work gets completed and paid for. We realize these are turbulent times in our economy but we trust God will continue to provide the resources in support of His priorities.

If you can support these projects in any way, or have questions, please call **John Friesen** at (800) 430-5059 or email at jfriesen@fairhavens.org.

Thank you in advance for your continued prayer and financial support!

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.

2009 Work Week Schedule (Monday noon to Friday noon)

- April 13-17
- May 11-15
- June 8-12
- September 21-25
- October 19-23
- November 2-6

Upcoming Events

- Taste of Fair Havens Banquet & Presentation May 15th,- call to reserve your seats.
- Homecoming Weekend (May 15-18)
 - Staff and Volunteer Team Celebration - 7 pm Saturday.
 - Sunday morning service - 10:30 am.
- Stepping Stones Boot Camp (May 15-18).
- Family Camp & Bible Conference (June 27 - August 29).
- Fair Havens PRESENTS (Summer Sunday Evenings, 7 pm).
- Summer Xplosion Day Camp (July 6 - August 21).
- Family Canoe Trip (July 23-25).
- Father/Son Canoe Trip (August 28-30).
- Fall Vacationers (September 13-19).
- Celebrate Banquet (October 9).
- Thanksgiving Family Reunion (October 9-12).

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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