



Reflections

Another year of ministry is nearing an end and we plan for 2010. I look forward to next year as it always represents another year of opportunity to see God at work in the lives of His people. This year has certainly been a year of change as I started a shared leadership role with MBC and Fair Havens in late March. Based on what guests have shared and what I've observed and heard from the staff team, God continued to be faithfully working in and through people even if I was not on site as much as in the past - imagine that. I do also realize that some felt a sense of loss in relationship and presence, as did I. Over the past nine years I have been blessed with so many close friendships with guests that being more absent this summer made it difficult to connect on a deeper level with these friends. I thank God for His faithfulness in raising those who would continue to carry the torch and carry on the responsibility of creating life changing experiences at Fair Havens.

My Bible reading at this time finds me in Ezekiel. A book I have not invested much time in before. It isn't light reading but certainly some great, enduring truths of God and His call to His servants are evident. Take a good look at Ezekiel 2-3:15 and see if you can find these 7 principles of the servant called of God.

- 1. The Glory of God Leads a Servant to Action, not Immobility (v 1-5):** An encounter with the Glory of God should compel us to listen and prepare us to act.
- 2. A Servant of God knows his Authority and Loyalty (v 6-10):** God's servant is led by God, not by man and discerns the ungodly influence and guidance that man may give.
- 3. A Servant takes personal delight in the WORDS of God (3:1-3):** The Word of God can at once be a delight or a terror to the listener. Those who submit and seek to live under the authority of their Creator enjoy the truths and protection God offers His children.
- 4. A Servant is STRONG against the Wicked - as equipped and empowered by God (3:4-9):** God will equip and empower His servant equal to the task He calls Him to. The servant also discerns evil and wickedness and stands against it. I've taken Psalm 101 as my theme psalm for 2009 and verse 8 declares that 'my daily task will be to ferret out the wicked'. How are we doing this? Who is standing up against the injustice and evil so prevalent in our world?
- 5. A Servant Lives the Truth (v 3:10):** A servant must first understand and apply God's teaching before he is effective at bringing this to others. We must pursue a 'lead by example' model of leadership - holding ourselves to a greater accountability than those we lead (Phil 4:9).
- 6. Obedience, not results drive the servant's actions (3:11):** We are called to obey in action and not presume or assume results or fruit - that is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 7. The LORD's presence is a constant in a servant's life (3:12-14):** The glory of God was demonstrated to Ezekiel again (behind him) to show that God is present as he brings the message to the people. Jesus reiterates this principle in Matthew 28:18 - "An surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Let's make a commitment to be a faithful servant this winter season and build our service on these principles.

In Christ,

John Friesen,
Executive Director, Fair Havens Ministries



Inside this issue...

- Reflections Pg. 1
- Thanksgiving Pg. 2
- Stepping Stones Pg. 2
- Autumn ≠ Death Pg. 3
- Partnership Report Pg. 3
- Reminders Pg. 4

They said what?

Excerpts from Summer '09 WE CARE Guest Surveys

"The quality of speakers, the chance to spend time with God and family, and all the wonderful activities keep us coming back to F.H."

"Strong biblical teaching to equip us for outreach in our communities and family life. Social fun and safety for kids - lots of variety of activities"

"We continue to come for the great teaching, wonderful family time, and the peace of God that surrounds this place"

"It's like a second family where we can fellowship with other believers and receive (and hopefully give) encouragement to others"

"A truly Christ-centred atmosphere reigns here. We'll be back next year."

Family Camp 2010 Speakers

Don Howard	Week 1, (July 3-10)
Bob Beasley	Week 2, (July 10-17)
Garth Leno	Week 3, (July 17-24)
Sunder Krishnan	Week 4, (July 24-31)
Rick Reed	Week 5, (July 31 - Aug. 7)
Marvin Brubaker	Week 6, (Aug. 7-14)
Bill Thornton	Week 7, (Aug. 14-21)
Rob Cochrane	Week 8, (Aug. 21-28)
Leandro Tarrataca	Week 9, (Aug. 28 - Sep. 4)

Thanksgiving

Of all the seasons, Autumn is my favourite. There's a feel about it, a distinct and undeniable aura that surrounds it. The cool nights, sunny days and breath-taking fall colours "... DECLARE the Glory of God..." (Psalm 19), His majesty and the wonder of His handiwork. Autumn is a season of many changes. A time to reflect on the blessings and challenges of the past; as well as, a time to claim God's promises and to marvel at His provisions.



2009 has been a year of significant change and, through it all, God has proven Himself faithful... and we, at Fair Havens (FH), are thankful.

We are thankful...

- That FH continues to be a PLACE of 'life changing experiences', of community, of healing & peace, of service to our guests, volunteers & staff alike... 'to the Glory of God'.

- For passionate staff who worked tirelessly, as a team, to complete the many RENO projects and to support the new SHARED-LEADERSHIP ministry.
- For the more than 100+ GUESTS, both adult & children, who (re-) confirmed their faith & trust in God, this summer.
- For more than 40+ 'NEW' guest families who came & enjoyed our Summer Conference facilities and programs.
- For the many CHALLENGES that FH has faced in 2009: loss of a loved one; family & marriage struggles; as well as the effects of the economic crisis. It has given us opportunities to claim God's promises and to depend upon His provisions. For we know that blessings and challenges are from the same place, the 'HAND of GOD'... a God that is immutable, unchanging, protective, provisional & loving.

Over the past 65+ years, FH has weathered the storms and basked in the blessings. The challenges before us are no different, no harder & no more intense than what we have seen in the past. However, we must make a CHOICE whether to accept only the blessings & not adversity (Job 2:10) OR to embrace them & press on (Heb. 12:1).

The secret to contented perseverance is 'remembering that our HOPE is in the

fairness, goodness & justice of God. When we put our trust in the character of a God who cannot fail, we will remain faithful. Our TRUST & FAITHFULNESS produces the ENDURANCE that will see us through any "tough stuff" that we all face in life'.



During this Autumn season, may God continue to bless and strengthen you as you reflect on life's changes & challenges and marvel at His promises & provisions.

Sincerely,
Liz Thompson
FHM Managing Director



stepping stones Highlight

Summer Review and Internship

Praise God, for He is great and provides. This year is a very exciting year for stepping stones in both our summer programs and our newly designed internship program. This summer 112 students participated in 3 weeks (ChIPs) to 17 weeks (preseason CORE). As we focused on gaining a 'Greater Vision of God' the summer team experienced a deeper level of unity with God and each other. I want to especially thank Chris & Alison Gatten, our community life directors, and Pastor Don Fitchett, who taught spiritual formation classes, for their hours of selfless service and their heart for the students.

As Labour Day weekend brought the end to



the summer it also marked the beginning of our 2009/2010 Internship. This program is in partnership with MBC, Liebenzell Mission of Canada (which provides Christian Service opportunities for young men from Germany) and Camp Roblealto in Costa Rica. We hoped that we would be able

to get 6 students during this first year but God, in His abundance, provided more applicants than we could accommodate. The 10 students (5 guys & 5 girls) enrolled are serving at both Fair Havens and MBC while learning life skills and developing a Christ-centred world-view. In January the interns will be spending the month in Costa Rica serving at Camp Roblealto in camp ministry, helping at the orphanage and other ministry opportunities. One thing that I am so thankful to God for is the spirit of camaraderie that has been present in the group of very different interns. Please pray for them as they serve and seek a closer relationship with the LORD.

Allan Baxter
Stepping Stones Director

Autumn ≠ Death, but New Life!

Fair Glen OCE Tree/Shrub Planting Partnership

We thank our Thanksgiving Weekend guests and OCE school groups who have been actively practicing Creation Stewardship this fall in planting over 300 trees, shrubs and even Butternut tree nuts for germination next spring! Tremendous effort guys!

Kira Langendoen (below guiding the Butternut planter), our new OCE Assistant, assisted with placing trees and encouraging planters. The Community Stream Steward Program, from Peterborough, provided 300 shrubs and trees for wildlife/stream bank stabilization. Thanksgiving Saturday, we planted most of them around the Fair Glen site and across from the boathouse at the golf course shoreline. We also partnered with the Trent-Severn Waterway staff for Butternuts and using students from John Knox Christian School, Brampton, planted shrubs, plus 5 Butternut trees, a provincial species-at-risk.



Send your life roots deep into God to survive and flourish

Many of the shrubs were chosen to thrive in wet conditions and to widely intertwine roots in order to hold the soil in place. Note the Thanksgiving planters at work.



Psalm 1:3 and Jeremiah 17
7 "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope & confidence. 8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit. (N.L.T. for all scriptures)

Our life 'fruit' comes from within, affected by environment

The night before our big planting, I researched the shrubs' unique features in order to identify the shrub's fruit variety which complemented the habitat in providing food for wildlife and to ensure suitable growing conditions for the plants.

Matthew 12
33 "A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. 34 ...For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. 35 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.

Individual people eventually grow unique fruit - each is important to the whole ecosystem

All of us are unique and important, just like each FHM guest and each member of your community. These young shrubs have no fruit yet, but they are being rooted so as to build towards future fruit-bearing. How many young people are you mentoring towards good fruit in Christ? This is a primary goal in our Stepping Stones and Outdoor Christian Education programs.

Brian MacTavish
OCE Program Director



Partnership Report

God at Work

Families Encouraged!

Attendance at Family Camp 2009 saw some various increases and decreases. While we had a significant increase in adults attending (3%), we saw a decrease in children and youth overall attendance (-2%). However, the decrease in children attending was all in the accommodation sector (-22% decrease in children) indicating that families stayed away from accommodations this past summer. However, camping saw a significant increase (HK trailer and campsites) in both adults and children. Bottom line... we saw more than 20,500 guest nights this summer (up slightly from last year) but the increase was in camping with a decrease in accommodations.

We ran a new program called Family Life Application Seminars, in partnership with RSM-INC (Relationship Support Ministries). This consisted of various family life seminars three times each week, including things such as grieving, parenting teens, strengthening marriages, grandparenting, etc. This was very well received and attended. Another intentional positive impact on family health!

Partnering for Impact!

God continues to open doors for Fair Havens Ministries to share its resources with other kingdom minded ministries. Some of these opportunities in 2009 were:

Christian Horizons - Our 7th year of partnering to provide supported vacation

opportunities for developmentally challenged adults was downsized to 8 weeks due to lower registrations this year. It was still a great summer of ministry. We still saw 88 guests joining us this summer for a great integrated experience! In a recent meeting with Jim Reese (founder of CH), he made a point to personally thank Fair Havens for this partnership.

Retreat Facility Rental Groups - 2009 saw a decline in retreat activity. May and June saw several late cancellations due to churches not being able to recruit their target numbers. The total number of groups booking a retreat at Fair Havens in 2009 is expected to be 158, down from 164 in 2008. Total guests dropped by about (continued on page 4)

Partnership Report (continued)

(continued from page 3)
13% at Fair Havens but increased at Fair Glen (10%) but these are at a lower price point and margin. Total drop in guest counts was 8%. Revenues are down significantly due to discounting (to bring the groups in) and also the drop in guest numbers. This is the first year in more than four years where retreat revenue has declined.

Capital Investments

2009 saw some great renovations completed of our 'tired' accommodation units. A total of 32 units were renovated and the response from guests have been wonderful! Total 2009 expenditures (to date, October 9th) are \$169,800. Our 2009 key projects included:

Accommodation Renovations (32 rooms):	\$65,500
New Windows – Riverside Inn:	\$16,000
Irwin Chapel Roof:	\$7,500
Fair Glen Chapel Solar Heating:	\$5,000
AV Equipment (various mtg rooms):	\$2,500
Main Kitchen (walk-in fridge, salad bar):	\$17,200

Main Laundry Dryer, washer:	\$4,500
2 HK Trailer units (rentals):	\$23,500
Beach Project Completion:	\$13,500
Soccer Field – redevelop, sod:	\$4,500



Financial Snapshot

Operating Finances: This year we are feeling the 'hit'. As of August 31st, our operating finances are tracking about \$138,000 below where we had budgeted (Net Income). This is largely the result of drop in revenue streams, most likely impacted by

the recession. Total decrease in revenue is about \$159,000 to date. Key decreases in revenue are as follows:

Donations:	\$54,000
Retreat Revenue:	\$47,000
Outdoor Christian Ed.:	\$27,200
Summer Conf. Accommodation / Meals:	\$14,000
Summer Retail Spending: (café & bookstore)	\$12,000

We have been able to decrease our expenses by about \$22,000 and anticipate that we can make some ground up or at least stabilize in the last three months given our labour cutbacks and some new retreat bookings.

Your financial support this year end is more critical than in recent years and we thank you in advance for your consideration. Our year end need is about \$200,000 in donor support.

Please feel free to call or email John Friesen with any questions you may have jfriesen@fairhavens.org or 800.430.5059.

Reminders

Stepping Stones Applications!

All students (ages 14 to 25 yrs) interested in joining our stepping stones discipleship team in 2010 can begin applying online after December 1st, 2009.

Apply online at:

<http://steppingstones.fairhavens.org>

Friends of Fair Havens

Don't forget our referral program where you can help us invite your friends to enjoy a Fair Havens experience and earn some great rewards! Our new PROMO DVD is now available. This is a 3 minute, high

impact presentation of our Family Camp Program, set to a song by Downhere (lead singer is a Fair Havens Alumni).

Check out the details at:

<http://friends.fairhavens.org>

Redesigned Website

While you're there, you can also checkout our newly redesigned Fair Havens Ministries website. We plan to be adding more video, as well as some new features to the site in the coming year... so stay tuned!

<http://www.fairhavens.org>



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

Fair Havens Ministries / B2215, Hwy #48 E., R.R. #3, Beaverton, Ontario L0K 1A0
Website: www.fairhavens.org / email: info@fairhavens.org / phone: 1-800-430-5059

Privacy Policy - please be advised that any personal information provided to and kept by Fair Havens Ministries will be used strictly for internal purposes including providing information (e.g. promotional mailings) and event registration. More information on our privacy policy can be found on our website.

