

# FH Memories

The Fair Havens  
Newsletter  
Week 3  
July 11 - July 18

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

## The Power of the Presence of God at Camp

*Long time camper, Andrew, shares how God speaks to him at Fair Havens.*



Andrew has been camping with Fair Havens for 12 summers. Right from his first summer, Andrew knew he'd found a good place to vacation.

Fair Havens has become the resting spot Andrew needs to be spiritually fed. By the beginning of summer conference, Andrew said, "I drag myself into Fair Havens." Andrew's job as the Assistant Crown Attorney is highly stressful. He also feels spiritually starved at his home church, where the teaching lacks depth. "Here, it's like we gorge ourselves on a spiritual smorgasbord," Andrew said.

"We have really appreciated the consistently excellent quality of

teaching here," Andrew said. "That is really what keeps us coming back."

Andrew also senses God's presence over the camp. "God always seems to show up here. He always talks to me here," Andrew said.

As an example of this, Andrew told about how God spoke to him six summers ago and gave him a clear command. Andrew was studying Hosea 6 in morning watch. Andrew saw the prophet telling Israel that God hurt her in order to draw her back to Himself. As he

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### Fair Havens Perks:

**Speaker of the Week, Dwayne Cline, Talks About the Benefits of Christian Camp.**

When speaker of the week Pastor Dwayne Cline came to Fair Havens two years ago, he was sceptical. "I was wondering about the future of Christian camp ministries." Dwayne wondered if it was even important to go to a Christian camp.

After that summer, Dwayne had change of heart. He now sees the need for people to rest at camp, especially Fair Havens. "I think Fair Havens is a great place for people to be refreshed, spiritually and physically," Dwayne said.

Dwayne also emphasized the communal aspect of the camp to be among its most important qualities. "I am encouraged that various church denominations come together and be the body of Christ for a week. That's the thing I have been predominantly encouraged by as the speaker at Fair Havens."

Dwayne has come a long way from his original scepticism. "Now I would say it is definitely important to support these ministries," he said.

Dwayne means what he says. Since his first speaking engagement, when he came with just his family, he's brought several families from his church with him.

read this, he felt convicted that this was God's message for Canada as well.

After praying for someone to deliver this message to the nation,

## God Provides

*Guest Sandy shares how God blessed her at Fair Havens and provided for her family to come.*

**Written by Sandy**

My family and I left for Fair Havens last Saturday. I was exhausted: stressed out, burnt out, and worn out. I was a physically, emotionally, and spiritually distracted and needed time to be alone with Jesus.

Earlier in the spring, I hadn't planned to go to Fair Havens. I had planned to take my daughter to Chicago to listen to the Do Hard Things seminar by teens Alex and Brett Harris. God closed the door on this

Andrew had a revelation "If the Lord has laid a burden on your heart to pray for something, you are the answer," Andrew said.

Though Andrew heard the call, he didn't want to answer it. He dodged it for two years, before

finally writing a book addressing the nation—a book he hopes will remind Canada of its Christian heritage and draw its people back to God.

End

opportunity, and I began to pray for another place to go, where my family would still be challenged to do hard things for God. I also wanted a place where we would leave refreshed, ready to enter life again.

The Lord impressed on my heart that our family needed to come to Fair Havens for Week 3. Our family did not have the money to come, and my husband thought he had too much work to do to be

able to go. So I had to trust that God would provide the food, the camp fees, and a willing husband to help me set up the tent.

The weeks went by and food was given to us in cans and boxes from totally unexpected people who did not know we needed food for camp. The day before my daughter and I left for camp, my husband an-

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## The Fair Havens Family: The Blessings of a Christian Community

*Milt, a Season Siter and camp volunteer, shares how God has blessed himself and others through the community at Fair Havens.*



Milt, a long-time guest in his early sixties, has a ready smile on his face and kind word for all who meet him. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why people open to Milt as he volunteers at the Saturday Barbeque. Milt and his wife walk along the lines of hungry campers and introduce themselves to new guests.

Milt likes connecting with people. He especially likes meeting

people for the first time. "I think it's important that we be hospitable to each other."

While Milt likes meeting people, he really likes meeting them at Fair Havens. "It's a great place to meet people," he says. "Some of these relationships last a lifetime."

When asked why he thinks Fair Havens is a great meeting place, Milt gives a three point answer; everyone shares a common faith, there are many people with similar interests, and the more people meet with each other, the more they find they have in common. "There's an instant connection," Milt says.

"In many respects, this is one of our homes," he says. After being away for most of the year, Milt says that when he and his wife Helen approach the main gate, "There is a sense of coming

home."

When Milt says that he feels like camp is a second home, he really means it. "You begin to acquire a second family," he says. As a result of the close bonds that have formed between himself and his Fair Havens family, Milt was invited to marry two close friends at the camp several weeks ago. Milt, an ordained pastor, was honoured to perform the ceremony.

The friendships Milt and his wife start at camp don't stay at camp either. They regularly try to keep connected throughout the year. They winter in Florida and visit there with camp friends. They also travelled from Ontario to Saskatchewan, in order to attend the wedding of a camp friend's son. "We were the only non-family members on the groom's side that

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Cont. from "Family"

were there," Milt says with a chuckle.

Milt is always blessed and refreshed by being a part of the Christian community, and anticipates being a camper for years to

come. "Oh yeah, we love it here," he says. "We have a Season Site and our grandkids always want to come back."

End

## Finding Time to Rest at Camp

*Guest Marilyn shares an important lesson about finding time to rest at camp in order to maximize time spent ministering to others at home.*

Regular guest, Marilyn, is thankful for the time she has to relax in God at Fair Havens. "Fair Havens is the camp of my husband's family; my own family didn't go to camp—or church. I am an engraft, a Ruth, and Fair Havens is a warm extension of that adoption," Marilyn said. "I don't see my own family very often; they mostly live in Western Canada. Coming to F.H. feels like visiting family."

Marilyn especially appreciates the calming atmosphere of the camp. "It is like visiting your

grandparents. The attitude of the ministry is so service oriented... [it has a] dotting atmosphere... [an] attentiveness to the needs of the family."

While her girls are cared for at program, and her husband is visiting with friends, she has time to read, pray, journal, and inwardly nourish herself.

In this way, Marilyn believes that the best service Fair Havens offers is time. She realizes that a real struggle for herself and others is not taking enough time to

recharge. Marilyn can get so busy helping others, she doesn't take time to help herself, which eventually hurts her ministry. "I can get so emotionally poor, I can't afford to pay attention to others" she said.

By taking care of some of life's distracting details, Fair Havens gives busy people the time to deal with themselves, and to grow in a better relationship with God. "It's a blessing to other ministries," Marilyn said.

End

## The BUZZ: Thoughts from our youth

### My Fair Havens Experience

### photo of the Week



Mercy, age 8, hitting a homerun at Little League Baseball.

"I have been at Fair Havens for 4 years, and I guess you could say I have had some really great experiences...Fair Havens is really a good place to be, full of people who are friendly. It really isn't hard to make friends here at all. Unlike highschool where you are surrounded by cliques and all."

- Shanda, age 15-

"Last summer, my grandma was close to dying while I was at Fair Havens. Me and my family left halfway through the week to go see her one last time before she died. I will never forget how nice and understanding my Fair Havens leaders were when I told them I was leaving. And how my brother's lady boss was so nice, she picked me up in a golf cart to take me to our accommodations so we could pack.

Thank-you Fair Havens. You are really great!"

- Bethany, age 13-

"I like my leaders. They help me learn about God. They are great role models."

-Ryan, age 11-

nounced that he had finished all the work he needed to, and would come along with us. Good, I thought. Now I have someone to set up the tent. The camp fees had not come in by the time we left, but I kept praying and trusting that God would provide, since He put in on my heart to come.

When we arrived at camp, we discovered we'd left our flashlight and jackets at home, we'd lost the twine for tying down our tent flaps, and our tent wouldn't zip up. It wasn't easy sleeping in a drafty tent

with mosquitoes whining around us, but we were all together as a family, which is what counted. As well, we were blanketed in the warm peace of Jesus that covers the atmosphere at Fair Havens.

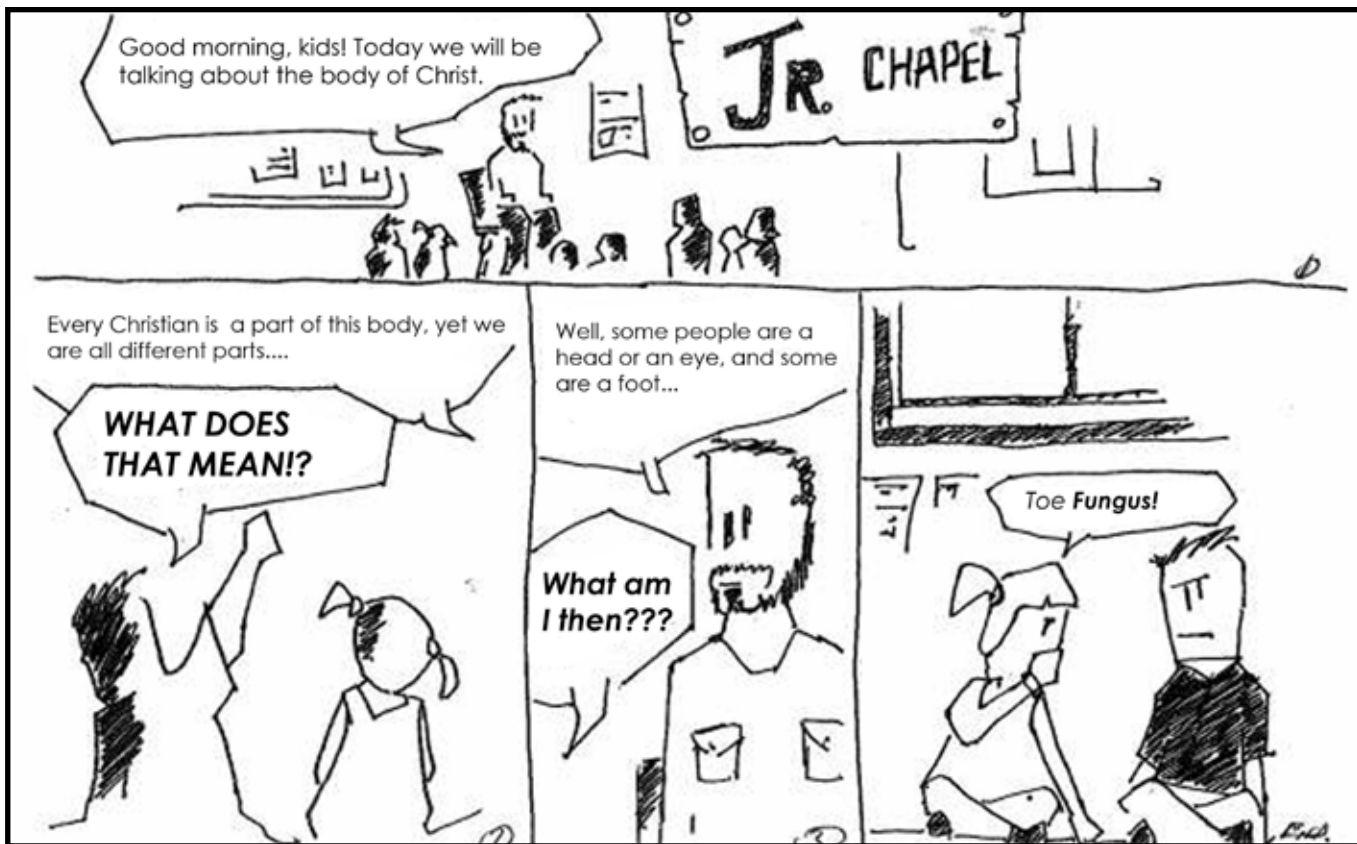
That covering has not left us since the moment we arrived. All the chapel messages have flowed together and touched areas in my life I needed to be encouraged and challenged in. The Family Life Application Seminars have been a huge blessing. Our camp fees were unexpectedly paid for. And the staff have been supportive and kind. One of the staff even lent me their coat for the week when they noticed

I was shivering at the BBQ.

From early morning prayers to late night talks around the campfire, I have made new friends, created positive memories with my family, had time alone with God, and shared my struggles with other people who struggle just like me.

I am definitely going back into my old life with new life breathed into my tired body by the Holy Spirit. I am starting over in my new life restored, refreshed, and recharged, with a fresh focus on Christ.

**"I had to trust that God would provide..."**



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