

FH Memories

The Fair Havens
Newsletter
Week 7
August 8 - 15

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

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.



For Paul (back left) and Donna (back right), Fair Havens is a family experience. Their daughters Hannah (back centre), Chloe (front left), and twins Rachel (front centre) and Sarah (front right) even showed up to be interviewed along with their parents.

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

**Camp: Rest Home or
Military Centre?**

**This week's speaker talks about
the purpose of camps like Fair
Havens, and how we can truly
be blessed by them**

Speaker of the week, Ken Needham, has a passion for promoting Christ through Scripture. He is so passionate about God he rarely goes home to rest; an irony since he teaches at Fair Havens, a place where many of us come to do just that. Despite his many speaking responsibilities, Ken finds rest in the midst of them, and suggests that there is a better reason to come to camp than just rest.

Though some would find it hard not resting at camp year after year, Ken believes that Fair Havens is a training ground, and not a rest home.

Ken understands that living in "the world" is tough. In any given year, he may only spend seven weeks at home; the rest of the time he teaches around the world. Still, he finds rest in his work because, as he says, "Real ministry doesn't drain you, it energizes you."

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Cont. from "Camp"

Ken believes that all of us can be recharged throughout the year, just like he is, and we don't always need camp to do it. He believes God has made us for a life of ministry, and if we treat all our jobs as ministry opportunities, we will be blessed because God will give us the energy we need to do His work.

Ken is quick to point out, "Jesus says 'Dwell permanently in Me.' He illustrates that with a branch and a vine: the only life the branch has is derived from the vine and it needs to be permanently attached."

Though Ken wants to discourage us from only using camp

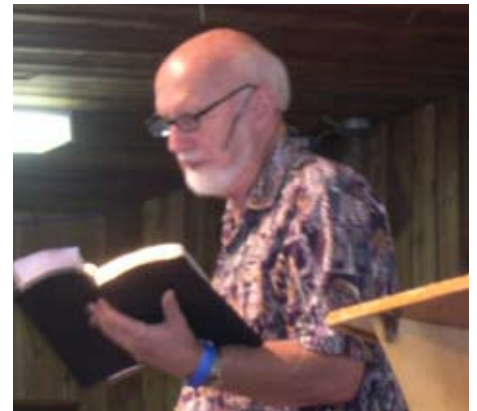
as a vacation spot, he does believe Fair Havens is a blessing because it is a good place to bring friends who need to see a Christian community in action. He also views it as a place to continue growing in God.

"I think it is important that people come to some place like this, for a week or so. Otherwise, even if they go to a good church, the Word tends to fall on the beaten path," Ken says.

In this way, Ken really appreciates Fair Havens, because its ministry is covered in prayer, which prevents "spiritual birds" from plucking God's Word from our hearts, before it has time to take root.

"But," Ken says, "it is more

helpful to think of Fair Havens as a [spiritual] military training camp, than a rest home. The value of the military training camp is proven on the battle field." **END**



Speaker, Ken Needham, ministers in over 90 countries and regularly speaks at conferences, seminaries, Bible schools, and churches.

Cont. from "Family"

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 appreciates 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.

"God's care and provision, it was just cool."

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. **END**



From left-right: Donna, Sarah, Rachel, Chloe, Paul, and Hannah sharing family time around the fire. They sing songs and read Bible stories.

The BUZZ: Thoughts from our youth

My Fair Havens Experience

“Fair Havens is fun because you can just goof off for nearly—no—entirely the whole day. My favourite thing to do is scrapbooking. All the scrapbookers in my family bring all their tools and we just sit down for hours.

My grandma and grandpa rent out all of Livingstone Lodge and we get the place to ourselves.

Me and my cousin, Liz, play Monopoly a lot. Me, Grandpa, and Uncle Jim go for a morning dip in the canal every day. Sometimes Liz comes along, but she doesn't enjoy it as much.

We celebrate birthdays here as well. Mark, Mom and Aunt Caranol all have birthday parties here.”

- Jean, age 13 -

“Archery is my favourite skill and I have chosen it as my first skill every year for about four years now. It is fun because you pretty much get to do whatever. You go outside, meet friends while waiting for your turn, and you get to laugh at the super funny stories the leaders tell. Archery also includes shooting arrows of course!”

- Serena, age 11 -

Photo of the Week



Campers resting after Wednesday night's fire works show. The show was moved from Friday night to give volunteers time to set up a thank-you banquet for summer staff.

My biggest complaint in life is...

“My brother, because he's annoying.”
- Rachel, age 11-

“Why do young people die?”
- Noah, age 12 -

“I'm bored. There's nothing to do.”
- Philip, age 17 -

God's Power in My Weakness

Fair Havens ministers to families and community children. Nicole, co-head staff of Fair Havens' Summer Xplosion Day Camp, shares how God gives her strength to do her job, even in the most difficult circumstances.



Nicole (centre), finds strength to smile, even when her day is hard.

Day camp leader, Nicole, has one of the most physically demanding jobs at camp. She is up at 7:45 every morning and works with kids non-stop until 5:30 at night. On Wednesdays, the children stay overnight and don't leave until Thursday evening. Since many of her campers

come from non-believing families in the community, Nicole constantly has to enforce physical and moral boundaries.

Despite the challenges of her program, Nicole knows that God is with her. "This summer has been hard...but one thing that has stood out to me is that God can use you even when you are emotionally, physically, and spiritually tired," she said.

Still, in the midst of the hard stuff, Nicole sees God's hand at work. For example, one camper she worked with had anger management issues and barely paid attention during Bible messages. "We

heard since leaving day camp, his mom purchased a Bible and devotional book, which he reads every night with her. That's really cool," Nicole said.

Nicole believes their successes are the result of a team effort. Yet she stressed that were it not for God, the team would have fallen apart: "We went through several staffing changes, each one causing problems and complications. However, God used those moments of struggle to show how His power is perfected in our weakness. Looking back now, the day camp team is amazing. God pulled it together so nicely."



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