

Fairhaven: the vision continues

Those who are familiar with the story of Fairhaven have been part of and witnessed God's faithfulness and provision. Indeed Fairhaven exists today through the generosity of those who have caught the vision and who have expressed it through prayer and financial support. We are witnessing in this moment the writing of another chapter in this story of God's leading. Allow me to share the story . . .

What: A third staff residence

The discernment process involved in my call to Fairhaven led to the rewriting of the the ministry profile for the Executive Director, a revised profile for the Director of Facilities, and the creation of a new role: a Director of Operations. To accommodate this new role, the development of a third staff residence, already part of the existing Fairhaven master plan, was moved forward in priority.

When: The conversation begins

Given the clear passion and longevity of faithful service to Fairhaven, Len Frank was invited to stay on and serve as the Director of Operations. A third staff residence will initially serve as a residence for Len and Fay. Fay continues to diligently and carefully facilitate bookings and prepare the cottages to communicate value and affirm God's love and delight in those seeking rest and renewal.

In early July a nicely designed and well equipped modular show home was identified. The home fit well with our mountain setting, was consistent with quality expectations, and was at a price point significantly less than any comparative stick frame construction quotes we were able to secure. That the owner of the company was familiar with Fairhaven and our vision added to the budding excitement among the staff and the board. Prepared with a modest counter offer, we learned the home had sold. You might well imagine that amidst our fragile attempts to affirm that perhaps God had something different in mind, the disappointment was palpable.

During the summer months we vacillated between stick construction and other modular options only to see the price points converge with upward momentum. With it came the growing realization that it would likely be the fall of 2016 at the earliest before this project might come to completion. Then . . .

Late in the day of Monday September 14th the sale on the initial show home fell through. Sensing God's hand in this, the board approved an offer at our regularly scheduled AGM and Board meeting on the Wednesday night following. The next morning Len and our new Director of Facilities, Kent Tower, met with the company and the deal was sealed . . . with yet a further \$5000.00 reduction in original quoted price. Delivery of the home to Fairhaven has been set for October 30th, 2015. All I could do was sit back and exclaim, "Wow. God you do all things well and in your time!" For those of you who have been part of the Fairhaven story from the beginning, your response may very well be . . . "But of course . . . That is how God works." Remember, I'm the "new kid on the block" and witnessing this firsthand was, well, "wow!"

How: Breaking ground

Signalled during our 2015 Spring Dinners, the need for a third staff residence has seen \$100,000 come in toward the project.

Monday September 21 the excavator began site preparations adjacent to the Vineyard cottage. As Len, Kent, and myself met that morning our growing excitement was tempered by the reality of the various trades that needed to be quickly lined up at a time when most contractors are fully booked for the fall and by the reality that to bring the project to conclusion we needed an additional \$100,000.00 by the delivery date. At the end of the meeting we once again acknowledged our utter dependence on the Lord and committed the entire project to Him and His ongoing work through Fairhaven.

A week later and the site is ready. All of the necessary trades people are in place, and construction on the foundation is set to begin. "Wow" . . . Ok, be patient with this new guy. This is pretty exciting stuff.

At this point if you've been following the story, we need a miracle. But before I go there, allow me to offer a few reflections on how a third staff residence is ultimately connected to and grows out of the Fairhaven vision.



Why: The vision continues . . .

Envisioned many years ago and shaping the unfolding Fairhaven story, the strategic plan includes the development of “15 self-contained cottages at a rate of approximately one per year.” To date our guests benefit from the provision of six beautifully designed and well equipped cottages. Sustaining this level of growth requires sufficient staffing to look after the day to day tasks related to housekeeping, guest services, administration, maintenance, spiritual care and counselling, and connecting with those who share the vision and are partnering with us.

A third staff residence, though practical and tangible, facilitates and supports further growth of the Fairhaven vision.

- It situates us well to see this next chapter of development move forward with sufficient staff to accomplish the expanding and practical day to day tasks.
- Through its provision for additional staff, a third staff residence frees up creative “space” for exploring additional services we might offer to our guests on site. For example, structured spiritual formation retreats, ministry couple’s retreats, and theme-based retreats addressing topics such as soul care, compassion fatigue, grief, and ministry sustainability.
- A third staff residence allows the expansion of our services to include supporting and caring for pastors and those in Christian leadership in their place of ministry and the marketplace. To illustrate, while all of what I’m sharing was occurring on site Gwen and I had the privilege of travelling to meet with a young pastoral couple who after just a few short years in ministry are considering calling it quits. The opportunity to come along side, to share in their sadness, and to offer a few words of encouragement was possible because there were staff readily available on site to care for our guests and to look after the day to day tasks. This young couple have since booked time on site and we are praying for a God-honouring resolution in their ministry setting and lives. In retrospect this experience so vividly captures the “why” of how this “bricks and mortar” project connects to the Fairhaven vision.
- A third staff couple living on site affords us as staff the opportunity to model and live into the rhythms of spiritual formation and sabbath rest that our vision so clearly invites guests to explore and build into their personal lives.

Revisiting How:

This is where our respective stories intersect with the Fairhaven story. Our timeline is short to bring the project to completion. A miracle is needed. \$100,000.00 by October 31st. Can I invite you to prayerfully consider a tangible, perhaps sacrificial expression of your care and compassion toward those in Christian leadership?

One of our long time board members reminded us that “This will take some faith to see happen . . . but that is what we are about.” Wonderful words of encouragement and reminder. Fairhaven has indeed been a story of God’s faithfulness expressed through the generosity of His people making provision for touching the lives of Christian leaders. Rest is being experienced. Renewal is being pursued. Restoration is being achieved.

Would you consider being part of seeing this needed miracle coming to pass? Gwen and I are personally committed to partnering with you in this need. Could October 31st bring another “Wow God” moment? I’m looking forward to it!

God’s best,



Tony and Gwen

