



December 2023

# fairhaven

a retreat experience for Christian leaders

## FEATURED STORIES

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## CONSIDER THE LIGHT

Hundreds of years prior, Isaiah prophesied, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." Pointing to the coming of the preexisting second member of the Trinity, this was fulfilled in the angelic proclamation, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Having spoken physical light into the dark expanse, Jesus proclaimed himself the "Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In so doing Jesus penetrates spiritual darkness with his presence.

Reflecting further on this theme of light, Henri Nouwen penned this prayer,

Dear Lord,

Give me eyes to see and ears to hear. I know there is light in the darkness that makes everything new. I know there is new life in suffering that opens a new earth for me. I know there is a joy beyond sorrow that rejuvenates my heart. Yes, Lord, I know that you are, that you act, that you love, that you indeed are Light, Life, and Truth. People, work, plans, projects, ideas, meetings, buildings, paintings, music, and literature all can only give me real joy and peace when I can see and hear them as reflections of your presence, your glory, your kingdom.

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Let me then see and hear. Let me be so taken by what you show me and by what you say to me that your vision and hearing become my guide in life and impart meaning to all my concerns.

Let me see and hear what is really real, and let me have the courage to keep unmasking the endless unrealities, which disturb my life everyday. Now I see only in a mirror, but one day, O Lord, I hope to see you face to face. Amen.

During this Advent and Christmas season may we like Nouwen, see and hear afresh.

## UPDATES FROM THE YEAR

June 9th – 10th, 2023 were special days here at Fairhaven. Local area pastors, board members and staff from throughout the years, prayer warriors, donors, and those involved in the launch of the current Fairhaven site joined together to celebrate God's faithfulness over the 20 years since the opening of the first cottages. Len Frank provided an overview of the history up to the Schnare's coming, highlighting that in the midst of the inevitable challenges and growth pains, God's provision and sustaining presence has been foundational. Len's succinct phrase, "But God," will reverberate deeply. This has been no less true in the ensuing years as a third staff residence was added, cottages renovated, expanded networks opened, virtual counselling provided, the covid years, transitions navigated, financially, and now, a dream on the horizon for a new capital project serving groups who are increasingly seeking out Fairhaven. Mark Buchanan capped off the weekend with an encouraging message affirming the place of ministries like Fairhaven as a 'thin place,' offering silence, solitude, and sanctuary amid the myriad of challenges experienced by leaders and their families in this contemporary ministry context.

For those who have been part of the Fairhaven story and were unable to join us, thank you for responding to the nudging of the Holy Spirit through the years. Your partnership through prayer, financial support, encouragement, volunteerism, and working alongside have informed and given shape to this miracle on the mountain. We invite your continued engagement and want to inspire you to share your passion for the ministry with the next generation by way of introduction. If we can assist you, please let us know!

Moving forward, careful reflection on sustainability and stewardship are key priorities. Nuancing the mission through reviewing who we are, who we serve, what is the focus of our mission, and how we will go about pursuing that focus are key strategic planning questions before us. Positioning the ministry to support those on the front lines who are navigating the changes and opportunities of this contemporary ministry chapter is a central focus.



## WHAT'S NEW

### NEW STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

This fall we onboarded two new staff members. Darren Witt has joined us as the Director of Operations and Business Development. Exploring God's call on his life, Darren brings with him a breadth of experience as a successful business owner and industry leader. Ken Koshman comes to Fairhaven with many years of experience in the restoration business. He too, feeling God's nudge to a greater sense of purpose, brings his multifaceted skills to supporting a different kind of restoration work! Both come with hearts focused on serving the ministry of Fairhaven and our guests in this season.



Darren Witt



Ken & Liza Koshman

At our September AGM Fairhaven also welcomed two new Board members. Jess Penman from Calgary is a project manager with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada. Jess comes with online experience in virtual engagement. Cyndy Loewen is the Director of Admissions & Recruitment at Kelowna Christian School. Cyndy and her husband Mark have firsthand experience encountering God's grace and transformation in and through the ministry of Fairhaven. There is excitement as we anticipate how God will use their unique gifts in this next chapter.



Jess Penman



Cyndy Loewen

### EXPANDING THE INVITATION

Broadening our understanding of Christian 'leaders' to reflect the contemporary paradigm of those in positions of influence. This will 'open the Fairhaven door' to guests who serve on ministry boards, who are support staff in churches, and para-church organizations, and lay people who serve in churches and para-church organizations in defined volunteer roles.

### FEE STRUCTURE

Current economic realities have impacted all of us. Fairhaven is no different, with increasing operational costs while simultaneously attempting to maintain appropriate subsidized rates where needed. We are also taking steps toward a sustainability model where revenue covers day-to-day operational costs and donations are honored and directed to capital expansion. We trust that even with the increases, our facilities and setting will continue to reflect the value our guests are accustomed to and be under-market equivalents.

### NEW INITIATIVES

Engagement, efficiency, and value-added are reflected across partnerships with churches, denominational leaders, internal processes, and the resources available to our guests as we move forward. For example, imagine a relaxing massage in the privacy of your cottage! Stay tuned!

## THE TED AND HEATHER HORTON SPONSORSHIP FUND

Ted and Heather's story is one that reflects the very heart of the mission of Fairhaven. They connected with Fairhaven at the start of the development here on Rogers Road. Both had come from difficult days and their story is one of new beginnings, provision, renewal, restoration, and enduring commitment.

On March 20th, 2004 they were married beside the Fairhaven shop. They continued to serve on site until May of 2005 when the Alliance District Superintendent Brian Thom asked them to pastor a small church in the Kootenays.

Four and a half years later they returned to Vernon to work part-time at Fairhaven and to develop Horton Contracting, Ted's personal company to this day.

As a couple, their pastoral heart has found expression in developing, caring for, and nurturing the infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, and equipment maintenance), and for a season in Guest Services over the years.

Ted writes, "It has been our privilege to serve the Lord with you. All praise goes to the God of Heaven from whom 'Every Good and Perfect Gift Comes.' James 1:17.



In honor of their commitment and significant contribution to Fairhaven, and more importantly, their heart for the ministry, the sponsorship fund has been aptly named, the Ted and Heather Horton Sponsorship Fund.

This fund is used to support individuals, couples, and families in the pursuit of new beginnings where financial barriers may otherwise limit access to the services of Fairhaven.

There is excitement as we look to this next chapter. Please consider either a contribution to the Ted & Heather Horton Sponsorship Fund or a year-end General Fund gift that will continue the work of encouraging the health and renewal of Christian leaders!

To be receipted for 2023, gifts need to be postmarked on or received by December 31st, 2023. Donation receipts will be issued by the end of February 2024.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff, and volunteers, Gwen and I wish you and yours a wonderful Christ-centered season and Jesus' near presence in the New Year.

Blessings,

Tony Schnare, Executive Director

*Donations are welcomed through e-transfer  
to [donation@fairhavencanada.com](mailto:donation@fairhavencanada.com)  
For additional giving options, please visit our  
website at [fairhavencanada.com/donate](http://fairhavencanada.com/donate)*

**CONTACT US**  
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