

December Newsletter

FAIRHAVEN
RETREAT CENTRE

December 2024



Both And

We often mark upcoming events in our lives by the number of sleeps until; a much-anticipated vacation, the arrival of family (2 sleeps!) or friends, Christmas morning (for the child at heart), the Winter solstice, plus one – a favorite of mine!

While Isaiah did not quantify his prophesy in terms of sleeps, he did point to a time when “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned” (9:2).

Luke captures the fulfillment of this, An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

But, was this the fulfillment? Yes, in part. The nature of OT prophecy however is that it is layered, pointing to a specific time . . . and projecting to a time yet to come in conjunction with the prophesy above, Isaiah also wrote, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Continued on next page...

Testimonials

"Fairhaven is my chosen place to 'get away with Jesus' for extended times. Perhaps it is the way the retreat center is steeped in prayer or the intentional creation of a safe, sacred space. Whatever the reason, Fairhaven allows me to truly be myself with Jesus in a way that I've found nowhere else."
-CH

"Thank you so much for giving our family a place to gather! The quiet and nature were just what we needed. We are looking forward to coming again soon."
-R



December Newsletter

FAIRHAVEN
RETREAT CENTRE

December 2024

Testimonials

"Thank you so very much for the opportunity to come apart in such a peaceful and beautiful setting. Your ministry to us has touched our lives for ever. To God be the glory!" - J&B

"Dear Staff, We are grateful for the beauty of this place - thank you for your prayers on our behalf - what you prayed is the exact chapter in our workbook we just completed last week - our worth and identity in Christ and because of Christ. May God bless you for every seemingly small detail you do to keep this place running. You are offering your 5 loaves and 2 fish and God multiplies those actions to meet the needs of many. Thank you." - HN

Again, yes. And, Isaiah's prophecy also pointed to a time, yet in the future. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

As Christians, we live in this now but not yet . . . with an eye on what we refer to as the second coming of Christ; a time when his government and peace will be fully established and he will from that time forward uphold it with justice and righteousness.

May this Advent season, a season of waiting and anticipation, have as its focus both the acknowledgement and celebration of the birth of the Messiah AND be a time for contemplating the Messiah's second coming.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."



WHAT'S NEW

Expanding the Fairhaven Welcome

Do you know a friend, couple, or family that might benefit from the experience of Fairhaven you've come to anticipate? Please let them know. We are now extending our welcome to include lay workers and families who share the Fairhaven faith tradition. Don't worry. Missionaries and pastoral leaders continue to be our primary focus!

Expanding the available accommodations

In addition to the well-appointed cottages, a furnished staff residence has been added to the reservation options. This 1600 sq. ft. furnished home includes three bedrooms (master bedroom with ensuite and soaker tub, a second bedroom with a double bed, and a third bedroom with single over double bunk bed. The home offers an open concept living room, kitchen with island, dining room, and a second full bath. Front and back decks add to this wonderful family space to encounter God and make memories in the Okanagan.

Moving forward

In the coming weeks we will be posting for a full-time, onsite Director of Operations. This role will encompass leadership, strategic planning, operations management, implementation, and community-building. The successful candidate will oversee day-to-day operations, coach staff and volunteers, and contribute to long-term organizational goals while embodying the values that make Fairhaven unique. Pass this on. Stay tuned!



We would invite you to consider a yearend gift that will continue the work of encouraging the health and renewal of Christian leaders, lay workers, and families. To be receipted for 2024, gifts need to be received (or postmarked) by December 31st, 2024. Donation receipts will be issued by the end of February 2025.

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,

Follow our social pages to stay connected!
@fairhavencanada



Dr. Charles W. Shepson
November 30, 1928 – September 16, 2024

Dr. Charles W. Shepson (95) of Fort Myers, Florida, slipped away peacefully to join his Savior and Lord the morning of September 16, 2024. Referred to as a faithful servant who "walked, talked, and listened to God," he will be missed. We rejoice also in that he is now in the presence of Jesus. In early November, Wayne Garner and myself (Tony) had the privilege of attending and representing Fairhaven Ministries Association Canada at his Celebration of Life. The faithfulness of God in and through Charles' life was so wonderfully reviewed and celebrated. With his passing, the story of Fairhaven enters a new chapter. We look forward with anticipation of how the Father will lead in this season as he has so faithfully to the present.

"Lord, someday let me establish a retreat centre to which Christian workers can come in their time of decision making, weariness, frustration, and even failure."
Dr. Charles Shepson

Donations are welcomed through e-transfer to info@fairhavencanada.com