



# Fairhaven Newsletter

APRIL 2020



## FAIR HAVEN AGED CARE HOME

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Jurrien De Vos

### **Ps147:1-3,5**

*Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing  
praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a  
song of praise is fitting.*

*The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the  
outcasts of Israel.*

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up  
their wounds.*

*Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.*

This Chairman's brief is written in different circumstances that any of us have ever experienced. I write this brief from the seclusion of my home, away from my normal office, away from many I love and care for; alone, isolated.

In the midst of the turmoil surrounding the Coronavirus COVID-19 we try to maintain normality in life as much as possible, so when I read Ps 147 I am comforted that although the world does what it can to control the impact of the virus, we know that our Lord is building His church, He heals the brokenhearted, that He is great, His understanding beyond measure. This gives comfort since I know that He will continue to work His plan of salvation for His children despite the virus and that not one of them will fall from His hand.

The Board is ever grateful for the Lord's provision in our CEO and Care Manager that they, along with all the staff, have been doing an excellent job in managing the Home during these difficult times. It is our prayer that the Lord will generously endow them with overflowing blessings so that they are spared the virus and are strengthened for the long road ahead. They in particular

feel the isolation more than most of us since their personal lives and families are also affected by the extra restrictions in place for aged care facilities. We are thankful that many others are also making themselves available for nursing and caring in the Home in the event that some of our staff may become ill. Indeed, our Lord is great, His understanding beyond measure as He ensures that we are able to care for our residents.

The Board has put their full support behind the management team in the initiatives that they have put in place to ensure the health and safety of our residents. This may cause inconvenience for some, but I am sure that it saves our residents from being infected we will be ever grateful. We are also thankful for government financial support to cover the increased costs associated with managing the virus. This, along with the additional support from the association which was endorsed at the General Meeting, we will be able to maintain the financial position of the Association.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the chairman's address from the recent General Meeting. There was a request for it to be published so that those who did not attend would be able to share in the message. It was very encouraging to see so many at the meeting and the subsequent donations that have been received. Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

May our Heavenly Father continue to show his boundless love and care as we provide for the elderly brothers and sisters in our midst.

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# CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS MARCH 2020

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Jurrien De Vos

*Psalm 46*

*God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
Even though the earth be removed,  
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of  
the sea;  
Though its waters roar and be troubled,  
Though the mountains shake with its swelling.*

Yes indeed, the Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. This Psalm has been a source of strength and comfort for God's people over the ages. We only need to think of Martin Luther who penned the hymn, a Mighty Fortress, which was based on this Psalm. As we make our way through the verses we see that despite calamities that may surround us, our God commands us to be still and know that He is God. Indeed the Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.

It was the comfort of God's word that was the source of peace during the difficult times over the past months. It gave us the peace knowing that He would provide for a Care Manager and CEO. The assurance that our Heavenly Father is with us, is our refuge, gave us the strength that enabled us to soldier on and complete the work so that the operations of the Home would meet the requirements of the Aged Care Quality Standards. At our recent re-accreditation audit we received some very encouraging feedback, and although we do not know the outcome as yet, we were commended for the work we had done and for the way in which we provided care to our residents, or I should say consumers to be consistent with the Standards. We are thankful that the Lord has blessed the work we have done and pray that He will continue to provide us with His care and protection for the future.

I know I have mentioned it in the Chairmans report, but I want to especially thank the staff for the hard work they have done to put in place the new policies and procedures and to implement the new practices that meet the requirements of the Aged Care Quality Standards. It has been a massive undertaking and worthy of special thanks. Ladies, thank you so much for your effort and support, and we also say thank you to your husbands and families for giving up valuable time with your wives and mothers. Thank you so much.

But we are here tonight with a revised budget for the remainder of the 2019/2020 financial year. The changes

that we needed to make in the Home have put a lot of pressure on the association's finances. We are thankful that there were reserves which could be used to cover the additional expenditure to date, but we are mindful that as an association we need to make significant changes to the way that we support our operations. The cost of providing care to meet the Aged Care Quality Standards is much higher than what we have experienced in the past. We are thankful for response we have received already from the association with big increases in contributions. It is humbling to see the love for Fair Haven and the desire to ensure that our elderly brothers and sisters are well cared for. With our Heavenly Father's blessing we can look forward to being able to continue to care for our aging loves ones at Fair Haven.

A lot of our focus has been on the Home but I don't want to neglect our village people. We are mindful that room is running out in the village for new units and that we need to be planning for the future. Strategic planning is still on our radar and we hope to have something for the next AGM. As you can appreciate, the activities of the past months have consumed a lot of time and energy, but we are mindful that we need to plan for the future. What will be the requirements for our village, what sort of care will we need to provide, also to people in their own homes, what can we expect by way of changes in funding from the government, what will people be expecting from aged care in the future. There are many questions that need to be asked. By planning responsibly we trust that our Heavenly Father will continue to bless us in the work we do at Fair Haven.

There is also something that weighs heavy on my heart that I need to clear up. It is regrettable that rumours have circulated concerning past staff which bring into question their reputation and character. Brs and Srs, these rumours are not only unsubstantiated, but false. I want to acknowledge in particular that Sr Dorothy van der Wal has dedicated a large portion of her life to Fair Haven which we are very thankful for but to blame to her for our failure in August is not only unfair but outright unchristian. At a recent Aged and Community Services Australia symposium I attended with our CEO, some interesting statistics were presented. Since July last year, 96% of homes that were audited had at least 1 area where they did not meet the new standards. In this way we were no different from many other homes and

shows the intolerant approach that the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has taken regarding audits. Much of this is the result of the Royal Commission as the regulator is also under a lot of scrutiny. As a result the bar has been set high.

The current Board has always accepted full responsibility for what has happened at Fair Haven, also things of the past. I have been very careful to ensure that in any communicate we do not to apportion blame to staff because ultimately it is the Board's responsibility. Fair Haven as an organisation needs to acknowledge that errors were made in the past and collectively we need to take responsibility for them and seek forgiveness from one another. I am sorry if I have not clearly portrayed that through my communications. I have repeatedly stated to the Board and staff that we will not blame anyone and whenever rumours have surfaced I have reiterated that we are always to hold the

reputation of our people in high esteem . For those who felt aggrieved by what I wrote, I am sorry.

Brs and Srs it is the Board's aim to ensure that we can move forward unhindered. As I mentioned at the AGM last year, we are on a journey with changing horizons. We need to look forward, taking in the changes before us. If we keep focussed on how we did things in the past by constantly looking in our rearview mirror, we will crash. We need to look forward, to embrace the changing environment, the changing expectations; to work with the changing requirements that the government puts on us. Just as when we are on a journey and we enjoy the scenery changes, so also with Fair Haven let us embrace the changes before us. Yes, we need to occasionally look into the mirror to see where we have been and to see what is coming up behind us, but our focus is forward. Brs and Srs, we are on an exciting journey.

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# CEO REPORT

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Jan deJager

At Fair Haven we are experiencing the grace of our faithful Father on a daily basis. We trusted in Him for a good audit outcome following the last accreditation audit which He in His mercy granted. We also trust that He will guide and lead us through the current COVID-19 crisis. Staff and management are doing their utmost to ensure that the best clinical care is given to our residents during this time in which we follow the advice of the Government to lock the home for visitors that are potential carriers of the virus. This obviously has the consequence that residents are more isolated than they are used to being, which also brings more loneliness.

Also our staff has an extra burden to ensure that they isolate themselves in their personal and social lives to ensure they are not contaminated during this period. We ask you to remember the residents and staff in your communal and personal prayers. I trust that the staff will use this time of isolation wisely and also view this in the light that the Lord is working in and through us to make His light shine during these dark times.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers that have responded to the call of our Care Manager to put their hand up in this time of need. The plan is to establish a pool of volunteers who we can bank on during this time of crisis. We already have volunteers doing the necessary shopping for the kitchen and lifestyle activities and we thank you for doing this.

I would also like to thank everyone who has already increased their weekly membership to a minimum of \$15 per week and contributed to the special maintenance program. To date (27th March), we have received \$46,000 for the special maintenance program. As presented at the General Meeting, we aim to progress with the much needed maintenance in the Home for the remainder of 2020 and 2021. If you have not already increased your membership or made



a capital donation, our elderly brothers and sisters will much appreciate it if you do, as this will most certainly increase their quality of life.

To the village residents, also a special word of encouragement during the time we live in. As the aged, you are more vulnerable to COVID-19. We pray that you will also find comfort and rest in our communal faith and trust that the Lord will bless you during this time of limited social interaction with family, friends and church community.



I would like to close with scriptural encouragement that I was personally encouraged with written by Rev A Pol, minister in FRC Mundijong:

*“The Lord reigns! (Ps 97:1). He has made the heavens and the earth by his great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for him (Jer 32:17). He has made everything beautiful in its time (Eccl 3:11). He sees all mankind and considers everything they do (Ps 33:13,15). His eyes are too pure to behold evil (Hab 1:13), and he sees that even the very inclination of man’s heart is wicked by nature (Gen 6:5). Therefore we should not be surprised when he sends disaster and calamities into the world (Isa 45:7). Yet the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy (Ps 103:8). He is*

*patient with you and is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9). Because of his great love he revealed himself to you and made you spiritually alive (Eph 2:4-5). He has loved you with an everlasting love (Jer 31:3) and planned each day of your life before you existed (Ps 139:16). He carried you from birth and will sustain you to old age (Isa 46:3). He has numbered the very hairs on your head (Matt 10:30) and delights in your prayers (Prov 15:8). What he begins in your life he will also finish (Rom 8:30) and nothing will separate you from his love (Rom 8:39). You can trust him completely, because he is completely good (Mark 10:18). There is no darkness in him at all (1 John 1:5).”*

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## KEES & JOYCE FAAS

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This is the short story of Cornelis Anthonie (Kees) Faas and Joyce Jeannette Rijk Faas (nee van Ommeren). They were contributors to Fair Haven from the very start, and lived there for the last two years of their life.

Kees was born in Axel, the Netherlands on 11 October 1939. Joyce was born in The Hague, the Netherlands on 4 March 1946. Kees and Joyce first met on 1 July 1971 whilst holidaying on the Greek island of Rhodes. Kees and Joyce were married in Amsterdam on 6 November 1971. They first lived in Eindhoven and then moved to Utrecht. They were blessed with two sons, Humphry Cornelis on 5 January 1974 and Maurits Alexander on their 4th wedding anniversary, 6 November 1975.

Joyce had the tropics in her blood, having lived with her family in Parimaribo, Suriname for most of her childhood

life. Joyce longed for a warmer climate. Kees had also previously enjoyed a taste of the tropics, being stationed on the island of Biak in Dutch New Guinea whilst serving in the Dutch air force. Considering all of that, and the economic outlook in the Netherlands, the Faas Family then immigrated to Australia, arriving at Perth Airport on 7 January 1981.

Being welcomed into the Free Reformed Church of Armadale, the Faas Family lived in Gribble Avenue (formerly Eighth Avenue) for 9 years before shifting to Tamarind Crescent in Kelmscott, where Kees and Joyce settled for almost 30 years. Kees and Joyce acquired Australian citizenship on 12 December 1985, at the same time as the Schiebaans (friends since the Eindhoven days).

Kees dedicated his early years in Australia to working

diligently and obtaining the necessary qualifications to perform electrical work in Australia. He then worked as an electrical contractor, washing machine repairer, and welding equipment technician, until medically unable to continue full time work.

Kees could supplement his invalid pension with the occasional electrical work. However, he mostly devoted his time and energy to active volunteer roles: SES, Air Training Corp, People Who Care and St John Ambulance were some of the more prominent ones. He always stood ready to help those whose washing machines needed fixing, or needed transport or simply a listening ear. Kees had a ready smile and a sympathetic heart for other people's struggles.

Joyce dedicated her early years in Australia to caring for her husband and children, maintaining the social contact with the family back in the Netherlands, and building new friendships by being a very active sister in the Lord. Included in that were many years volunteering as a "night sleeper" at Fair Haven. Joyce also worked cleaning houses for other people, to help support her family financially.

Joyce cared a lot for a lot of people, and showed that care in many ways. A kind and encouraging word here. A small gift there. Questions of "how did it go", "are you OK", "how is so and so". And always a card for this occasion or that occasion, or just to show she loved you. Year in and year out. Seemingly without fail.

Birthday parties and other celebrations at Tamarind Crescent were always jovial affairs. Sunday evenings were often for showing hospitality over sandwiches, followed by singing from the Book of Praise. Kees and Joyce were blessed with a great group of very close friends with whom they could share both the joys and sorrows of this life. Friends that could be relied upon in good times and in bad. These many friends were a very clear and substantial blessing from the Lord.

Other people were important to Kees and Joyce and they loved to surround themselves with photos of those near and

dear to them. Those who have visited the Faas Family home in Tamarind Crescent over the years would know the pleasure of standing in front of the huge pin up board in the hallway and recalling all of the memories recorded on the photos that Joyce had so pleasantly arranged.

Kees and Joyce shifted to a brand new unit in the Fair Haven Retirement Village in 2017. However, Joyce never really retired. Once again, Joyce transformed a building into a warm, cosy home. Joyce relished the many opportunities for easy contact with the other residents in the Village. She was often seen at the evening devotions in the Hostel, walking around visiting her friends, or keeping a good eye on the progress of the workers building the Hall next door.

Kees became unwell, and was hospitalised at the end of 2017. He never really recovered his full vitality after that. Towards the end of 2018, he began to lose weight rapidly, for no apparent reason. By early 2019 he had become frail, needing a high level of care.

Joyce cared for Kees right up to the time she was admitted to hospital on the afternoon of 2 July 2019. A diagnosis of pancreatic cancer followed soon. The Lord called her home on the afternoon of 20 July 2019.

On 4 July 2019, Kees moved into a room at Fair Haven Home, needing high level care which Joyce was by then unable to provide. Moving to the Home was very difficult for Kees. The change was from being cared for by a loving wife of many years in the privacy of very comfortable and familiar surroundings, including his belongings that had travelled with him for many years – to being confined to one room with hardly any of his belongings and being cared for in a far more public setting by many different people.

However, Kees was blessed by the love and gentle care that he could receive from the CEO, the care managers, the carers, the kitchen staff, the cleaners – all of the staff at Fair Haven. At various times, each would speak to Kees, and provide the practical help that he needed, in a manner befitting fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord.

The friends already mentioned earlier remained faithful and Kees received many visitors daily. During this time, Kees (and all of his family) could experience a level of genuine kindness, love and support which can only lead to one conclusion – thankful praise to our Heavenly Father for providing all that we need and more.

After an extended period of hospitalisation brought on by pneumonia and a serious bacterial infection, Kees followed Joyce into Heavenly glory on the evening of 23 November 2019, safe in the hands of his Heavenly Father.



# WHY DO I LIVE WHERE I LIVE?

John Pleiter

Yes why do I live where I live?

It is with thankfulness in our hearts that we may live in a beautiful unit, with nice gardens, a good road system, but most of all that we may live with brothers and sisters, in whatever capacity, who are of the same faith, serve the same God and that we live in harmony.

Why at Fair Haven Village? Are we not too young to live here? Is this not a place where we pass on to the next phase of our being?

We considered this a number of years ago, as some of you may understand: the house is too big, we cannot do the gardens anymore let alone the lawn mowing, every Saturday raking the honkie nuts and leaves, keeping the place fire proof, chop the wood for a week, a bit of maintenance here or there; it never seems to stop, plus the fact we are getting on a bit, the mind is willing but the body is not always able, etc.

So we discussed it again, what do we do? What will people say ... moving to Fair Haven, you are joking? No, we are not. We prayed together and asked the Lord to show us the way. That did not just happen overnight. We came to the conclusion that if we move we should move together as a married couple and yes, Lord willing, enjoy the Village life together.

So what do you do next? We contacted Fair Haven and asked them to put us on the waiting list. At the time the list was quite long but we said "the Lord will provide all in His time" and He did. Then you receive a notification that you will probably move in 6 months' time.

Then it starts ... minimize all the belongings you have accumulated over 30 odd years, what goes, what stays, who gets what, who would be interested in this or that, the house has to be sold, etc.

Thankfully all went well and we were able to move in three months after the completion of the unit. Again, we were blessed with a nice unit but had to get used to the space, but that will pan out, we are sure of that. I think

you would call it adaption.

When we look back we are made very much aware that all things happen in the Lord's time. Why did we do what we did? We are sure that the Lord prepared us many years ago, whether it be because of health reasons, like an operation, or something else.

Many a time we are asked if we are happy at Fair Haven Village. There is only one answer to that ... "yes, we are very happy living where we live".

How could you not be? We live in nice units, and we have a fantastic "Village Community Hall" where we can have all sorts of activities, coffee mornings, carpet bowling, craft mornings, Bible study club. The "Village People" can have their birthday parties there or anniversary occasions and not to forget every Tuesday we have a cappuccino coffee and cake morning for a \$5 donation, open to all brothers and sisters of our communities, with the profits going to our "Happy Folk Club". We have been able to purchase items above and beyond what is in the hall. We have received donations of various kinds including a fantastic piano. The sails behind the hall were paid for by the club and we will be extending the sails to give us more shade.

Happy Folk Club members pay a monthly fee per member and from there we organise outings, and get together in the hall, such as our Australia Day celebration which was paid for from the kitty.

What we can say is that since we have moved into our unit at Fair Haven, we feel our lives have improved through the communion of saints that we are able to enjoy at Fair Haven. And if we are right, many others who move into Fair Haven also feel the joy of living here, being able to spend their twilight years in such a beautiful environment. We are very thankful to our heavenly Father who has provided these opportunities.

SO NOW I ASK YOU:

WHY SHOULD I NOT LIVE WHERE I LIVE?

## Fair Haven Membership Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Free Reformed Church of: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a full member of Fair Haven and to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week

I would like to make a donation to the Fair Haven Maintenance Program of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please deposit this form in the Fair Haven box in your church or email our membership administrator on [members@fairhaven.asn.au](mailto:members@fairhaven.asn.au)*