

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

- 2 Administration And Staff
- 3 How Does the Father Care for Children? By Brian York
- How Do I Help Others In Their 4-5 Time of Grief? By Brad Fox
- 5 **Newsletter Subscription**
- 6 AI and the Christian Family By Brian York
- **House Parents Needed** 7
- 2025 Visit Scheduling 7
- 7 Volunteers Needed
- 8 **Grocery List**
- 9-11 Memorials/Special Occasions November, December, January 2025
- **Birthdays** 12

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Fair Haven Children's Home **Administration & Staff**

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Barney Crawford, **Executive Director**

With the New Year behind us and we look to the first days of Spring, our youngsters on campus start longing for the last days of school and summer break. Currently, they are all enjoying the warmer days and enjoy spending lots of time on the playground playing basketball and football. After a few

weeks of bitter cold, it is always a joyous time to hear the young people laughing and having fun.

Our young people come to us from all different backgrounds and they all have their own stories, but sadly, many of them aren't happy stories. A majority of our kiddos have had to deal with struggles and stress that a youngster should not have to face. This, I think, is one of the great blessings of Fair Haven; we allow them to just be kids!

When young people leave our campus, our wish is that they leave with hope. A hope that life can be better than what they have known in the past and, most importantly, that there is an eternal hope in our Savior. When our young people leave, these are the greatest blessings we can instill in them. We thank you for helping us accomplish that work.

Blessings,

Barney Crawford

Barney Crawford



HOW DOES THE FATHER CARE FOR CHILDREN?

The simple answer to this question is US! It is our responsibility to care for children in need on behalf of our Father in Heaven. As students of the bible, it is so easy to focus on the popular stories of the Old Testament such as Creation, the Flood, Abraham, Moses, the 10 Commandments, and the Israelites, but then overlook some of the finer points of the Law. Throughout the Old Law and prophets, God made it clear that it was up to the rest of the Israelites to see that widows and orphans were treated properly. Although the law has changed, our responsibility to these two groups has not.

A fatherless child according to the Hebrew term *yathomw* refers to orphans but truly it is more literal in meaning *one whose father is gone* and carries the idea of bereavement. James mentions *orphanos* in James 1:27 and this Greek term essentially carries the same meaning as its Hebrew counterpart but can also be classified as someone who is now lacking a guide or guardian. The term "fatherless" appears 42 times in the O.T. and in nearly every instance

it refers to how God's people should care for them or how they should be treated. James' letter deals with many practical applications of what one might call "common knowledge". It seems that James mentioning the fatherless was a reminder to God's people what they should have been doing for widows and orphans already.

As we dig deeper, we see in Deuteronomy 14:28-29, the tithe at the end of 3 years was for the purpose of providing for the Levites, strangers, widows, and the fatherless. Though the tithe was an offering to God, it was to be stored or as the KJV says, "lay it up within they gates" and these 4 groups mentioned could come and have all they needed until they were satisfied (vs. 29).

When one considers history and the situation a widow or fatherless child would be in if the man of the house were no longer present, their outlook was often dire. Women and children generally could not hold employment or own land thus they became reliant on others to help them. The Father has always cared for His children and has always expected His people to do the same.

One might even consider what this meant for Jesus. It seems that Joseph, His earthly father, was not mentioned in scriptures later in life and while hanging on the cross, he puts Mary, His mother, into the care of His friend, John (John 19:27). Why would Jesus tell His friend to care for Mary? We can conclude that Joseph was no longer present to care for her. This would mean that Jesus was fatherless, by definition of both the Hebrew and Greek term as well as His ½ brother James who writes for us to "visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction". James was speaking by authority, but also by firsthand experience.

So then, how can we fulfill the Father's will for us today in caring for children?

- Support a widow, especially one who has children
- Support a family that cares for foster children
- Support a children's home
- Take a moment to pray for these children and widows



We should keep in mind that the tithe mentioned in Deuteronomy 14:28-29, did not come with "strings attached" or stipulations. It was given to God and freely distributed to those who needed it (Levites, strangers, widows, and fatherless). Additionally, while these thoughts are focused on children in need, it does not negate our responsibility toward widows and their care.

For over 60 years now, Fair Haven Children's Home has cared for children in need. We work to be a safe haven for young people who are displaced, by no fault of their hurt, and we strive to heal that hurt and give comfort and hope. Let us all take a moment to pray for those who are in need as well as though who are on the front lines caring for these groups and we thank you for your support.

God bless,

Brian York



A neighborhood of homes for children

HOW DO I HELP OTHERS IN THEIR TIME OF GRIEF

This is the last article in a series of four about Grief. We have looked at Understanding Grief, Biblical Examples of Grief and What Does the Bible Teach About Dealing with Grief. Let's now turn to **How Do I Help Others In Their Time of Grief**. All the Bible quotes are from ESV.

1. First, we need to realize that Grief is from God! Grief was designed by the creator of the universe to help us come to grips with our loss. There is not "something wrong" with us when we grieve. If you recall from the first article, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross in her work with dying patients came up with a model of 5 stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression and Acceptance. Grief is a messy process where we move back and forth through stages and eventually come to some sort of acceptance. We just can't give up!



2. Secondly, we must comfort and encourage each other from the Word of God (Note: some of the scriptures were also mentioned in the previous article):

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Isaiah 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

The Creator of the universe has a plan to give us HOPE and PURPOSE. He is with us each step of the way!

Remember these three scriptures from the Psalmists: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (34:18); God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever (73:26); He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (147:3)

God will save us, strengthen us and heal us when we are suffering!

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

I Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

ONLY Jesus can give us true rest. ONLY God can restore and strengthen us.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Someday when the sufferings of this world are gone, glory will be revealed, there will be no death, no sorrow. God's Word is full of comfort and encouragement for His people.



- 3. Be Accessible. People grieving generally don't need someone who is "pushy", they need someone who is available. Be there and be consistent!
- 4. Listen. Our grandmas used to say: "God gave you two ears, but only one mouth!" James 1:19 says it this way, we should be "quick to hear, slow to speak". Listen, reflect back what they have said to you, affirm their loss and review the positive. It is usually NOT a time to share your own stories, so be selective. You can not fix the problem. Remember that Grief is a God-given emotional process that takes time.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

- 5. Give them room to be angry with others, even God for now. He has big shoulders. Several of the writers of the Old Testament questioned God for what was going on around them. Anger is a primary component of the Grief cycle, but we can't remain there indefinitely.
- 6. Number six, Reminders: Notes/Cards/Texts/Etc. Let them know you are thinking about them. Special times, anniversaries, birthdays & doing things their loved one enjoyed are all markers that could use some special attention. An act of love and support is a reminder that someone cares, while nurturing a need to move forward and be a support for others who are struggling.
- 7. And last, but certainly not least, Prayer. Bring a specific name and struggle before the Almighty. He is the one with the answers! All the other powers in this world combined pale in comparison to hitting our knees in prayer.



The following story shares a powerful lesson:

The only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stung with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering.

Remember next time your little hut is burning to the ground- - it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

Author Unknown

I hope this series has been beneficial to you, whether you are trying to help someone, or having your own personal struggles with grief. This has been near to my own heart as I have recently lost a couple of members from my immediate family. Please pray with us and for us as we work with children who have had serious struggles so early in life. And again: Thank you for supporting our work!

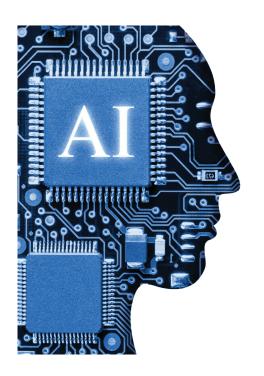
Brad Fox Director of Children's Services

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

To request a free subscription, or to be added or removed from our Digital Newsletter, please email fhchinfo@gmail.com



AI AND THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY



"Christian Family"

In a humble home where love resides, Faithful hearts, where joy abides, Hand in hand, through thick and thin, A bond so strong, we always win.

In laughter shared and prayers each night, Guided by love, we find the light, Together we stand, in hope we thrive, In a Christian family, our spirits alive.

Artificial Intelligence is changing the world around us from manufacturing to product creation and it can even impact how we interact with each other. The poem above was created by an AI program and the only input was "Christian Family". The technological advances from the last several years have improved many aspects of our lives, but we should not see them as able to solve our ultimate problems.

AI can answer many Bible questions, but it should never replace consistent Bible study. Trusting an automated system that spits out answers it seeks from its database or from others' responses on the internet is spiritually negligent. Artificial intelligence is not a substitute for spending time in God's word.

AI cannot solve all your problems. Chatting with AI is not a replacement for actual human interactions or relationships. Building relationships with one another, while difficult at times, is essential to a healthy mentality. We need to learn to work together, disagree with each other, and help one another.

AI cannot build a strong Christian family home. It is up to each of us to work toward the ultimate goal of getting to Heaven and helping others get there as well. The world around us is pushing against the idea of a traditional home as described in the scriptures. Paul said that we must, of necessity, live in this world, but not be of this world (1 Cor. 5:10). Many problems today would have been solved by strong Christian family examples.

As children of God, we should use tools that help us but always be aware that they are merely tools. There are no shortcuts to salvation, a Christian family, or human interactions. AI can be a great tool, but it must be tempered with wisdom and we can never expect it to have the same answers as the magnificent intelligence of our Father in Heaven. Let us have the wisdom to look to His word and the example of His Son to lead our lives. Please pray for us here at Fair Haven as we strive to set an example for these young people of what a Christian family and a Christian home should look like.

Brian York

HOUSE PARENTS NEEDED

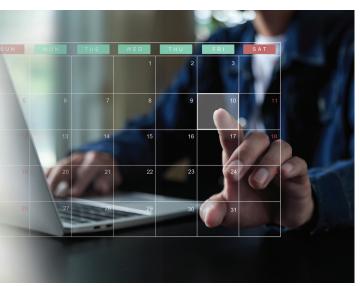


As of last Fall, Fair Haven was fully staffed with a full campus of children. However, as life seems to make changes in different folks' situations, we currently find ourselves in need of 1 new set of houseparents. This work comes with a competitive salary, fully paid health insurance premiums, a 6-bedroom home, a 12-passenger van, and we are able to hire husband and wife teams. The husband is also welcome to work off-campus if that situation is better for you.

Being a houseparent can be a difficult work, but it can be just as rewarding. Many of these children just need someone to care for them, make them meals, shuttle them to and from school, pray with them, and occasionally, be a shoulder to cry on. If you think you could do this job, then you're probably right. Some of the most unlikely couples, make the greatest houseparents.

If you think maybe you'd like a job change this year, give us a call; you might be just what we're looking for AND you might be just what these kiddos need.

2025 VISIT SCHEDULING



Reviewing my 2025 calendar, I currently have many open slots to fill. I would love the opportunity to visit with your congregation about the work we do here at Fair Haven and give you an update on our new houseparents as well as other changes on campus. Most often I am asked to take the Sunday morning bible class time for an update on the home and then deliver a sermon during worship, however, I am also available at other times as needed (Sunday evening, Wednesday night, etc.). I know many congregations take this time of year to start working on next year's calendar and I would love the opportunity to visit with you. Additionally, if you have a special interest group that would enjoy more information on what we do, I'm available for those as well. Just let me know and I'll work to get you on my schedule.

Brian York Director of Development (417) 862-6675



A neighborhood of homes for children

WOLUNTEERS NEEDED



It seems like we are always needing more help at Thrift Haven and we do! Our thrift store helps generate a lot of help to our bottom line financially and it is our volunteers who make it happen. Our wonderful helpers work to sort, price, and stock our donations and we are thankful for every moment they contribute. We have folks who volunteer several hours each week and others who only have a couple of hours each month to help. Regardless of how much time you have available, it all adds up to help keep the donations sorted, priced, and to the sales floor.

For more information contact Dan Pfaff

Thrift Haven 1312 S Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO 65804 (417) 882-3392

■ Sugar

WAYS TO DONATE

Cash or Check

• Mail to Fair Haven Children's Home | 3132 N. Fair Haven Loop | Strafford, MO 65757

Time

- Donate your time by becoming a Volunteer at Thrift Haven
- Volunteers are needed for all days, but especially Saturday.
- Call 417-882-3392 and ask for Dan

Credit Card / Paypal Donations through our website

· https://www.fairhavenchildrenshome.com/donate

Change for Children

- Contact us at 417-862-6675 to have cans sent to you, then drop in your extra change.
- Return cans to Fair Haven or put them with your Grocery Run donations at your local congregation to have them picked up.

CLUTIII	J AIVU UI						
 Bath Towels Brushes Combs Feminine hygiene products 	☐ Hair Acces ☐ Nail clipp ☐ Qtips ☐ Washclotl	ers	Boys and Girls clothes sized Pajamas T-shirts	e 5T and up: Sweat Pants Sweat Shirts			
GROCERY LIST Thank you to all who have helped by donating groceries and money, and have participated in the Grocery pickups. We can't stress enough how important your donations are to keep our pantry fully supplied. See below for a list of current needs:							
DRY GOODS / COOKING	CANNED GOODS	, , , , , ,	CONDIMENTS	MISCELLANEOUS			
 □ Baking Soda □ Brownie Mix □ Cake icing □ Cake Mix □ Canola Oil □ Instant Oatmeal 	☐ Cherry Pie Filling ☐ Cream of Chicken Soup ☐ Pumpkin ☐ Soups (Creamed/Regular) ☐ Spam ☐ Tomato Sauce	FRUITS/VEGGIES (CANNED) □ Black eyed Peas □ Carrots □ Pineapple □ Ro Tel Tomatoes PERSONAL ITEMS	 □ BBQ Sauce □ Honey □ Mild enchilada sauce □ Miracle Whip □ Mustard □ Pancake Syrup 	☐ Aluminum Foil ☐ Cleaning Supplies ☐ Cupcake liners ☐ Dish Washing Liquid ☐ Fabric Softener ☐ Paper Cups			
☐ Olive Oil ☐ Olive Oil ☐ Snacks	JUICE/BEVERAGES ☐ Tea Bags	☐ Body Wash ☐ Hand Soap ☐ Shampoo (kids/adults)	□ Taco Sauce, Salsa □ Vinegar	☐ Paper Plates ☐ Trash Bags (13 & 30 gal) ☐ Zip Lock Bags			

Sometimes items are listed by brand name so our donors will understand exactly what we need. However, store and generic brands are always welcomed with great appreciation.



□ Juice



IAL & HONOR GIVING

OTHING AND OTHED MEED

You can also make Memorial/Honor Gifts Online at: www.fairhavenchildrenshome.org

Honor the life and/or memory of a loved one by giving to Fair Haven Children's Homes in the form of a Memorial gift or Honor gift. Gifts will be used in specific areas of service at Fair Haven Children's Home (ie. school supplies, needs for the houses, etc.) upon request.

((,
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION!	Your Information:
☐ In Memory Of: ☐ In Honor Of: Send Acknowledgement To:	Name
Send Acknowledgement 10.	Address
Name	City/State/ZIP
Address	Daytime Phone (in case we have questions about the gift)
City/State/ZIP	Congregation (if applicable)
	E Mail Address

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GR & Mary Wheeldon
David & Jeanie Shipley
Larry & Sandra Pendergrass
Donna Dobbs

ETHEL SANDBERT Exeter Church of Christ

ETHEL SANDBERG
VALERIE DAVIS HAYDEN
NICHOLAS DAVIS
JOEGER HAYDEN
BOBBY ABLE
Nadean L Davis

CHARLES SANDERS Hazel Sanders

MIKE SANDERS Sparta Church of Christ Deborah Loveland Brian Loveland Vicky Waterbury Susan Click David Loveland

ROY & MILLIE SCHREINER CAROL A SCREINER Gary Schreiner

ARCHIE SCOTT III (TREY) Kathleen Pustejovsky

TREY SCOTT MELBA FOGLE Donald Amyx

WANDA SELL CHRIS WAGNER Dennie Schmitt

BILL SHELTON Mary Shelton

GARY SHRUM Leonard McGee

GARY SHRUM CORINNE ELKINS Sunset Church of Christ

PHYLLIS SIMPSON Margaret Simpson Steve & Alice Samuel

BUCK SINOR KEMP OKLA Dennis Reinig ALLIEEN SMITH Chester & Jeanette Bell

DENNIS & CAROLYN SMITH WALTER & BILLIE BUCHANAN BILL SHELTON John Kallenbach family

DICK SMITH CAROL WILSON Water Mill Church of Christ

DICK SMITH Jewell Fay Ely

GAVAUGHNA SMITH Francis McGinnis

ROBERT J SMITH Nancy Smith

TAMMY SMALLWOOD Exeter Church of Christ

BOB STAFFORD loan Stafford Doug & Janette Coberley Bobby & Denis Stafford

LEHMAN STEPHENS Bonnie Stephens

DORTHETA STRACKE Wendell & Sandra Willis Steve & Alice Samuel

JAMES UHLMANN Larry & Sandra Pendergrass Ball Church of Christ

ART VOYLES LAWRENCE & AMY VOYLES MARVIN & WANDA HERBERT Irene Voyles

KIRK WALKER
Troy & Jana Bowline

LEWIS & ROSE WALSH Jerry Walsh

JOHN WATSON Linda Watson

MERL WILHELM VIRGINIA WILHELM KAREN RICHMOND Ethel Wilhelm

OLIS WILES Sharon Wiles

JOYCE WILLIAMS NH Williams

CAROL WILSON Leo & Sharon Martin South Highway Five Church of Christ

WINIFRED WILSON Clark Francisco

FRED & JESSIE WILSON John Wilson

BOB WINDES Norma Windes Kristy Brinkman Rob, Rhonda, Heather Windes

JIM WISEMAN Warner & Nancy Barber

Special Occasions

JERRY BRODSKY
ED CHILDRES
CHARLES PARDON
JERRY PEMBERTON
PAT SCHENK
JOHN WHITE
CHARLES WILLIAMS
In honor of them
Larry & Darleen Kopfer

NADEAN L DAVIS In honor of her birthday Lana Couch

MARILYN DEAN JACK BURNUM DORTHETA STRACKE WYMAN MILLER JOHN LEE In lieu of flowers whi

In lieu of flowers while in the hospital Sunset Church of Christ

FOREST & FREDA GALLOWAY In honor of them David & Betty Galloway

PAT HARRIS In honor of her birthday Peggy Schnelle

STEVEN LEE KELLEY In honor of him Kristen Kelley

GREG & NANCY JOHNSON In honor of their Christmas open house benefiting Fair Haven Lynn & Gloria Luallin

MICHAEL MCCOY SR. In honor of his birthday Mike's family, wife, kids, grands, sister in law

SKYLER MURPHY SYDNEY SHANNON SCOTT MURPHY SAWYER MURPHY In honor of them Spencer Murphy

BETTY NUNNERY In honor of her Bob & Frankie Brady

JULIE TAYLOR CLAUDE & MARY TODD In honor of them Phil & Cathy Taylor

Fair Haven



Children's Home

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