

# Meet a Fairhaven Member

Chris Zell, Michigan City

## 1. *How long have you been attending FBC?*

I was first introduced to Fairhaven around 1984. Someone came to my trailer and asked me if I wanted to go to church. Not having anything better to do, I went. I rode the Fairhaven bus fairly regularly until I turned 13 when I decided to go my own way and stopped attending. I made a few professions as a bus kid, but always for the wrong reasons.

## 2. *Please share a little about your salvation experience.*

At seventeen, I realized I wasn't going anywhere in life, so I decided to join the Navy. It was while I was in the Navy, stationed in Illinois, that a roommate invited me to go to church with him. Knowing that I should go, I went whenever it felt good. Later, in San Diego, I ran into a man on base inviting people out to his church. I decided to go and there heard things I had never heard before. Unfortunately, it was a cult. I began asking questions, but after talking for a while they looked at me and said, "Your life is displeasing to the Lord." Knowing they were right, I began attending there. I decided to study the Bible for myself though. After two months I was kicked out of that church, and I left feeling pretty confused, but seeking God. I went back to base and ran into my old friend from Illinois, who invited me over to his friend's house. I went, talked about the Bible for a few hours, and they invited me out to their church. I went that Sunday and was saved that night.

While visiting in Okinawa I saw a Fairhaven CD. I remembered riding the bus as a boy, and now as a true Christian, I began praying about where I should go to college once I got out of the Navy. I began praying about two different locations; the place I was saved at in California, or Fairhaven. I didn't really want to come here because I thought the academics would be too difficult for me. However, after praying, God told me to come here and wait for more instruction. After a few months of doing some research, I decided to stay. Through the difficulties I learned that I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

## 3. *Please share a verse and/or answer to prayer that God has given you.*

Not long ago I was discouraged and tired of seeking God. I had been praying for direction for a long time, and no answer seemed to be in sight. I started giving up. I even contemplated about looking at different churches. It wasn't that I had a problem with Fairhaven, I was simply discouraged. "Had God's ear grown deaf to my prayers?" Thankfully, God kept me here, and in August one of my prayers was finally answered. God brought Sarah into my life, and we stepped out in faith and started dating. On June 13, we will be married! "Thank you, Lord, for answered prayer."

## 4. *What do you like best about our church?*

Some of the things I love about Fairhaven are as follows: I love that our staff continually preaches and teaches about how to have a good marriage. Not only do they teach on it, they are excellent, godly examples. I also love how our pastor has a strong desire to teach the next generation to have a good relationship with God. Third, I love the outreach programs we have the opportunity to be a part of. Currently, I am grateful to work on the same bus route that I used to be a part of as a kid. It's a blessing to visit kids in the same neighborhood where I grew up. I only hope and pray that one will be turned to Christ as I was.

