

# EUZOA TIMES

Sunday - April 12, 2009

Easter Edition

Steamboat Springs, CO

www.euzoa.com

## Sr. Pastor Update

***"As the deer pants for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God."***

*Psalm 42:1-2 NLT*

As we approach this Easter our theme will be "Thirst", a great metaphor that Jesus often used to help people see the meaning of His coming. He quotes Isaiah the prophet about thirsting for God, offers His life as that which will quench the thirsty soul, and that His Gospel is one that is available to all who will "come and drink". Thirst is not something that can be forced upon another but something that must come from within. In fact, it is the natural response to life, for water is essential to all forms of life. With that as a backdrop, I pray you will reach out to all your thirsty friends and invite them to come with you to our services, where they can find their thirst quenched by the giver of life.

Have you ever been around people who make you thirsty for God? As Joan and I prepare to leave you in a few weeks, we trust that our presence has increased your thirst for truth, significance, and ultimately God himself. It has been a joy to work with you and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. The days ahead will be exciting, daunting, and filled with opportunities to trust and serve God. Our prayer is that you will continue to hunger and thirst for righteousness and that the Lord will continue to use you to help others know Christ and grow in Christ.

It has been said that you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. That is only partially true, in that you can feed him salt. Jesus said we are the salt of the earth, which means we should be making people thirsty for God by the way we live and the words that we communicate. May we never lose our "saltiness" so that others can be made thirsty for God. As the Lord sends people to this valley our prayer is that Euzoa will continue to point the way to the "good life" and that you will remain the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We have enjoyed our time with you and ask for your prayers that we would be led of God to make maximum impact for His kingdom.

Yours for Him.

*Pastor Jack*

## Euzoa Preschool

Euzoa Preschool has had a successful first year of operations. Our part-day Christian preschool for children ages 3-5 yrs. holds classes at church Mon-Fri from 8:30AM-1PM. The school focuses on intellectual, social, physical, and spiritual growth through hands-on, age-appropriate learning and activities. We are licensed for 15 kids, and spaces are available now and for next year. Registration for the next school year has already started. Information is available on our website or by contacting Christi Callahan -Director, at 512-663-3537.

**Vision:** To see the Steamboat Community and beyond become fully devoted to Jesus Christ.

**Mission:** To invite people to know Christ and lead them to grow in Christ.

**Core Values:** Worship, Community, Growth, Mission

## Elder Update

One of the commitments the new elder board has made to the church, is a commitment to openness, transparency, and teamwork. As we head into the second quarter, 2009, there are going to be a number of changes to staff and budget, and we want you to know about those changes.

Jack & Joan will be transitioning to a new area of ministry, and we pray God's richest blessing on them as they leave. We thank Jack for his faithful, consistent sharing from God's Word, and challenging us not to only know the truth but to live in it. We thank Joan for her faithfulness and behind the scenes commitment to help wherever she has been needed. Jack will be speaking through the month of April and will share his last 2 messages, April 19 AM service, the only service that Sunday, and April 26 PM service, the only service that Sunday.

We have invited Chris McCombs to be paid for his staff position as of April 1. He has faithfully and graciously led our PM service since January, and now will do that on a part-time salary basis. In order to make that happen financially, Jack and Charlie will have a reduction in their salaries as of April 1. Our giving has been down and the elders feel strongly about operating in the current reduced budget.

Over the next 2 months, Chris' job description and title will be clarified: He is not taking over Jack's position as Senior Pastor. The elder board will be filling the typical function of a senior pastor for the present time, and we want to Chris to be utilized in his areas of giftedness and strengths. We will be seeking God's mind about future leadership, but not rushing to fill a perceived vacuum.

In spite of the attendance shift to the evening service, Sunday AM will continue to meet as usual. Our desire as elders is to define Sunday AM's uniqueness and make it more effective in the overall health of our church. In May Rob will bring a 4 part series on "God's Will". David Moon, Scott MacGray and others will round out AM teaching for the summer.

As we move through the next few months, our desire is to trim down to live within our budget, clarify staff needs, consistently share truth from God's Word, and see where we can practically and effectively bring the love of Christ to our community. Would you pray with us, talk to us, and work along side us as we move on journey together, for God's glory, for our good, and for the blessing of those we rub shoulders with?

In Christ,

*Rob Ryg, Scott MacGray, & David Moon*

## Serving Opportunities

The challenging financial times apparent in our community are also impacting Euzoa. Our giving has been down, and the new Elder Council is making changes that will allow us to get back on solid ground. One of the changes is that my hours and salary had to be cut back. This will create a situation where there is a more obvious opportunity to help out in some way. As we transition through the next few months, I would ask that you be praying about where you could be involved. Note that it is especially rewarding to serve within the area of your spiritual gifting. If you are not aware of what that is, we can help you figure it out with a few different studies and inventories. It has been a pleasure to serve this church.

*Charlie Parnell*

## News from QUEST - Euzoa's Children's Ministry

It has been a very exciting 3 months for us in the 'Quest' Ministry! Since January, the K-2 & 3-5th grade classes have been learning about the fruit of the spirit. We are using curriculum from Gospel Light called God's Kids Grow. This curriculum has allowed us to expand our learning to not just reading, but singing and using creative ways (LOTS OF PLAY DOUGH) to illustrate each fruit of the spirit each week. God has been so gracious to us in providing TERRIFIC teachers. Our morning crew consists of Tracey Fortson, Wendy Wade, Deanna & Travis Mathey, Allen & Debbie Ballard, Brett & Judi Higgins and Josh & Kel Elwood. In our nursery we have Barb and Nick Parnell. Our evening crew is not as big, but are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to

expand in this growing ministry. Lynn Ryg and Joan Elwood are our regular teachers and we have had the privilege of having Katy McCombs, Laura Soard, Katie Anderson and joining our crew once a month, Lauri Bradt. In the nursery we have Allison and her son Alex in the evenings. We are grateful for all the volunteers and of course "little helpers" (middle school/ high school girls) that serve the church week after week. It is truly an honor to teach the kids of Euzoa the Word of God. The kids are in such a pivotal time in their lives to trust in the Lord and want to share it with their friends. Praise God for the many opportunities we have at 'Quest' to help mold them in making that decision.

*Kel Elwood*

### Youth News

This is our tribute to the snow! Before we say farewell, we wanted to thank you for all the snowball fights at the end of the middle school meeting which often migrated into the youth loft and soaked the carpet. Thank you for the white out drive to the X Games when the kids learned about trust and faith... trusting our driving skills and having faith that we would actually get them home alive. Thanks for all that white fluffy stuff so that Shawn White could impress us with his mad skills. But we have to admit we are glad to see spring!

We wanted to give a shout out the Christian Center, they threw a ROCKIN concert! Ask Melody Houston, our crowd surfing queen. We are looking forward to the Superchick Concert in May.

Spring is almost here! We are looking forward to warmer weather and lots of activities outside. Capture the Flag anyone?

Thanks for keeping us in your prayers! Mari and I wanted to thank everyone for providing meals for the Middle School, we really appreciate your involvement and support! Food Rocks!

As you all may know we are expecting a baby on June 4th, and look forward to God's blessings in this new and exciting time. Keep us in your prayers as we become new parents.

*Preston Housel*

[www.euzoa.com](http://www.euzoa.com)

Because we are an increasingly wired society, we want to serve up what Euzoa is all about on our website. We currently post our sermons in Mp3, and have made other enhancements. But so much more is possible. What do you want to see? If you have some ideas, there is opportunity to contribute. If interested, please check with Charlie Parnell in the office. Thanks!

### Euzoa Worship Leader Reflections

I want to thank you the team who faithfully serves every Thursday and Sunday, I am so blessed by your friendship, your worship not only with music but with your lives. You have transformed me. You are my family, my accountability and I could not love you all more. Thanks to the 6 new people who have just joined the team: Kevin Lotz, Tim Krieger, Dave Maloney, Debbi Ballard, Nicolai & Andrae Buccino.

Africa, was once again a total blessing. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought God wanted to use me in this way. I will be forever changed, and I'm watching that change unfold even as I write. I've had several people come to me and ask "are you all going back to Africa next year?", and I've been wrestling with that question for awhile now. Last year if you asked me or any of us this question the answer would have been, absolutely. Now I feel God is opening my eyes even wider, I'm trusting a little more and waiting to see what crazy "God thing" he has for me. Let me make it clear, I will go back to Africa again, I love that place and I want to always be apart of what "Come Let's Dance"

is doing over there. It just might look a little different this time.

For the last year or so we have been enduring a hard journey of transition, and change, and brokenness of our own. God has been opening my eyes to what is right in front of me, we have so many lost and hurting people that need to be loved right here in Steamboat. And for the first time I see a little bit of Africa right here. Sure the scenery may not look the same as Africa, but the people do. Lost....

I have lot's to be thankful for, and there are many blessings all around me that I've taken for granted, but there is more that I feel God is trying to show me. Recently I've found He'll take me clear across the globe, stand me in front of 53,000 people to say "now do you see?" The coolest part about this whole thing is that He cares that much! We serve a big God, who wants to do big things. I know it, I've seen it, and I want to be apart of it. Now I just need to pray big, trust big, and be big, walking it everyday. I know this won't be easy, and that I will fall, but I will continue to look to Him every step of the way. *Jody*

### The New Face in our Midst

As I write this article I'm looking out at beautiful and snowy mountains. The cold and snow can be bitter and depressing when you don't have mountains on which to enjoy these conditions. It reminds me that for three years I lived away from this great place and I missed it terribly. My time in Chicago was educational and formative, but I never quit loving Steamboat - we are blessed to live in such a place!

So, writing this as Euzoa's newest staff member makes this homecoming sweet and satisfying. I find myself in awe of our great God and thankful for His giving of good gifts (Jas 1:17) and promise of "working all things together for good for those who love him ..." (Rom 8:28). I'm ever learning that God is good and His love for us is deep. Katy, Kaiya, Keely and I are psyched to be here!

In January I agreed to help lead the PM service in a volunteer role, and this role has now become permanent. With the input, prayers and faithful service of many, we have seen an increase in momentum and enthusiasm. I want to thank all that have contributed in this effort. It has been fun, scary, challenging, and overall very encouraging to see the energy level increase, people return, and many serving each other and our community. But, I humbly believe, there is no way that we are even close to all that God wants to do in and through Euzoa.

What is God stirring in and among us? What is He stirring in you? Please let me know so that together we can, as my daughter says, "make this town more like heaven".

*Chris McCombs*