

EUZOA TIMES

Sunday, March 23, 2008

Easter Sunday Edition

Steamboat Springs, CO

www.euzoa.com

Staff – Elder Retreat a Success

On Monday, March 10 the Euzoa Staff and Elders met for an all day retreat at the Humble Ranch just south of Steamboat. The day began in prayer, and Jack Elwood led a discussion on Euzoa's Vision and Mission. Next Charlie Parnell presented a 20 minute overview on how to effectively use strategy and tactics with the Mission to increase success when implementing ministry changes. This was followed by a discussion on church governance, with emphasis on clarifying what Staff Lead-Elder Oversight means.

The majority of the agenda was spent discussing the purpose for Sunday worship, including what seeker sensitivity entails. Jack lead the team in critically evaluating Euzoa's current Sunday worship platform, and the group then utilized strategy and tactics to ponder what would best achieve our vision. The team was unanimous in concluding that a Sunday morning worship service was necessary. It will begin on the first Sunday in May, and input on whether the service should be at 9, 10, or 11 will be sought from the body.

Time was spent discussing the two evening worship services, and the decision was made to go to just one evening service beginning March 30th. Whereas we previously have held services at 4 & 5:30 PM in the winter, and 5 & 6:30 PM in the summer, it was decided to hold this service at 5 PM. Hopefully the time can stay constant throughout the year.

Kick-Off Breakfast for Next Phase of Men's Fraternity

The first semester of Men's Fraternity was held on Wednesday nights in January and February. 28 men started the journey together, and at least half of them made the study every week. They did the Wild at Heart video series and book from John Eldredge.

There will be a Kick-off breakfast for the next Semester on Saturday, March 29 at the Lodge from 7 - 8:30 AM. All men are invited to attend. This 7 week session will meet from 6:30-7:30 AM on Tuesday mornings beginning April 8th at The Egg & I. There is space for 30 guys to participate. This study will go through May 20th, and the curriculum is "No More Christian Nice Guy" by Paul Coughlin. Books will be for sale at the breakfast on the 29th for \$11.

Steamboat's Own Mom's In Touch Group

ATTENTION Moms! Here is an opportunity for you to become part of a ministry called Moms In Touch International. It is a group of mothers who meet for one hour each week to pray for their children and the schools they attend. We know our children face much pressure at school and to "stand in the gap" through prayer is the best gift we can give to them. If you are interested in being part of this praying support group, it meets from 2:15 – 3 PM on Wednesday afternoons at the Lutheran Church. For information, contact Barb Parnell at 879-8761 or check www.momsintouch.org.

The Kings Business

With all the preparation for Easter celebrations, I am reminded again of the core truths of the Gospel. We follow a sovereign king who willingly took our sin upon himself that we might be set free by his death and resurrection. How do you capture in words this amazing hope that is offered to us in Jesus? How do you keep this epic reality from becoming just a story that is long ago and far away? I guess it comes down to the simple spiritual response of repentance and faith. We turn (again) from our proneness to wander and believe again that the message is true and does have the power to save us from the flesh, the world, and the devil.

Our Easter services will highlight the gospel of true hope. Biblical hope is rooted in Scriptural reality and not fairy tale wishing. As the hymn writer suggested "Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." This Easter we proclaim in song, testimony, and proclamation of the Word, the real hope that Jesus offers. Let's pray that God uses us to expand His kingdom as we together share the hope that we have found in the risen King. As we live among the harried, hurting, and hopeless of our world, let's be found faithful to live in the hope of the one of whom it was said "He is not here, He is risen!" Death and Hell have been defeated, and Jesus holds the keys to the prison doors. I say we go with him and help set people free! Now that's a hope worth living for.

Pastor Jack

Euzoa Happenings

Saturday, March 29 7:00-8:30 AM

Men's Fraternity Breakfast in the the Lodge

Sunday, March 30

One Worship Service at 5:00 PM

Saturday, April 5 6:00 PM

CHS Benefit Auction @ The Steamboat Grand

Sunday, April 6 6:30 PM

Pastor's Soup Supper - for all Newcomers to get acquainted

Tuesday, April 8 6:30-7:30 AM

Men's Fraternity @ The Egg & I

Monday, April 21

Book Club @ Joan Elwood's Home

Sunday, May 4 Morning Worship service

Time to be announced in mid-April

Saturday, May 10 8 - 10 AM

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Experience the "good life".

Euzoa Youth News

by Aaron Werner

Over the past few months I have had the continual privilege of building relationships with high school and middle school students from all around our area. It is always interesting to me when I meet a new teenager, wondering what they are all about. I know many kids from church and I have a pretty good idea of where they are coming from. Others I may meet at a basketball game or at a coffee shop in town. I become excited then to just get to know them. Eventually I get to invite them to Revolution or Wyldlife, allowing them to hear of Christ's love, maybe for the first time. It's also been so awesome to see the youth that have already made that commitment to Jesus, to be growing and living out their faith. Sometimes I sit back and I'm amazed by some of the ways these kids share their beliefs when in my mind I am worried that they aren't even engaged or

know what I'm trying to teach. I'm humbled in those times especially.

With growing relationships and young hearts open to change, I am really excited about where God has our Euzoa youth program headed. These next few months we are going to explore life together. By together I mean with each other and with God. We have two Euzoa sponsored youth trips planned for this summer. One is our trip to Tijuana, Mexico to build a house for the homeless through an organization called Amore. We decided to move this high school trip from Blues Break to this summer due to some logistical conflicts. We now plan on heading to Mexico on July 11th and returning on the 19th. This excursion will still be a joint mission with Young Life and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. I can only imagine how this service project will draw us closer to Him.

The other summer outing is our Wyldlife camp in August. From August 10th to the 14th we will head back to where we spent a great weekend this winter, the amazing Frontier Ranch.

For five days we will spend time with hundreds of other junior high kids in a majestic mountain setting to have loads of fun, get to know new people, and most importantly, get to know our Savior in a deeper, more real way. Thank you all for your support of our youth program at Euzoa. More importantly, though, thank you for understanding the importance of youth in our town. They have a much bigger influence than people give them credit for. They are our future leaders and change makers. Hopefully, through God's grace, they will reach the lost ones we were unable to touch.

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. (or Saturday) "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Yellow Pages

Euzoa is seeking to update their directory by offering a Yellow Pages Section. If you would like your commercial or home business listed in the directory, please contact the Church office at 879-0123 or fill out a card at the counter.

Spring Baptism

by Charlie Parnell

One of the more exciting times I have experienced within a church has been during a baptism service. There seems to be an extraordinary presence of the Holy Spirit accompanied by smiles, hugs, and Amens. Maybe it has something to do with a bold, public expression of Faith.

We are planning to have a spring Baptism at Euzoa...no need to wait for the ice to melt off the pond. If you are interested in being baptized, please make an appointment with Pastor Jack by calling the church at 879-0123.

Of Worthy Note

In a faithful community of love and friendship we grow to be more Christlike. We invite you to join one of our many communities of friendship by getting involved in a small group at Euzoa. For more information about the Small Group Ministry, contact Barb Parnell at 879-8761 or bdparnell@hotmail.com

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

News from The N.E.T. - Preparing the Way by Ellyn Myller

Discipleship & Outreach – for Kids/to Kids! It's happening through The N.E.T.!

This summer in Sunday school we will be learning about the POWER we have from God to be thankful, helpful, brave, live forever, and tell others about Him. If you would like a short-term service experience, join us this summer in The NET – it's an opportunity you won't regret taking. We've been encouraged to "think globally" and ACT LOCALLY...you can get involved this summer in outreach to kids in our community in two ways – Vacation Bible School is back and so is SportREACH.

VBS - June 23, 24, 25

9a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Preschool – 3rd Grade

We are teaming up with Steamboat Christian Center and Anchorway Baptist to bring VBS to Steamboat. It will be held at the SCC Campus. The needs we have are for small group leaders, help with crafts, games, and snacks. *Adult and Youth Helpers needed.*

SportREACH – Family Fun Nights July 14 & 15 5:00pm – 8:00p.m.

Dinner included for families with kids going in to 1st thru 3rd grade.

Come out as a family, bring your family friends for two nights of sports for the family. Child-care provided for younger kids.

Cost: \$40.00 per child – Parents come for FREE!

Cost covers t-shirt & sports bottle for your child, dinner and fun for the whole family.

SportREACH – Sports camp for kids going into 4th thru 6th grades. July 16, 17, 18 9a.m. to 3p.m. @ the Euzoa Campus Cost: \$65.00

Bring One-Reach One ...

"till all the nets are full!"

Training in the following: Football, Volleyball, Basketball and Soccer. This is an outreach! We are teaming up with Steamboat Christian Center and Anchorway Baptist to bring SportREACH to Steamboat kids. We have 32 spots, 16 openings for kids from our church to bring one friend each that they want to reach for Jesus! Start praying with your child for the child/family you will reach out to this summer through this sports camp for kids. We need 4 Adults and Youth helpers, Snack Providers/servers, Prayer Partners and Scholarships. If you want to get involved - talk to me... Ellyn Myller 871-1860.

Speaking the Truth "In Love" by Barb Parnell

Ephesians 4:15-16 *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work.*

"Passively accepting people where they are until they get around to godly living is not a biblical strategy for encouragement" (Crabb & Allender). Typically we tend to encourage by reassuring, comforting, and supporting. However, to encourage means to fill with courage, to stir up, provoke and urge to action. So we must also encourage by rebuking, correcting, and confronting.

Why do we avoid the confronting one another type of encouragement? For me, it was because I have learned to avoid it, perceive it as a negative, and didn't really know how to do it. To Confront means to "turn your face

toward", to speak the truth in love.

Those who will speak the truth (confront) in love to me, care enough to face toward me and speak truth into my life. Why would I want that? Because I want to grow spiritually, to become more like Christ, and if there is something in my life that is standing in the way of that, I want to know. Speaking the truth in love Builds us Up. The small group leaders have been focusing on how to biblically encourage one another and the Small Group Leaders Celebration in March focused on how to speak the truth in love.

Who do you have in your life that is helping you spiritually grow by speaking the truth in love to you? Who is someone in your life that needs to hear some truth spoken in love?

If you are looking for an environment where you can be encouraged to grow, I invite you to contact me at 879-8761.

"Christ is Risen!"

Easter is all about the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. New life! We are forgiven because of Jesus' sacrifice and we are assured of eternal life together with Him because He is our risen Lord.

As a group, reflect on what you've been given through God's forgiveness and discuss the importance of forgiving others. Invite each person to discuss and decide to extend forgiveness to somebody who has in some way hurt them in the past.

An alternative for those who are not in the place to take part in this exercise is to have a group conversation about how we can show God's forgiveness to the world this Easter season.

Two final questions to ponder:

1. What in your life needs to be put to death? (Col. 3:5)
2. What needs to be resurrected in your life? (Rom. 6:12-14)

Help Wanted

Volunteers for the Sunday Morning Service: If you have a desire to serve the church in the area of your gifting, please contact Charlie Parnell or the Church office. Many positions need to be filled.

Help Cleaning the Church: If you would be interested in volunteering to clean the church full or part time, please talk to Charlie Parnell.

Euzoa Missions Team: The Euzoa Missions Team is excited about the direction in which God is leading them. If you have an interest in reaching the lost and would like to be a part of this team, talk to Jack or Charlie.

Housing Opportunity: 3 Bedroom/3 Bathroom townhouse for rent in town. 2 car garage, 1800 square feet. Available for six months. 870-8631, 846-1528.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Euzoa Family:

With the celebration of Easter upon us we are reminded of the power of the resurrection to make all things new. God is doing some new things among us and we are excited about what He is going to do thru us. He is our hope and anchor in this life and in the life to come and we can anticipate Him providing us opportunities to grow deeper, follow closer, and trust better.

As you have heard, starting next week March 30, we will transition to one evening service at 5pm and beginning May 4, we will add a Sunday morning worship time as well. Be thinking about which service you would plan to attend and where you would like to serve with regards to the ministry needs that will correspond to this change. The Elders and Staff believe that this will help us reach more people and enable us to better fulfill our mission and vision. Our prayer and hope is that our internal spiritual health will translate into increased external growth and that this will be the first of many things that we do to try and better reach our community.

Our Missions Team, with the approval of the Elders, has made plans to begin to bring greater focus and clarity to our use of people, finances, and organizations in accomplishing our outreach both

here and afar. By January 2009, we want to have in place a plan and team that will help implement our adoption of an "unreached" people group. I spoke about this in my recent Perspectives sermon series. Our goal is to see a growing, reproducing church established among them by 2019. Pray with us, consider joining this team, help with research and planning, etc. so we can see Euzoa Bible Church become a world class example of how a church can multiply itself to help fulfill God's great global plan. Contact Pastor Jack for more information or questions you might have.

Lastly, our financial shortfall has challenged us to be good stewards of His resources. We are looking for ways to reduce expenses, increase income, maximize utilization of staff and volunteers, etc. We want to think "out of the box" in how we use our property, people, and resources to impact our community. We are not sure what all that will mean but we want you to know that while the mission and message always stays the same, that the methods will always be changing to help us be more faithful and effective in their delivery. Isn't it good to know that the resurrection means that Jesus is always with us, the one whom Scriptures says, never changes? Yet, he himself is committed to our change (transformation into His likeness) It is because of this promise that you and I can look to the future with confidence and hope. Have a blessed Easter!

Pastor Jack

Women's Interest

Bookclub, Monday night April 21, 7:30 PM at the home of Joan Elwood.

For the first Bookclub we will be reading a book called "When I Lay my Isaac Down" by Carol Kent. Books will be available to purchase Sunday, March 29th for \$13.00 each. This is a fascinating, true story of how Carol Kent, a well known Christian leader, dealt with the shock that her only son murdered another man. This book is full of helpful insights on how to deal with life when things don't work out as planned. Come with ideas of books you would like to read in the future.

Save the Date: Saturday morning May 10th, a Women's Breakfast for ladies of all ages. We'll have a light breakfast and then have a series of short workshops on a variety of topics like cooking, knitting, kayaking etc. Topics to be announced, if you have an idea for a topic or would like to lead a workshop, contact Joan Elwood.

Coming this Summer: Kayaking and candlelight dinner for all adults!

Euzoa Pre-School Tentative

We are in the planning stages of offering a Christian preschool at Euzoa beginning in September. The Strawberry Park Group has been notified, and Charlie is navigating the CUP process through the County Planning Department. Prayer is needed. This effort, which should be self-supporting, will serve as an outreach of our church and provide a need for our community. Special thanks to Christi Callahan for her enthusiasm with this project.

Roman 8:29 "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Upcoming Series

Starting April 30th I will be launching a five week series called "**The Road to Financial Freedom.**" This is material developed by Crown Ministries and Andy Stanley from Northpoint Church. You might be tempted to think "Oh great, the pastor is going to be asking for money." Instead, what you are going to discover is that I want your freedom, not your finances. We will learn that one of the key areas we become devoted followers of Jesus is in the use of our resources (time, talents, and treasures). Yet, many of us are upside down in our finances and can't quite figure out how to escape the financial pressures we feel, especially living here in Steamboat. This series will help lay a Biblical foundation on how God wants us to manage His money.

I want each of you to experience the financial freedom Joan and I are enjoying. (note not independent wealth). We have been blessed by family and mentors who taught us how to earn, save, and give to the glory of God and it has been a joy to see our faith grow as we steward God's resources. Jesus talked more about finances than almost any other topic because he knew of its power for good and evil. That's why He said "you cannot serve God and money." (Luke 16:13) The real question that we will seek to answer is "How can I serve God with my money?" Get ready for a challenging but hopefully liberating time as we look into the Scriptures to see God's desire for us to be financially free.

Pastor Jack

Euzoa Team

Elders: Jack Elwood, Chuck Girton, Charlie Parnell, John Sharp. **Teaching Elder:** Jack Elwood.

Staff: Jack Elwood, Charlie Parnell, Pat Girton, Ellyn Myller, Aaron Werner, Barb Parnell, Jody Feeley, Deb Fox, & Barb Bradt.