

EUZOA TIMES

Sunday - December 7, 2008

Winter Edition

Steamboat Springs, CO

www.euzoa.com

“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus!” 1 Thess 5:18

It is with good reason that a time of public thanksgiving to God was established around the fall harvest. It was a time to remember the “good hand of the Lord” that had provided the sun and rain, the warmth and the cold, and the health to harvest the growth of life sustaining crops that kept people alive. This “thankful spirit” of course is meant to be a daily experience for the followers of Jesus Christ and not a mere annual public holiday. Nevertheless, we can affirm that we are never more centered in the will of God than when we are living with an attitude of gratitude. I am learning to better express my thankfulness so I can know that I am seeing life from His perspective. Here are some of the things I am especially grateful for as we come to the end of 2008.

Personal – I am grateful to God for His mercy in not only saving me from the penalty of my sins but also from myself. I am profoundly grateful for the hope of heaven and joy of walking with Him in this life. I am especially grateful for his providence in my life and the confidence it gives me to trust Him when I cannot see or understand His ways.

Family – I am grateful to God for my wife of nearly 30 years, four children and two daughters in law who are walking with God, two healthy grandchildren who provide me with great joy, and 32 years of knowing a great and godly mother in law who is now with her Lord and Savior.

Euzoa – I am grateful to God for the celebration of our first anniversary with you in ministry, the number of men who have joined me for Wild at Heart, Breakfast Bunch, and Men’s Fraternity, and the unity of heart among the elder council. I am also grateful to those who have served above and beyond the call of duty, given to help erase our deficit of last year, and those who have joined our fellowship this past year. I am so grateful to the hard work of the staff, the property team, and those who teach our kids the joy of following Jesus.

Euzoa Bible Church
32305 RCR 38
PO Box 770599
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
970-879-0123 970-879-6187(Fax)
www.euzoa.com

Dollars and Sense

2008 has been a tough financial year for many people, families, and churches. Here at Euzoa we have had to reduce this years budget from \$590,000 to \$442,00 (25%). Many churches like us have had to take belt tightening measures to ensure good stewardship. Even with these measures we find our selves with a projected deficit of about \$40,000, which was less than last year at this time, but still troubling. Last year, many rallied with an end of the year gift that enabled us to not only meet the deficit but also give us a surplus to begin the year. The good news is that God’s ability to provide is never in doubt. We can also be grateful for most of us still having jobs, homes, and money to pay our bills. If all of us where giving tithes and offerings we would have more resources than we would know what to do (currently 10 families provide 50% of our income) and over 50% of our attendees give less than \$500 per year). We can’t make the impact we want here in Steamboat with those ratios but when we all contribute, not with equal gifts but with equal sacrifice, great things can happen. A great thank you to all who have given to make this work at Euzoa what it is.

Social Host Ordinance

Many of you may know of the plans for the passing of the social host ordinance, which is an attempt to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors by providing stiff penalties to adults who allow alcohol to be served in their homes. The consequences to the problem of underage drinking and drug use are crippling our youth and call out for our attention. Only when adults act like adults can minors be protected and provided for. As the church, we are seeking to speak with both grace and love in removing this destructive and debilitating option from the lives of our youth. Let’s all work and pray for the passage of this ordinance that is both wise and prudent.

Pastor Jack

Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

4 PM Christmas Eve (young families)

6 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28

Combined Worship service at **10 AM**

Fall & Winter Youth News

What do you get when you cross a 2 youth leaders, 5 pizzas, 8 high school kids, 15 middle school kids, and 20 cans of soda? **Mayhem!** And we love it!

The past three months have been a blast! The kids are such a blessing to us and we have enjoyed getting to know them on so many levels. This opportunity has been challenging, but has been so positive in it's affirmation of God's desire for Mari and I to do Youth Ministry.

We wanted to thank all the parents for your support, either financially, in prayer, or just making sure that your kids get there every week. We know it's not easy to squeeze another event into the weekly agenda, but we appreciate your hard work and your dedication to your kids spiritual walk. We truly could not do any of this without all of you.

We have recently introduced an apologetics course to both Middle School and the High School. Did you know that the Middle School kids like to talk science and politics? We were stunned, nothing going on in this world gets by them. And the High School kids have responded very well to the Truth Project from Focus on the Family. The videos are very intellectual and have provoked some great discussion.

Please continue to pray with us for Euzoa in these challenging times. We have great hope in God's plan for this Church. Again, thank you all for your support, through prayer and the giving of your resources to Euzoa and the Youth Group, it is greatly appreciated, Mari and I are truly blessed to be a part of this community.

Preston Housel

Elder Council Update

There has been a continuing dialogue with many of our congregation about the direction of the church as well as the need for reconciliation so we can move forward with the best scenario. The Elders have come to understand that choosing additional elders is not as important as the unity of spirit and heart and a rebirth of excitement in our church for the ministry in our community.

Three men had been meeting with the elders, David Wilson, Rodney McGowen and David Moon. Rodney and David Wilson have elected for personal reasons to step down from consideration of an elder position. We will continue to pray for both of these men and their families. David Moon continues to meet with the Elders, and Scott MacGray and Rob Ryg have agreed to rejoin the Elder Council in January. All of us who are meeting together are praying and working through issues regarding reconciliation to each other and to individuals in our congregation. We believe this is a very important process, and find it is taking more time than we thought. God will give us all the grace to move through this as we help heal various relationships in our church.

For some time now a group of men in our church with the facilitation of David Anderson have been meeting to find ways to develop a new excitement so we all can move beyond current levels of engagement and passion to fulfill our mission. The Elders specifi-

cally challenged and encouraged this group, and believe we are going to start a move together under the leadership of the Holy Spirit to revive our hearts. A very refreshing meeting was held on Wednesday Nov. 12 where reconciliation was begun, Elders owned a responsibility for past mistakes and as a whole the group wished to move beyond the dissatisfactions of past errors, gossip and differences, and move to the vision of meeting our community for Christ. This, I believe, is very exciting.

Many of you already know that Chris McCombs has returned from his 3 year stay in Chicago at Willow Creek Church. He has completed seminary training and has a strong desire to reactivate the excitement we experienced with the Euzoa at Night service several years ago. The desire that Chris expresses so strongly is for the 24-44 year old demographic in our community, which our church is not engaging as well as we did 5 years ago. The Elders have encouraged Chris and are in dialog with him to see if he will work with our staff and congregation to develop this focused ministry, primarily through an evening service. Jack Elwood will work closely with Chris as they develop a leadership team together, with oversight from the Elder council. Stay tuned for more info, and if you feel a calling of the Holy Spirit to participate in this movement please let Jack or Chris know.

John Sharp

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

Euzoa Team

Elders: Jack Elwood, Charlie Parnell, John Sharp

Staff: Jack Elwood - Senior Pastor
Charlie Parnell - Administrative Pastor
Preston Housel - Youth Director
Jody Feeley - Worship Leader

News from The N.E.T. - Preparing the Way by Tracey Fortson

What great kids we have in the NET! They are so smart and such a joy to teach. We have all learned a lot over the last few months. It's amazing to me how complex the questions they ask can be!

We have been discussing Joseph, Samson, and Moses the past few months. It has been exciting to learn how God worked through each of these men, and how much we can learn from their experiences. The main lesson that I am reiterating to the kids, is **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US**. Good times or bad times, smart decisions or bad decisions, He is always there. God has a purpose for each of us, and He can use anyone. We just have to trust Him and allow Him to work.

I want to say thank you to all the people that have volunteered for Sunday school. I couldn't do this without you, so please know how grateful I am for each of you. These kids are full of energy, and it helps so much to have an extra set of hands! Charlie or I will be sending out another NET Helpers Signup sheet for January through May. If you could volunteer one Sunday out of these 5 months, it would be a great help. I would also appreciate your prayers for these kids, that they will have a heart that loves God and is open to receiving Him.

"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13 (NIV)

Euzoa Preschool

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14b

Euzoa Preschool successfully opened on September 2, 2008. This is our part-day Christian preschool for children, ages 3-5 years old, held at our church. Classes are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM until 1 PM, and families have the choice of 2-5 days. The school focuses on intellectual, social, physical, and spiritual growth through hands-on, age-appropriate learning and activities.

Information is available by calling the church, or on our website. You may also contact Christi Callahan, the Director, at 512-663-3537 or email her: euozopreschool@live.com.

The first three months have been a huge blessing to all involved, and we have space for 8 more kids. Help us spread the word ... this is one of the best kept secrets in the Boat!

Christi Callahan

Euzoa Book Club

Don't miss the next Book Club on January 19, 2009!

If you haven't made it to Book Club, make it your New Year's resolution. The discussions are always fun and it's a great way to make some new friends.

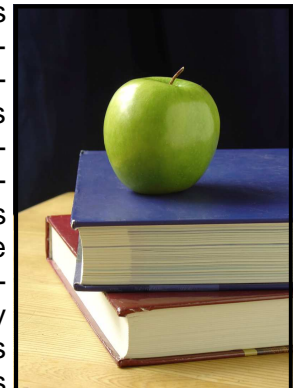
The next book is **Same Kind of Different as Me** by Ron Hall. It promises to be an outstanding book about two men, one white and one black, who meet at a homeless shelter. The friendship that ensues is a powerful, fun and heartfelt story.

Here is what readers had to say:

-This is one of the two most powerful books I have read in my lifetime!

- I finished this book in less than three days. I was taken in by Chapter 2 and laughed, cried, pondered, and repented the whole way through. It is well written and easy to digest yet full of hidden treasures.

- I like that this book challenges those of us who consider ourselves Christian - that we usually aren't as real as we say and certainly rarely have actions that are as revolutionary as Jesus paved the way for.



We will meet Monday, January 19th at 7 PM at the home of Joan Elwood. If you would like to order a book, there will be a sign up on the foyer counter or email Joan at joan_elwood@yahoo.com before December 7th.

Books are \$11.00 prepaid.

Joan

Small Groups

If you want to be connected to a Small Group, we are matching people to existing groups and forming new groups as soon as the Holiday is over. Being in a small group is a unique opportunity to connect with others, whether it is discussing spiritual issues, studying the Bible, or just having fun together. Make a commitment to grow in 2009, join a small group!

Budget Update

The turbulent economic woes in this country have touched each one of us in numerous ways, and I doubt if we have seen the end of it or even the worst of it yet. Our church has felt the pinch in several ways, and having to reduce staff last summer was a challenging time. We expect to end this year with approximately \$450,000 in expenses. Money to cover expenses was from a \$55,000 cash surplus at the start of the year, and a \$50,000 draw against a revolving line of credit (RLOC), and general giving.

Budgeting for 2009 has begun, and we are targeting a budget of \$325,000—\$350,000 on the assumption that the RLOC can be paid off in full at year end. Jack launched the "Above and Beyond" giving campaign in late November to encourage specific giving to fully eliminate this debt. Please pray about your specific situation and how you might consider a year end gift to Euzoa.

Men's Ministry

The Tuesday's AM breakfast bunch continues to meet the need of the men who gather to debrief and apply Sunday's message as well as provide opportunity for developing friendship. Jack Elwood leads our Wednesday night Fraternity gathering on "The Great Adventure" and is encouraged that it has helped men build a Biblical foundation for manhood, as well as to set the tone for personal growth and discovery. All men are welcome to join at any time.

Serving Opportunities

Many thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. There are additional items that we could use help with to provide a meaningful Christmas Eve service.

- We need a fully staffed nursery at both services.
- We need help with coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies. Could you consider bringing a plate of cookies?
- We need help parking cars, especially if the weather is bad.
- We need ushers and people to help clean up between the two services.

If you are interested in adopting a needy family for Christmas, you can do that through United Way. Contact the church office for more information.

www.euzoa.com

We continue to enhance our website, and would be appreciative of any input you could provide. There is opportunity to contribute to web site maintenance. If interested, please check with Charlie Parnell.

Reflections from Jody

I have so much to be thankful for. Coming back from Africa just recently intensifies that feeling for sure. This was my second time going, and not much has changed visually. There is still poverty, brokenness, and disease, but this time was different for me.

I remember we were packed in the truck going to the "Go Girls" Radio Station to do a talk show. We had just arrived the night before, so the sights were new again. Christel, Jayne, and I were in the back seat of the pick up truck taking it all in. Now this was Jayne's first time in Uganda ever. Her camera was clicking away. She was in awe of the things you would see. As we were driving she asked me, (something along the lines of) "Is this what it looked and felt like last year?" It really can be over whelming when you first get there. I remember thinking everything looks the same, smells the same and even tastes the same, but something was different. I didn't look at the stuff around or the poverty or the garbage piling up everywhere, I saw the people. The beautiful people, Gods people, that I had an incredible opportunity to be with and love on, and all the other sights and sounds and smells went away.

With all that to say and Thanksgiving here, I am most thankful for my family and my friends. From the amazing group of people I had the privilege of traveling to Africa with. To the incredible family of believers I get the privilege of worshipping with every Sunday. I am blessed, and so thankful. I realize more than ever before, life is a journey, I don't ever want to go it alone. I know that God is always with me, but He calls me into community with people. People to learn from, grow from, be inspired by and to love. When you have great community, all the other stuff fades away.

Jody Feeley

Orientation Classes

In early January, we will start two classes to help people who are new to our community.

The **Discover Euzoa** class is a one time gathering for people new to our fellowship who want to learn more about life at Euzoa - what we believe in, how we are structured, and where are we going. It will be held on Sunday, January 11th after morning worship from 11:15—1 PM in the Lodge and includes lunch.

The **Foundations of Faith** class is for people just beginning their faith journey or those wanting to brush up on their Christianity. It will meet for 4 weeks after Sunday morning worship beginning Sunday, Jan. 18, from 11:15—12:15 in the Lodge.

In 1Q09 we also plan to convene the **Spiritual Gift** class again. Sign-ups for all classes will be available in early January.

Charlie Parnell