

# EUZOA TIMES

Sunday - June 22, 2008

Summer Edition

Steamboat Springs, CO

www.euzoa.com

## In A Pit With A Lion On A Snowy Day

There is an obscure passage of Scripture that I am willing to bet no one has memorized (even Bible Bill). It is found in II Samuel 23:20-21 and it says "Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day. He killed an Egyptian, an impressive man. Now the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but he went down to him with a club and snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear." Doesn't that just bless your soul!

In truth many of you may be thinking "What is that all about and how does it relate to me?" In fact, it speaks volumes (as does all Scripture when properly understood and applied). This short non-descript biblical story has a powerful life lesson and that is: Life requires courage to respond to unexpected opportunities. Benaiah (lets call him Ben for short) didn't wake up one day and think "I want to face a man eating lion, in a pit, on a snowy day where I have nothing but a good chance of becoming lunch". He was simply thrust into a tough situation, and as a result of good modeling (the son of a valiant man) he overcame his fear and boldly killed a lion and an enemy of God's people (an Egyptian giant). Because of his courage and strength, he later became King David's chief body guard and head of the army of Israel.

All of us in our personal lives faces lions and giants and bears (oh my). We, like Ben, must face them and engage them, for God's power to be seen. He became a great warrior as a result of being in a pit with a lion on a snowy day and would never have known the thrill of having a lion skin rug or a giant's spear as a symbol of victory, had he not responded well at this time of great moment. It is time for all of us to seize the day and face our lions. Carpe Feline!

PS: Let me encourage you to read Mark Batterson's book by the same title (Multnomah Publishers, 2006). We will have a sermons series starting in August that will help us face our fears and learn how to respond with courage, commitment, and honor.

*Pastor Jack*

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## Men's Breakfast Time

We have a group of 8-15 men that meet from 6:30 – 7:30 every Tuesday morning in the back-room at the EGG & I. For \$10, you get a full breakfast and unlimited coffee, but the best part is getting to know more guys and learning from each other. This summer we will be studying various bible passages and learning to put our knowledge into action. All are welcome to join. Contact Charlie Parnell 846-5953 for more info.

## 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 will be opening on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>! We are a part-day Christian preschool for children, ages 3-5 years old, held right here at our church. Classes will be Monday through Friday from 9 am until 1 pm, and families will have the choice of 2 days on Tuesday and Thursday, or 3 days on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The school will focus on intellectual, social, physical, and spiritual growth through hands-on, age-appropriate learning and activities. Information and Registration sessions will be held in June, and all interested families are invited to attend. Please contact Christi Callahan at 512-663-3537 or email her at [euzoapreschool@live.com](mailto:euzoapreschool@live.com) with questions. We need your prayers as we begin this journey to show God's love to children and their families!

## Euzoa Happenings

### **Monday, June 16 - Friday, June 27**

Koinonia Camp held at Euzoa

### **Monday, June 23 - 25 9 -11:30 AM**

Vacation Bible School at the Steamboat Christian Center

### **Friday, July 11 - Saturday, July 19**

Trip to Tijuana, Mexico for High School

### **Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18**

SportREACH Camp held at Euzoa

### **Sunday, July 20 Euzoa BBQ & Baptism**

5:00 PM Worship Service only

### **Sunday, Aug 10 - Thursday, Aug. 14**

Wyldlife Camp at YL Frontier Ranch for Middle School students

### **Monday, Aug. 11 7 PM Book Club**

Held at Joan Elwood's home

### **Sunday, Aug 24 Summer Celebration**

Under the tent! More details to follow.

# Summer Youth News

It is summer isn't it? I look out my window and see snow on the mountain still. Not just old snow but fresh stuff from last night's low temps. You have to love Colorado for its variety! Well, despite the appearance of winter at times, all of the students are officially on summer break. Uh oh, a lot of parents are thinking. It's a time of much more freedom for kids and it is even more challenging to try to keep track of what your students are up to. Thankfully there are still youth programs to keep them busy throughout this long break. Thankfully there are youth workers that use this time to really build relationships.

We have a pretty basic structure of youth groups each week, only with more outdoor activities planned, more events, and some awesome trips. Our biggest trip of the summer that is planned is

a mission adventure to Tijuana, Mexico. This is our high school journey to serve the homeless of Tijuana with building them a house. About 20 of us will build for four to five days then head into San Diego where we will have a day of surfing fun. We will then take two days to head back to Steamboat. This trip is July 11<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Our second trip of the summer is taking middle school students to an amazing camp in Buena Vista. This Wyldlife camp is at Young Life's Frontier Ranch and is August 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. This is the same camp we took the middle school students to this past December and it is a whole new experience in the summer. There is so much to do and the structure of the week will be so packed with fun and growing in Christ it will blow their minds. Be sure to contact me if your student is interested in attending.

Remember to check the youth calendar for group times and other activities planned. Any help you could give with special events would be much appreciated.

Blessings  
~Aaron Werner

"Love and do as you please. If you remain silent, remain silent in love; If you speak, speak in love. If you reprimand, reprimand in love; If you forgive, forgive in love. May the root of love grow out of the depth of your heart. Nothing evil will come out of such a root."  
Saint Augustine  
354-430 AD

## A Time For Reflection

In October 1977 we arrived in Steamboat to the one of the most beautiful Falls I have ever seen. We were a young family with four girls ages 5-12, and excited about raising them in the town of Steamboat. We had just come from a difficult summer – my father died of cancer, Chuck worked away from us for 3 months and it was about 110 degrees every day in Mariposa Calif., which was my mother's home. It felt like a desert time in my life in many ways. Chuck had just finished his Master's degree and we were praying about where God would locate us for ministry. About that time God gave me a special verse in Isaiah.

Isaiah. 43:18 & 19 *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland"*

Steamboat Springs and Euzoa Bible Church felt like a miraculous answer to prayer and our lives were forever changed.

30 years later I praise God that He led us here. We have "done life" in every way, with the "Body of Christ" gathered at Euzoa Bible Church. We have experienced our children growing up physically and spiritually, daughters getting married, and adding 8 grandchildren to our family. Our life has been rich and full, we've known and seen biblical principles lived out in discipline, accountability, mentoring, studying the word in men and women's ministries, sharing in love with missionar-

ies, enjoying a number of small group fellowships, sometimes we've been on staff but not all of the time. We've been so blessed and stretched.

About 4 years ago Chuck's parents joined us and we moved to Hayden. God began to connect us to a group of believers at Mission of Grace. The other day in my reading I came across an old friend, Isaiah. 41:17 and as I read it the Holy Spirit seemed to say to me *"I'm ready to do something new again in your life and again there will be springs in parched ground and in the valleys."* We're excited to say that after 4 years we will be making Hayden our community full time and we're already seeing God do some awesome things.

My wish for this group that we **love**, is that each and every one of you will experience the "body of Christ" gathered at Euzoa in the same way we have. That you and your families will grow in Him, that you will understand your gifts and invest yourself in the ministries and life of the body and that others will invest in your life. Maybe you won't be called to stay 30 years but God's plan of a body of believer's gathered, and doing life together is perfect, no matter how long you are there. Like us, you will see there are rewards to be gained both now and in eternity!

We'll be seeing you occasionally and we'll definitely be keeping you in our prayers as we hope you will keep us in yours. We will miss you all!

On Mission Together, **Pat Girton**

**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

## Outreach—for Kids/to Kids!

VBS – Living God’s Unshakeable Truth  
June 23, 24, 25 – 9a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**SportREACH – Family Fun Nights**  
July 14 & 15 5:00pm – 8:00p.m.  
For families with kids going into  
1st thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Dinner included

Come out as a family! Bring your family friends  
for two nights of sports together.  
Child-care provided for younger kids.

**Cost: \$40.00 per child – Parents come for FREE!** Cost covers t-shirt & sports bottle for child;  
dinner and fun for the whole family.

**SportREACH - Sports camp for kids**  
For kids entering 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> grades.  
July 16, 17, 18 – 9a.m. to 3p.m.

Hosted @ the Euzoa Campus  
**Cost: \$65.00** Training in the following:  
Football, Volleyball, Basketball, and Soccer

**This is an outreach! Who will you bring?** Start  
praying with your child for the child/family you will

reach out to this summer.

To pre-register or for more information  
contact Ellyn Myller 871.1860

**Bring One-Reach One...**  
**“til all the nets are full!”**

## In The N.E.T.

This summer in The N.E.T. kids will marvel at  
the POWER of God! Tracey Fortson and Susan  
Pappas will be leading the kids and sharing four  
great true stories that tell us about Jesus’ miracu-  
lous power.

In N.E.T. Jr., provided for our preschoolers.  
These kids will be learning God made people to  
help them, God wants me to do the right thing,  
and God is always with me.

“To teach is to learn”~ Chinese proverb

If you would like to step into the ministry for chil-  
dren at Euzoa and learn alongside them. Contact  
the church office.

## Small Groups

by Barb Parnell

This excerpt from an article by Rick Warren reinforces the importance of investing in other believers. **“The truth is that Christians need relationships to grow. We don’t grow in isolation from others. We develop in the context of fellowship. Over and over again in the New Testament we find this basic truth. Believers need relationship with each other to grow!** Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...”.

I have been blessed to have been the Director of Small Groups for almost three years and I have watched the process of transformation in the small groups I have facilitated. There is nothing like being able to witness spiritual growth in others!

Personally I find that group interactions (e.g., staff meetings, Bible studies, Life groups) have spurred me on in the following ways this last year:

- go to the Word first for direction;
- boldly pray, pray more and pray openly in public;
- regularly share with others about what having a personal relationship with Jesus looks like for me, and how I use Scripture to direct my life.

Thank you for your prayers and for allowing me to serve you as the Small Group Director. I look forward to a new position at the VNA. Please pray that I will be a light to those I work with and continue to challenge me when I need to be redirected.

It is my prayer for this church that through this time of transition we continue to spur each other on to become more Christlike and that we regularly celebrate life change together in the Euzoa family.

## A Night of New Life

Baptism July 20 (5 pm service only)

On Sunday evening July 20<sup>th</sup>, as part of our worship service, we will be celebrating the ordinance of baptism (outside at the pond). This practice of the church is where we affirm people’s confession of faith and formally embrace them into fellowship. It is a time the Bible says is for people to articulate their faith and to publicly declare their allegiance to Christ and His people. If you have never identified yourself in this way, we would encourage you to take this step in moving toward full devotion to Christ. We have found it to be a moving and memorable time and is often a real step of growth in helping a person becoming a bold and effective witness for Christ and the Gospel. Contact Pastor Jack if you would like to participate, or for more information or questions you might have. We will help you prepare in advance for this special time of cele-

## Help Wanted

**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.

**Property Team:** If you have a heart and talent to help take care of our property, please contact Brian Len at 846-7888.

## Spiritual Gifts Class

Why not take some time this summer to learn more about your spiritual gifting? We have several books for individual study, or we can hold a class if several people are interested. Just call the church office to make your interest known. Summer is also a great time to gain experience serving in your area of giftedness. Opportunities abound, just ask.

## Update on Children's Ministry and Student Ministry

As most of you know, we are retooling the way we organize ministry to children and students. The Elders and staff are working on ways to ensure that our ministry to the next generation continues, whether it be full time staff, part time staff, volunteer teams, or a combination of the above. Ellyn Myller and team are continuing through the summer with the N.E.T. (am service), Barb Parnell is over seeing the N.E.T Jr., Beth Kuczkowski is overseeing the Nursery, and Aaron Werner will be ministering to students with us through the middle of August.

We want you to be praying for wisdom for our leadership, for a sense of God's call to service for every member of our body, and for His timing in bringing together the right people for the right need at the right time. We cannot afford to falsely assume that someone else will step up if we remain on the sideline. I Peter 4:10 says "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Each of us must ask ourselves, What part can I play? What can I give back? Where can I dispense the grace that God has given me into the next generation? If we would all pull together we can see the Lord do some amazing things. In the words of the great missionary hero William Carey "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God!" What greater thing could we want than for our children and youth to grow in the knowledge of God? Listen to His call and respond in faith and obedience.

If you are willing to be a part of the solution to this most pressing of needs, simply email me or call me with your availability. Remember Churchill, when England was in major crisis and others were panicking with fear, he calmly said "this will be England's finest hour!" and he was right. May it also be true for us, that this would be Euzoa's finest hour.

*Pastor Jack*

### About Forgiveness

Forgiveness is letting go of the pain and the past and the resentment. You forgive in order to heal.

You look at what God has done in response to your own sin and then ask for the strength to forgive in the same way. You give up your right to get even, and you trust the justice of God as you lean into his grace and mercy. With forgiveness you allow God to deeply touch your emotional core, and that enables you to release both the

## Euzoa Team

**Elders:** Jack Elwood, Charlie Parnell, John Sharp

**Teaching Elder:** Jack Elwood

**Staff:** Jack Elwood - Senior Pastor  
Charlie Parnell - Administrative Pastor  
Aaron Werner - Youth Ministry  
Jody Feeley - Worship Leader

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**Euzoa means "the good life" in Greek.**

## Euzoa Budget Update

Last year we budgeted \$549,000, spent \$505,000 and received \$518,000 in giving. We started this year with a budget of \$590,000, reduced it to \$529,000 in March, and reduced it to \$435,000 this month to reflect numerous program cutbacks and the staff transitions with Pat Girton, Barb Parnell, and Aaron Werner all leaving this summer.

Here is pertinent data from recent years on Euzoa giving:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Giving</u>	<u>ave/wk</u>
2003	\$438,159	\$8,426
2004	\$471,005	\$9,058
2005	\$415,593	\$7,992
2006	\$439,939	\$8,460
2007	\$518,013	\$9,962
2008	\$164,543	\$7,154

The 2008 data is through 23 weeks, and will yield annual giving of \$372,010 at this rate. Obviously, that continues to leave a shortfall and makes it more difficult to implement desired changes for improving our situation. Please pray about your specific situation and how you might reconsider your giving.

Remember, we give first to our local fellowship (that leads, feeds and protects us, II Cor 9:9-14), secondly to missionary ventures of the church (para church ministries, Phil 4:14-19), and thirdly to meet the humanitarian and mercy needs of the community and world (II Cor 8:1-5). All are important but priority is still a principle we must affirm. We are all stewards (i.e., managers) not owners of God's resources. He has not given us personal preference nor prerogative.

## Women's Interest

### Euzoa Book Club



The Book Club is a new endeavor at Euzoa. The club has met once in April and held it's second meeting on Monday, June 16th at Joan Elwood's on the campus of Euzoa. The last book discussed was " Mistaken Identity" By Cerak and Van Ryn.

This book club meets every other month and discusses the entire book at the meeting. It has been designed this way as an opportunity for ladies to gather without having to make a weekly commitment. Everyone is welcome and people can feel free to come when the book is of particular interest to them.

The next book club will meet on Monday night, August 11, 2008, 7 PM at the Elwood's. The book for the month of August is " The Shack" by William Young. This book can be bought at any of the local book stores or Wal-Mart. This is a controversial book that takes an unconventional look at God. We encourage anyone who is interested to read the book and join us for, what should be a lively discussion.

Please join us! This is a terrific way to get to know people and to have a fun, provocative evening out!

*Joan Elwood*