

THE EMMAUS ROAD NEWSLINE

Emmaus Road Church

Boulder, Colorado

October 2006



Family Ministry, an interesting approach

"Mommy....mommy, don't eat all the bread..." a little one cries out in utter confusion during our communion service one Sunday night. As we welcomed our children to witness our remembrance, we never guessed some of their reactions would tickle us like they did. I recall hearing Brandon Brinker say to his two older girls, "Now we are doing something special tonight called communion, but before we have you take part in it, we want to talk about it with you at home and make sure you understand it." Another remark that stood out was when little Kristopher gasped, "that was scary," after we all were finished dipping our bread in red grape juice and the mood was serious as we reflected what Christ has done for us. You know, to a four year old, communion might seem a little scary. I don't know if it was the eerie quietness in a small living room full of people or if the red grape juice reminded him of blood, rightfully so. It just made me think, this is how family ministry is done, having the children witness things like this



instead of sending them off somewhere. They may get confused and they may ask questions, but shouldn't they? This kind of ministry compels us to explain our actions to our children, to understand the symbolism ourselves and create little worshipers that know why and who we worship. Along with communion, we are striving to involve our children in all aspects of this new ministry. Taking them along when we do our service projects, mentoring them when they reach elementary school age, helping us with the worship songs and actions, and showing our parents how to teach their own kids the gospel at home.

Estes Park Retreat turns out to inspire

A retreat about what it means to have the heart of a shepherd, that is what the Emmaus Road Launch team spent the weekend doing October 6th and 7th. The weekend started out at Misty Mountain Lodge in Estes Park where Glen and Jeanne Hougen, who have recently started a house church themselves, filled the shoes of guest speakers. The Hougen's brought the team an inspiring story of seeing the need for Christ in their neighbors on the block where they live in Superior, Colorado. After developing relationships with the neighbors, the Hougens found that just referring them to a local church wasn't causing for deeper friendships or life changing encounters with Christ. So the Hougen's followed a leading from God to start a church in their very own home for the neighborhood families. Glen, a full time mortgage broker, shared with the team how God had been cultivating these relationships a long time before this idea to start a church and how God was orchestrating the divine meetings currently.

Continuation of ...Estes Park Retreat

Jeanne shared from her heart the meaning behind this organic idea of home-church. The couple shared an e-mail that Jeanne had written about the church to her brother and it dawned on us (the Emmaus Team) that this is similar to what we want to communicate about our own church plant.

"The type of church we are looking at starting is a bit different than the traditional model - smaller communities, probably meeting in houses - starting with ours. Less attracting people to our thing, more going to the community around us. Less, if any full time staff, more regular people being built up to use their gifts. Also keeping the model simple enough that it can easily be done by others - reproducible. As these small churches multiply I can see meeting all together periodically for large group worship and teaching - but this wouldn't be the main "church," the "church" would be happening in homes."

Many comments from our team about the Hougen's idea of church was the simplicity of it. We were able to ask the Hougen's questions about their church and really get inspired about how God was using them, and is using us. A few weeks later, we were encouraged when the Hougens were able to join the Emmaus Road Church Plant for one of our worship gatherings.

The weekend progressed with Josh, Kris and Jeff Kautz sharing about sheep and how God likens us to sheep and the good shepherd, in which Jesus is to us and we must be to others.



Upcoming Events:

Dec. 1-2 Solving The People Puzzle Workshop

Dec. 17 Super Sunday Discipleship Training

Prayer Request:

- Praise- Jonantha one of the children in our church accepted Christ as her Savior
- Praise- for Jeff's new job in Thorton that will allow greater flexibility and freedom on weeknights and weekends
- Courage and initiative to get involved with community opportunities and new relationships with unbelievers.*
- Pray for God's guidance and our dependency on the Lord for future housing and neighborhoods among the team.*

Ministry Spotlight: New Faces

We are proud to present our newest members to the Emmaus Road Launch Team, Brandon and Justina Dean. After Justina getting a job in Boulder, the two of them made the move. Although the Dean's are currently without housing, God has still provided. They are currently living with the Cheeks in their town home and when the Luse's are out of town, they stay at their apartment, both in Boulder. While Brandon works on starting his music business from home, Justina works with as a nurse with an elderly woman in her home. She says it's an awesome opportunity to pray for and reach out to unbelievers.



Emmaus Road has been blessed tremendously by having this younger couple around. Justina is developing some deeper relationships with the women in our group and Brandon has blessed us much with his musical talent during our worship gatherings. The couple hails from Michigan where Justina was finished her bachelor's degree in Communication and Brandon had run his business from home in audio recording. Originally Justina grew up in North Platte, Nebraska and Brandon grew up in Rockingham, Australia. The couple met through Maranatha camp. Over a Thanksgiving break the couple heard Kris Cheek speak about the Emmaus Road church plant in Boulder, after catching that vision, Brandon and Justina began to pray about the opportunity. They felt the call and now they are finally in Boulder.

"I'm excited for what God has in store and excited to use our gifts in the culture of Boulder," said Justina. The couple has been burdened with the idea of missions since before they met, having traveled separately and together to such countries as Dominican Republic, Bali, Russia and Thailand. The couple is being used through Brandon's music and Justina's gift of theatre to reach lost souls. It took them a while to grasp the idea of missions in our own country, but after realizing the need and the distinct culture of Boulder, they new it was a fit. Please pray for the Deans as they adjust to this new lifestyle and search for housing and a stable income.