

APRIL 2014

OH BE JOYFUL NEWS



**OF CHRIST.
FOR CHRIST.
IN CHRIST.**



FROM OUR PASTOR

RANSOM

Few words describe the work of Jesus on our behalf as well as this one: RANSOM.

The New Testament is full of the idea of ransom. Jesus says in Matthew's that 'the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.' Timothy writes, 'For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ who gave himself as a ransom for many.' On Easter Sunday at Oh Be Joyful Church we will be looking closely at Peter's use of that word: '... you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ...'

Peter has been building an argument to convince his readers that their present trials pale in comparison to the amazing salvation made possible for them through the ransom of Jesus. As he does so he weaves in themes of contrast - such as the theme of family: we are orphans before knowing God as now we are born again and adopted into the family of a loving Father with an inheritance that will last for ever. He contrasts present difficult situations against the hope of the eternal by comparing their faith to pure gold which is valuable, but perishes while their faith endures and is strengthened. In I Peter 1:17-21 the themes of family, earthly wealth, and the ransoming work of Jesus are brought together. He writes that as believers we have been ransomed from the ways of our forefathers (their sin) not with Gold (which perishes), but by Jesus (permanent and invaluable).

What must be remembered is that Peter is reminding us of a great truth: Jesus' life given to cover our sins is not about a price paid as if it were money to an extortionist. Rather, God's justice and His holiness demand that a perfect sacrifice be made to cover the injustice of our rebellion in sin. And because that rebellion is absolute it is insurmountable except by the ransom of a perfect substitute. God stepped in to personally redeem us at his own expense through Jesus.

Over the next week we must find a way to sit quietly with God for enough time to get a glimpse of the cost of the ransom, the magnitude of the sacrifice, and the proof of it all by the resurrection. If we do we will have renewed cause to celebrate our salvation and experience the living hope that it provides.

DIFFICULT CHANGES

New Adams House, inspired under the leadership Jim Kunes, and directed by Chris Gibson has been a tremendous blessing to more than thirty men that have recovered there. The blessing was not confined to the clients, but has been a great encouragement to their families and friends and especially to the body of Oh Be Joyful. For the last four years NAH has run very efficiently and effectively, but over the last twelve months it became apparent that the ministry had come to a point of necessary transition: either grow significantly or move towards concluding operations. The leadership of NAH prayed and worked hard to develop working solutions, but finally made the decision that the time has come to step back and close the doors. This is hard news because we have loved and been inspired by the leadership and by the men of New Adams, but God has been sought throughout the history of the endeavor and He is closing this chapter of ministry so we must move on - inspired by the recovery that has taken place and determined to maintain our commitment to recovery ministry in the valley. Included in this newsletter is a message from Jim about the process and the bright side of this as he is best positioned to explain it. Many thanks to all who have prayed, served, and contributed to NAH. Each life that was touched was worth all the effort.



**TYLER
HANSEN**

ALTHOUGH WE ARE WEEPING, LORD HELP US KEEP SOWING

I have a friend, Matt, who is planting a church down in Boulder. It has been a joy to watch his work over the past three years. The Lord has done great work through him and his team and, from all outward appearances, the church plant appears to be thriving.

Recently I came across an article that the Daily Camera (Boulder's daily newspaper) ran about a church moving in to a vacated big box store location. The Camera invited discussion on its facebook page and the responses were, to say the least, pretty disheartening. In the midst of the vitriol being thrown about in the responses regarding Christianity, my friend Matt replied with a response full of grace and patience and kindness. It demonstrated the type of maturity that I strive for and often fail at.

I tell you this story because it was just the latest in a string of events that have caused me to confront the reality of how Christ and Christianity is viewed in our

culture. Let there be no doubt, we live in a society that is increasingly hostile to faith and to those who call themselves Christians.

There are those who think we ought to stand against this hostility and fight back for the glory of Christ. I for one am not so convinced. The offense belongs to the Lord, not to us. Reading the comments on the article caused my temperature to rise a bit, I'll be honest. But when I took a step back I realized that was my own ego speaking up, who were these people to so callously berate what I hold so dear? They were by extension insulting me, at least that's how I felt. God's grace poured out in my life ought to call me not to ego but to humility. Rather than acting as Peter and striking at the ear of Malchus, I should look to Christ as my guide—Christ who healed Malchus' wound.

That's why I like Matt's response so much. In the midst of an attack he could have taken personally, he invited all those berating Christianity to join him for a beer and a discussion on faith. As it says in Psalm 126, in the midst of our weeping, would we keep sowing. Let the ministry of reconciliation look like that.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES APPROACHING

As the Lenten season draws to a close, OBJ will celebrate Christ's victory over the grave during Holy Week. On Sunday, April 13, we will celebrate Palm Sunday during our Sunday morning worship. Then, be sure to join us for a special mid-week service observing Good Friday at 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Friday, April 18. Lastly, let us gather together triumphantly to celebrate Resurrection Sunday on April 20. Please join us during this joyful season.

Come find out what's going on at

CB COMMUNITY YOUTH

Contact Courtney Kirby, CB Community Youth Minister (865)406-6876 • courtneykirby@gmail.com • CrestedButteYoungLife.com

NEW OFFERINGS AVAILABLE AT **OHBEJOYFULCHURCH.ORG**

If you haven't been to our website recently, check it out. There you will find weekly updates including links to download or stream our recent sermons, information about upcoming church activities, and resources to help you get more involved in the ministry of OBJ.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS SUMMER

We are currently looking for some ladies to help lead 4-6 week studies throughout the summer months for the women's bible study on Thursday mornings. 3 or 4 volunteers would be more than enough to cover the summer season and it's a great opportunity to spend some quality time with other women and deepen your relationship with Christ through personal and corporate study. If you think this might be a challenge you'd be interested in taking on, please contact Abby at jamabby@msn.com to let her know.



JIM KUNES

The past year and especially the past few months have brought some wonderful and challenging changes to the ministries here at OBJ. We were blessed by the arrival of Scott Winn to take over as Senior Pastor in August of 2013 which completed an amazing transitional process from my tenure of 24 years as Pastor. By God's grace the transition process was nearly seamless with little disruption or distraction from what God had established over the years in ministries He had us to be about. Our 2013 year ended strong financially which has provided a solid base for moving forward into the new year. Scott has been doing a great job in leading us forward by re-emphasizing the church's vision of the Ministry of Reconciliation and our six areas of ministry. He has also brought on some year-long interns to assist with our in-house youth needs as well as working with Courtney Kirby in supporting the Crested Butte Community Ministry. We have seen some amazing things already, with more of our church and community youth being reached in the name of Christ.

Personally, I have been blessed with being able to stick around to help with the transition and continue to be on staff part time, helping out with some counseling, consulting, visitations, eldering and other things. It has been great to slow down as well as to be available to help another church in Creede, Colorado in their transitional process as they look for a new Pastor. Mark Ewing and I tag team and travel every other weekend to minister the Word in preaching and teaching as well as helping their leadership team maintain stability and forward movement in their search process.

I have also been working with Chris Gibson and the ministry of New Adam's House which is currently in its own major transition. Which brings me to the primary reason for this article.

We are currently in our fourth year of operation as one of the only Christian "transitional care" facilities for men recovering from addictions to drugs and alcohol in Western Colorado. Over these years under the faithful direction of Chris Gibson we have been able to minister to 32 men. We have also been blessed with a 70% success rate in having the men maintain their sobriety during their stay at NAH, which is uncommon in the area of recovery. God has used Chris, OBJ, and the board members to provide an opportunity for these men and we have all been blessed to see Him at work changing lives.

However, from a financial standpoint, we have struggled to stay afloat. We financially subsidize each client's stay by as much as 50%. Pretty much from after the first year the Board has not been able to raise substantial funds to allow for a solid foundation of sustainability or growth. Each new year we have been faced with having to work with only three-to-

six months of capital to simply pay the bills and keep Chris on. During the past few months we came to the realization that NAH was at a crossroads and the status quo was no longer tenable. New Adam's House had to begin the process of packing up or ramping up with significant efforts in fundraising and client development.

Amazingly, during this adjustment Chris was approached by a large church in Edmond, Oklahoma to interview for a position to run their recovery ministry and more. He interviewed twice and most recently accepted the position... with mine and the Board's blessings. Praise God! Chris and his family will be heading to Oklahoma in June of this year and the doors of NAH will be closed as of the end of May.

This sequence of events could be seen as sad and disappointing. It leaves us wondering how to view what has transpired, given that from its inception, God had placed on my heart this vision that was joined by others and then blessed to come into fruition by God. It leaves us wondering why a necessary ending had to come to a ministry that He used for helping the men He brought through the house, for raising up a minister in Chris Gibson and for raising awareness and involvement in our community/church of this great need for recovery. When I am thinking horizontally... humanly, our inability to develop the ministry to the next level for sustainability and growth seems obvious. When I'm thinking vertically, with a heart and mind focused upward on God, the wondering dissipates and my faith must trust God for His pruning and ending of what seemed to be a viable ministry.

I give thanks to God, OBJ, Chris and Edie Gibson, the many people of faith that have financially and prayerfully supported NAH, the Board of Directors and the people God allowed us to minister to...be it the few or the many we are unaware of.

I ask that you keep Chris and Edie in your prayers as they transition to Oklahoma and into the adventures, opportunities, and ministries that God is providing.

Pray also for the men that came across the threshold of NAH. Pray that the ministry to their sobriety in Jesus takes root and remains for His glory.

Also, pray for Abby and me as we continue to transition into a new season of life with its new adventures, opportunities, and ministries.

In His continued love and service.....now different.

-JIM



“

Those who sow with
tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow, will return
with songs of joy, carrying
sheaves with them.”

- Psalm 126: 5&6 (ESV)

APRIL PRAYER NEEDS

Those in our community and church body with
health struggles
For a continued spirit of unity within the OBJ body under
Pastor Scott's leadership
CB Community Youth Ministry
The Gainous Family as Neal undergoes cancer treatment
New Adam's House Ministry
Care & Share Foodbank Ministry
Reconciliation Resource Ministry
The OBJ team of Elders
Our Marriages and Families
OBJ Sunday School Team
OBJ Worship Team
The community of Crested Butte and OBJ's role within it
Our members & friends in missions throughout the world:
Harol and Coni Knepper - Tanzania
Shaw Family - Peru
Iserman Family - France
Ives Family - Argentina
Bill and Patty Bokelman - Israel



ON-GOING CHURCH **ACTIVITIES**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

- 7:30 a.m. - Intercessory Prayer (*in OBJ Café*)
- 8 a.m. - Worship Team Practice
- 9 a.m. - Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. - Children's Sunday School (*midway through service*)
- 10:30 a.m. - Post-Service Fellowship

LADIES BIBLE STUDY:

Thursday - 9 a.m. (*OBJ Lounge - Childcare provided - postponed through the spring*)

CELEBRATE RECOVERY WORSHIP:

Wednesday - 6 p.m. (*OBJ Sanctuary*)

ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF **RECONCILIATION**

Oh Be Joyful exists to bring glory to God through the ministry of reconciliation as outlined in Colossians 1:18 and 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.
To be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, to sustain a vital relationship with Him, to be used of God to bring all people into this same relationship, to live in love and reconciliation with one another.

As a church, we strive to be about the ministry of reconciliation through six areas:

- MINISTRY OF EQUIPPING • MINISTRY OF HARVEST • MINISTRY OF HEALING & RECOVERY
- MINISTRY OF RETREAT • MINISTRY OF SERVICE • MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

To find out more about the mission of OBJ and the ministry of reconciliation, please visit ohbejoyfulchurch.org or facebook.com/objchurch

ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Crested Butte Community Youth Ministry - Courtney Kirby, Director
courtneykirby@gmail.com • (865)406-6876

New Adam's House - Chris Gibson, Director
christianjgibson@gmail.com • (970)596-6633

CHURCH STAFF

Scott Winn - Pastor
Jim Kunes - Elder/Associate Pastor
Tyler Hansen - Elder/Worship and Arts Pastor
Al Van Dyke - Elder/Trustee
Mark Ewing - Elder/Trustee
Chris Gibson - Elder

OH BE JOYFUL CHURCH
OF CHRIST. FOR CHRIST. IN CHRIST.



PO Box 175 (Mailing)/625 Maroon Avenue (Physical & Shipping) Crested Butte, CO 81224 • (970)349-6237

scott@ohbejoyfulchurch.org (Scott Winn) • objnewsletter@yahoo.com (Bulletin/Newsletter) • objsecretary@crestedbutte.net