



The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

Walking Across the Bridge by Joe Eastman

Value: Global Missions, Everyone a Minister

When you read this, our “Bridges to Islam” seminar will be nearly over. I hope, that if you were able to attend, you enjoyed yourself, and were able to understand a little more about Islam and how to begin to reach out to our Muslim neighbors.



As we close out this seminar, I hope that you will take the information provided and take it one step further. My hope is that we wouldn't just learn about Islam, but that it would spur us on to reach out to the Muslim people. The fact is, most Muslim people are kind, generous, and sincerely seeking after God. The vast majority of them are looking to raise their kids and make their way through the world. But, the fact remains they are a people who need Christ.

In reality, Muslim people are hard to reach. This is due to three main factors: 1) cultural isolation, 2) misunderstandings about the New Testament, and 3) a culture that discourages asking questions. These three factors must be overcome if a Muslim person is going to give a fair look at the Gospel. The only way this is going to happen is if we reach out to them. Muslim people are not going to come to our churches and ask questions. We must go to them, build a friendship, and reach out from there.

So, you might be asking: *What now?* Well, start by praying. Hit your knees, and go to the Lord on behalf of the Muslims in our community. Then reach out. Visit an Islamic deli, eat at a Middle Eastern restaurant, visit the Islamic cultural center, and maybe even visit a Mosque. One thing you will find if you do are very nice people who will be honored that you are trying to get to know them and their culture. Pray and reach out, and you will be amazed at how God will work!

Congregational Ministry Highlight featuring Brandon & Anne Cox

Value: Holistic Discipleship, Everyone a Minister



One of the functions of the Foothills Flyer is to inform our church family of some of the ministries our congregation is already involved in. This month we featured an article from a young couple, Brandon and Anne Cox, who are relatively new to the church, and are gearing up to engage in local student ministry at UNM. Please read the following letter, pray for their ministry, and consider supporting it if you can.

Hello! We would like to share how God is using us to reach, disciple, and send out college students! Two and a half years ago, we graduated college, got married, and joined campus ministry staff. Now, we are living in Albuquerque, NM helping launch Master Plan Ministries on the University of New Mexico campus.

Master Plan is a non-profit, non-denominational ministry known for its dedication to evangelism and discipleship. Even though college can be a spiritually challenging place, this ministry helped both of us grow in our faith as students. Through one-on-one discipleship, we learned how to study God's word, share our faith, lead Bible studies, and make disciples.

On the UNM campus we are dedicated to consistent outreach, one-on-one discipleship, and leadership development. In only a few months, we've seen 23 students indicate a decision for receiving Christ! There is also an unquenchable thirst among Christian students to be equipped and encouraged.



Before Anne and I report to the UNM campus full-time, we are developing a team of ministry partners. We are trusting God to build a team to help us in up to three ways: 1) our prayer team. We love sending updates and prayer requests. Please send us your email or mailing address. 2) Anne and I would love it if you prayerfully considered joining our team of supporters. You can help get us on campus full-time (we are very close to our support goal)! Would you make a monthly commitment of \$50, \$100, or

any other amount? All gifts are tax-deductible. 3) We need to network with more people to share about our ministry. You can help us by giving us by connecting us to people who love God and who would like to hear about our ministry.

If the Lord leads you to partner financially, you may make your gift check out to "Master Plan Ministries" (memo: Cox) and send it to P.O. Box 1082, Durango, CO, 81302. We can also provide information for setting up automatic reoccurring gifts. Thank you so much for your time and for being interested in our ministry. God bless! Brandon & Anne coxmpm@gmail.com

Worship: Our Chief End (Alone and Together) by Mike Potter **Values: Ancient/Future Worship and Unity in Community**

I think we can all agree that our mission statement is pretty robust. It says that we are committed to participating in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus locally, nationally, and globally. That's a grandiose task that requires much of our time, attention, prayers, and work. However, we must not forget the first part of our mission statement because it's equally important. The first part says that we are a church that exists to be a worshiping community of God's people who are shaped by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Worship. It's essential, and if we don't work at it, then the rest of our mission will never be accomplished.

The Westminster Catechism gives us a pithy but powerful understanding of what worship looks like. It begins with this question and answer: *What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God,*

<p>MAN'S CHIEF END IS TO GLORIFY GOD <i>and to enjoy him forever.</i></p>

and to enjoy him forever. That's what worship is, and glorifying and enjoying God forever ought to be the primary goal and purpose of our lives. To that end, we - as God's people - must discipline ourselves to glorify God daily...not just on Sundays. I met a man last week who told me that he has set his phone alarm to go off every hour during the day to remind him to stop what he's doing and glorify God! He's attempting to make glorifying God his chief end, even in the midst of a busy work day.

As your pastor, my job is to be a faithful worshipper of God myself, and then to lead you in worship when we gather together each week. Please know that I take both of those responsibilities very seriously. I'm constantly striving to grow in my daily worship of the Lord and in my understanding of what it means for me to be your "worship leader" - in the non-musical sense, of course. I'll let those who are skilled in music like Jon and his team take care of that! I carefully and prayerfully think through each element of our worship service each week, asking the Holy Spirit to lead me as I put the service together. Each element of our worship service - whether it's the call to worship, singing, confession, prayer, the sermon, the offering, communion, or the benediction - is purposefully in place to engage us as we seek to worship the Lord corporately as one voice.



Beginning last Sunday, I decided to change things up a bit. Namely, I combined the offering and communion together at the end of the service. Taking time during our service to give our tithes and offerings is important. It's important because giving of our finances (whether it's to a church, a missionary, a person in need, etc.) is an essential act of worship. Normally, we pass the plates, but that has always felt a little flat to me. I kept wondering if there was perhaps a more meaningful way to do this, and a few weeks ago, it hit me. I was at a conference where the offering/communion combination was presented. I was reminded that when Jesus was born, the Magi *brought* their gifts to Him. I was reminded that in Jesus' day, people *brought* their offerings forward during worship in synagogue. Sounded like a great idea.

We already come forward to receive communion, so why not bring our offerings to the Lord as we come to receive the bread and cup from Him?

As I talked with Joe about this, he encouraged me to expand the concept of what an “offering” is to not just our tithe, but also to our prayer requests, praise reports, or a written word or phrase signifying what we desire to give to the Lord that week. That Joe is a pretty smart guy! So last Sunday, we began this, and the response was overwhelming. Not only was the financial portion of the offering one of the largest of the year (which is not the intention of this but was wonderful nonetheless!), but some 40 cards containing prayer requests, praises, and offering words and phrases were submitted, and several of you told me how meaningful that portion of the worship service was for you. Praise the Lord!



We'll keep doing this on Sundays during our corporate worship time, and as we do, may God continue to transform us into a worshipping community of His people who are shaped by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of His Son.

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The Foothills Flyer is a monthly newsletter under the oversight of Pastor Joe Eastman and designed by Rachel Gard that is aimed at keeping Foothills on mission and keeping us committed to our 9 Core Values.

OUR MISSION: Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

OUR CORE VALUES: 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship