

Matthew's House...

Telling the Story of God at Work

Experiencing God

Church is an opportunity to see God at work



By far, leading Matthew's House has been one of the most transformative experiences in my life. God is at work within our church, and it impacts everyone in some profound, spiritual way.

Over the past five years, we have witnessed God's power at Matthew's House, primarily in the way He impacts the lives of those earnestly searching for Him.

In this newsletter, our objective is simple. We want to introduce you to many of the ways we see God at work through Matthew's House. We hope you are encouraged and inspired by this exciting update!

- Joe Beckler

Why Matthew's House?

Why do we attend Matthew's House? It's simple and can be put into one word: family. The moment we walked into Matthew's House, Valerie and I knew that this was the right place for our family. Matthew's House is really like one big extended family. It embodies a sense of love and hope, giving you the freedom to explore your own personal relationship with God.

Since the day we began coming to Matthew's House, we have been encouraged as parents and Christ followers. The everyday application in the teaching allows us to grow and learn about God in new and refreshing ways. Finally, it's clear to us, that whether you are staying or just passing through, you are in a safe place to begin or continue your journey in seeking our loving Creator.

-Darren McKinnis

MILESTONES IN MINISTRY

Here are some of our milestones in ministry during the first part of 2009...

Our resort ministry expanded in significant ways. Dave Johnson, a recent graduate of Duke Divinity School, took over leadership of our resort strategy this winter. In addition to chapel services, Dave led Matthew's House in ministering to international employees that worked in our area during the winter ski season.

In March we also sent a mission team of six to work in partnership with Dunwoody Baptist Church and the Jamaican Government for the purpose of serving abused, abandoned, and orphaned Jamaican teenagers.

Finally, Matthew's House is growing! We have outgrown our children's education space, and we are also looking into the possibility of starting a new worship service.

RESORT MINISTRY @ MATTHEW'S HOUSE... BY DAVE JOHNSON

I'm feeling bitter sweet right now. I just returned from a going away barbecue with my good South American friends who are heading home after spending the winter here in Durango. We worked together at Durango Mountain Resort, and I'm sad to see them leave. But I thank God for the meaningful friendships I've formed and the opportunity to journey with these people for a season. I will forever remember my new Argentinean friend, Matias, asking "when can I spend more time with your good people?" referring to the Matthew's House community members who had provided a potluck dinner for him and others at their dormitories.

I'm Dave Johnson, and I've had the joy of coordinating resort ministries through Matthew's House this year. Durango Mountain Resort employs a large contingent of South American seasonal workers, and God has positioned me to cultivate relationships and minister to them in exciting ways through the season. I've enjoyed running chapel services, offering spiritual guidance, and organizing outings and special events for the seasonal employees and guests at the resort. I'm especially excited about the future

of the ministry to the internationals and the groundwork we have laid this season. I look forward to being a "church-home away from home" and a community that offers the presence and love of Christ to these international workers.



Dave Johnson (center) with resort employees from South America

A COLLEGE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE...



Drew Macalady, originally from Highlands Ranch, CO, is about to finish his sophomore year at Fort Lewis College. He has made Matthew's House a part of his college experience in Durango. Drew, an education major at "the Fort", recently shared his thoughts as to why he is part of Matthew's House.

Why Matthew's House? What made you come and stay at this particular church? *My two brothers (who have since graduated) first introduced me to Matthew's House. As well, I really like the type of people who go there. There are a lot of younger people that I can relate to. For me, I feel like it is not your everyday church. The worship is great and the messages are preached in a way that everyone can relate to.*

What are some of the challenges students face at Fort Lewis College? *What you notice on campus is that everyone has a unique and crazy style. Everyone is looking for acceptance. I feel like the drug crowd is really big, too.*

What helps in the midst of the challenges? *Because I sometimes feel like its a constant struggle, I find strength in pulling out my Bible, hanging out with people who love God, and being in a place where God is present.*

How can people pray for college students at "the Fort"? *Pray that students, in general, have a sense that they are not alone or isolated. For Christians, pray that they can encounter someone, during their education experience, who is spiritually at their level or a couple steps ahead -- someone who can encourage them.*

MEET THE LEADERSHIP TEAM...

The Leadership Team works closely with our church's staff to see God's vision realized for Matthew's House.



Kim Krueger... Kim has been a part of Matthew's House for five years. She works for a realtor at the Wells Group in Durango.



Bill Ferguson... Bill and his wife Janet moved to Durango two years ago. Bill works for StoneAge, Inc. He also serves on the worship team at Matthew's House.



Jay Willmon... Jay grew up close to the Durango area. He, along with his parents, owns and operates Accent Printing in Farmington, NM.

MY STORY... SABRINA MOTTA



Exploration. Reflection. Acceptance. Community. These are all words that come to mind when I think of Matthew's House. As a person who wasn't brought up in a faith based home, my exposure to Christianity and religion had been

limited to the history books, the Bible as bathroom reading, and TV evangelists that flash across the screen between channel changes.

As an adult, exploring faith and Christianity has felt a bit daunting. So often, it has felt like to go to church I am supposed to already have faith, to

already have a relationship with God, and to already know what it means to be a Christ follower.

That is why Matthew's House is such a special place. It is a place of education, acceptance and exploration, where all questions are welcomed and are explained in a way that's accessible to all. And no matter where you are in your personal journey, they challenge you to explore your relationship with God further and to grow in that relationship.

As my own personal journey with God continues to evolve, I feel blessed and thankful for the guidance, and unconditional acceptance I have received from the community that is Matthew's House.

MEET THE STAFF...



Dave Lazzeri, worship leader

Dave grew up in Denver and came to Durango to study at Fort Lewis College. Dave, a talented musician, leads our growing worship and arts team.

Dave Johnson, resort minister

Dave moved to Durango in April of 2008. He is a gifted minister with a deep sense of calling towards both college and resort ministries.



Joe Beckler, pastor

Joe came to Durango in 2003 as a church planter. As the pastor, he has served at Matthew's House from the beginning of its inception.

Kayla Van Maanen, director of children's ministry

Kayla has lived in Durango for most of her life. She is a skilled leader, directing the ever-growing children's ministry at Matthew's House.



Sarah Rambo, office manager

Sarah grew up in Durango. She is the proud mother of Jonathan, who is four years old. Sarah manages our office, keeping the Matthew's House team running smooth.

JAMAICA 2009 MISSION REPORT

In March, Matthew's House sent a team of six to work in Jamaica with abused, abandoned, and orphaned youth who are under the care of the Jamaican government.



This was our third year being part of this amazing global ministry opportunity. We partner with Dunwoody Baptist Church (located in Atlanta, GA) which has had a long-term mission relationship in Jamaica.

As the case every year, our team comes back transformed. Josh Schuler, one of the team members, explains it this way: 'Jamaica, for me, forces me to seriously consider what it means both to allow God to



move through me in any way He wants and to grasp what Jesus meant when He said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me".'

Partnering with Matthew's House



• We constantly need prayer-support as we move forward with our ministry plans. Your commitment to pray for us is crucial!

• Due to the nature of our ministry, we rely on a collaborative team of ministry partners who financially support our work in Durango. Your

How to Partner With Matthew's House

Pledge cards are available for you to indicate a desire to pray with and financially support Matthew's House. Please send contributions and correspondence to:

Matthew's House
PO Box 4242
Durango, CO 81302

Our ministry partners play a crucial role in the success story of Matthew's House. Consider partnering with us through one or more of the following ways:



MATTHEW'S HOUSE
A CHURCH IN DURANGO, CO

100 Jenkins Ranch Road, Suite D
PO Box 4242
Durango, CO 81301