Welcome

We invite you to join us on a journey ...and the great adventure that follows. For some of you, the idea of a journey and adventure in the mountains will “speak to you” and ignite your heart. It will be the answer to prayer and you will leap at the chance. For others, this may create a lump of fear in your belly and hesitation in your step. You will listen to the “lies” of the enemy and think that you are not ready, not good enough and afraid of the unknown. For if there is a battle to fight, we want assurance of victory ...or not fight at all. Regardless of which camp you may fall into, you qualify and we welcome you.

What Is It?

The Fall of Men is a 4-day men’s retreat that takes place in the last week of September each year in the community of Telluride, Colorado. The retreat is entering its 6th year and continues to grow and expand. For most of us, this has not been an event, but rather a “launch”. We began our journey six years ago when 20 friends and associates gathered for the first time for a 4-day study using John Eldredge’s book, Wild at Heart. For many of us, this was a review of the life changing book that explores and helped us discover what it really means to be a man and how to recover our lost hearts.

On our second retreat, we took a deeper dive into Eldredge’s work with a study of The Way of the Wild Heart, which described the various stages of a man’s life and journey ...and the phases where many of us get stuck and how to move on. Eldredge suggests that every man has a battle to fight, a beauty to save and an adventure to live. He spends a great deal of time with the “battle” and the “beauty.” “Adventure” is certainly interwoven throughout his books and it is that “sense” that holds us to the pages, but what really is an adventure? Some of you may think that being a daredevil is the answer and while that can be exciting, it really doesn’t constitute an adventure.
I have come to believe that a real adventure is “trusting God”. So, then it was natural for us to follow up Eldredge’s works with Bob Goff’s Love Does, a delightful and amazing book based on the whimsical adventures of Bob’s life brought about by the principles of faith and love. Love Does left us with a challenge to stop thinking and start doing.

This made the selection of Max Lucado’s book, Out Live Your Live, a natural follow up for our fourth retreat. Last year, we took up Ken Boa’s book, Rewriting Your Broken Story, that introduced us to the power of an Eternal Perspective ...to help us make sense of our broken stories by setting them in the context of a larger and greater story ...and begin living with “forever” in mind.

This year we will use Bob Buford’s book, Half Time, to help us change our game plan from Success to Significance.

Who Is It?

The Fall of Men are a group of men, mostly in their 40’s and 50’s, a few of 20’s and 30’s and a couple in their early to mid-60’s. We are from all walks of life ...Professionals, Retired, Blue Collar, White Collar, White, Chinese, African Americans, Life Long Christians, Early Christians, and Prodigal Sons. There are three large bases of men from TX, LA and CA, but there are also folks that live in PA, FL, TN, CO, MS, NC and China. We are men on a journey ...we are a band of brothers in Christ.

What are the Retreats Goals & Objectives?

There is something strong and powerful when men come together for a common purpose. Throughout history, we have witnessed ordinary men accomplish extraordinary things. None of us are perfect and most of us have a “story” not too dissimilar to the twelve that Christ chose to change the world.

The retreat goals are simple ...to continue to grow into the men that God intended ...not the dutiful "do nothing" men that you may have once imagined, but men after God’s own heart ...full of passion and love ...ready and able to stand and fight for those unable to fend for themselves or injustices ...to live out great adventures ...and "to leave a verse" in God's great unfolding story.

This is not an event. It is a launch into a journey where the hope is that you will find your heart (where you will certainly find God waiting) and begin living in a way that energizes your soul ...become a better father ...a better son ...a better husband ...a better co-worker ...and a better friend in the process.

Some of you will go back to your communities where you may be called to form your own men’s small group. You will give away what you have learned and, in the process, open the hearts of other men. The Fall of Men is a community of men, a band of brothers, where friends gather and grow in Christ. The retreat has spawn small groups and bible studies in Baton Rouge, California and other nooks and grannies across our great nation.
Come on in ... the water is warm!

**Dates & Format**

**Kicks Off:** **Wednesday, September 25**
**Ends:** **Sunday, September 29**

As with previous retreats, we will stay in luxury rentals in Mountain Village/Telluride. We will have four large community groups where we will watch the DVD video as one large group and then break off into smaller groups to discuss. Because most of us will have read the book, journaled and may have also previously sat through the 4 week study, this will be a review and the small groups will allow us to share our experience. This will give us plenty of time for outdoor activities.

**Preparation**

I have selected Bob Buford’s book, *Half Time ... Changing Your Game Plan from Success to Significance*, for the upcoming Fall of Men Retreat. This is an awesome book that should be savored and read over a long period of time to allow for it to soak in. The book is really geared to those of us that are approaching and/or have arrive near our mid-life. While the first half of our lives was/is focused on a quest for success, the second half can be a journey to significance ... a personal renaissance.

**Equipment**

- *Half Time ... Changing Your Game Plan from Success to Significance* by Bob Buford
  - 21 easy to read chapters (average of 9-10 pages/chapter)
  - Also available on Audible or audible CD
- *Strength Finders n/k/a CliftonStrengths* (optional) this is an online test assessment that is used in leadership training that I think you will find extremely useful in understanding your strengths and how they might be used in both your “success” and “significance.
  
  https://www.gallupstrengthscenter.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Strengths_ECommerce_Brand_Search_US&utm_content=strengthsfinder&gclid=CjwKCAjwREiwAIP6TJwk7_VSnxESqQgpHPy3_xx2QBo3psYxZL1zFV6_MLU5CvUs6MJ-QRoChfUQAuD_BwE

**Recommended Preparation Process – Self Study**

- Read one chapter per week
  - Answer the questions that are located at the back of the book
  - Consider the recommended “Suggested Actions” also associated with each chapter
  - Record your answers in your notebook or journal
- Repeat until you finish the book
  - To keep a steady pace, you may want to start reading now.

I think you find the book uplifting and freeing in some ways, but it is also somewhat of a call to action. Done with some thought, if may very well change your current course.
Proposed Itinerary

**Wednesday, September 25th**
- Travel day
- Most people arrive into Montrose or Grand Junction mid-day; we expect to have a hand full of participants that may drive.
- Grocery Shopping and stock homes
- Get settled in homes (all very close to my home at 143 Adams Ranch)
- **Afternoon Group Activities**
  - **Cornett Falls Hike**
    - ¼ mile rigorous hike
  - **Explore the Town/Relax**
- **Video Lesson 1 - Welcome to Half Time**
- **Group Dinner** at Bret’s Home (143 Adams Ranch)
- **Small Group Discussion – Welcome to Half Time**
- Bed

**Thursday, September 26th**
- **Group Breakfast** – 143 Adams Ranch
- **Video Lesson 2 – Exploring Possibilities**
- **Group Activity**
  - Drive/Ride to Silverton via Million Dollar Highway & Red Mountain Pass
- **Lunch** – **Handlebars Restaurant/Silverton**
- **Group Activity** – **South Mineral Creek Falls**
  - 1.5 - mile hike
  - Polar Bear Challenge
- Optional Activities
  - Local Hot Spring
  - Ouray / Box Canyons Falls
  - Ouray / Cascade Falls
- **Group Dinner** at Bret’s House (143 Adams Ranch)
- **Small Group Lesson 2 – Exploring Possibilities**
- Bed

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Friday, September 27th

- Group Breakfast
- **Video Lesson 3 – What’s in the Box?**

- **Group Activity - Mountain Bike Ride**
  *(Moderate activity)*
  - Meet at Boot Doctors and rent bikes
  - Load bikes in trailer and trucks and Lizard Head Pass
  - Ride a relatively easy cruise (downhill) for 19 miles
  - Optional (easier) routes will also be organized.

- **Alternative Activity**
  - Prep & Cook
  - Set Up and Pass Out Flyers

- **Free Time**
  - Lunch – On Your Own/In Town
  - Farmer’s Market
  - Shopping

- **Cajun Community Supper at Town Park**
  - Benefiting local non-profit, Mentor to Mentor
    - Set Up / Take Down
    - Serve / Clean Up
    - Recreation w/Kids & Mentors

- **Small Group Lesson 3 – What’s in the Box?**

- Bed
Saturday, September 28th
- Group Breakfast – 143 Adams Ranch
- Video Lesson 4 – Game Plan for Significance
- Pick Up Sack Lunch on way to Mystic Falls
- **Group Activity – Mystic Falls (Moderate)**
  - Option 1 – Moderate 1-Mile Hike from the Bottom and back
  - Option 2 – Moderate 1.5 Mile Hike from Top to Bottom & Back
  - Option 3 – Drive to Top and “Hang”
- Lunch – Mystic Falls
- Small Group Lesson 4 – Game Plan for Significance
- Free Time in Town
- Video Lesson 5 – The Best of Your Years
- Farewell Group Dinner – 143 Adam’s Ranch
- Small Group Lesson 5 – The Best of Your Years

Sunday, September 29th
- Breakfast on your own
- Check Out of Homes
- Travel day
Tell Me More about Getting There

**Montrose (MTJ)** in the closest regional jet service to Telluride and is serviced by **Allegiant Air**, **American**, **Delta** and **United**. I would encourage you to attempt to book your travel in advance and try to arrive mid-day. Telluride is approximately a 70 minute drive from the airport and we’ll have a van and/or other vehicles to pick up those arriving mid-day. Alternatively, you can rent a car or take a shuttle (**Telluride Express 888-212-8294**). Also consider a one-way, same day rental from MJT to TEX (airport in Telluride) as this is likely cheaper than a shuttle particularly if you are traveling in packs.

**Telluride (TEX)** is the small regional airport just outside of the Town of Telluride that just began its first Regional Jet Service from Denver (DEN) to Telluride (TEX), which can be booked through **United**.

**Grand Junction (GJT)** and **Durango (DRO)** are the next closest airport, which are approximately a 2.5 hour drive from Telluride. **GJT** is served by **American**, **Delta** and **United** and **DRO** by **American** and **United**. Depending on where you are flying from, you may find cheaper flights in GJT versus MTJ. You will not need a rental car to get around Telluride. Telluride Express also provides a service from GJT and DRO. Also consider a one-way, same day rental from GJT to TEX (airport in Telluride) as this is likely cheaper than a shuttle particularly if you are traveling in packs.

**Denver (DEN)** has become a viable option for frugal traveler and doesn’t mind traveling in a pack. **Southwest Airlines** has many direct flights into DEN from $99 to $300 round trip using their “Wanna Get Away” fares. This is a 6.5 mile drive one-way through Grand Junction or 7.5 mile drive from Colorado Springs (assuming no stops at the Garden of the Gods). This is the cheapest option as you pay less for the airline ticket and then split the one-way rental from Hertz from DEN to TEX. We can help you coordinate with others.
Accommodations:

I plan to secure 2 – 4 homes, including my own, located in Mountain Village (located mid-Mountain and a gondola ride away from the Town of Telluride). The homes are spacious and should accommodate up to 35 – 40 people (with each man having his own bed, but not necessarily his own room).

My Home – 143 Adams Ranch:
- 6 BR, 6 Bath, 2 - ½ Baths (Sleeps 11 - 16)
  - Guest King with Bath and Shower – Main Floor (1)
    - Twin mattress in Closet (1)
  - Master King with Bath and Shower – Upstairs (1)
  - Queen w/ Trundle and bath– Upstairs (2)
  - Guest Queen with Shower- Downstairs (1)
    - Twin Mattress in closet (1)
  - Gemini Room with 2 Twins and Shower – Downstairs (2)
    - Twin Mattress in Closet (1)
  - Bunk Room with Shower and Bath
    - Twin Bunks (2)
    - 2 Double Beds (2)
    - 1 Twin Trundle (1)
    - Walk In Closet Mattress (1)

Second Guest Home – 109 Palmyra
- 6 BR, 5 Bath, (Sleeps 13 - 15)
  - Guest King with Bath and Shower – (1)
  - Master King with Bath and Shower - (1)
  - Queen Bedroom # 3 (1)
  - Queen Bedroom # 4 (1)
  - Pyramid Bunk (Queen and Twin) (2)
  - Bunk Room
    - Twin Bunks (2)
    - Twin Bunks (2)
    - Pyramid Bunks (2)
  - Common Space
    - Queen Sofa Bed (1)