



Newsletter / September 2022

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalms 100:4

Praise Reports

- Praise the Lord for Richard Gray's homecoming.
- Praise the Lord for the closing on our new home.
- Praise the Lord for a great work & pizza party to get the new home ready.
- Praise the Lord for one of our men being able to purchase his own home.
- Praise the Lord for wonderful new contacts and relationships with Probation and Parole. Praise that things are changing for the better for those coming out and for those already out.
- Praise the Lord for new growth at the "To the Least of These Adult Only Church".

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Keven Y. for a full recovery from his motorcycle accident
- Pray for the new eagles as they look to get phones, cars and computers as probation/parole permits.
- Pray that our witness in the community will be strong for God's Kingdom
- Pray for our pastor as he takes on more & more responsibility
- Pray for our founder's Steve & Deb as they lead Eagles' Nest into God's plan for the future.
- Pray for every Eagle Family Member whether resident here or out on their own or still incarcerated.

"Do" or "Don't Do" For our Lord Jesus

It is up to YOU!

Jesus tells us how to do for Him or how not to do for Him

Matt. 25:40 *"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

Matt. 25:45 *"Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."*

We must examine ourselves to see what we are willing to do for our Savior and Lord!

"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

II Corinthians 13:5

Special Thanks Goes Out To Kevin Roy

It is great to have special people who are willing to give of themselves in a kind and loving way. Kevin is a wonderful example of this. Kevin works a full-time job, is fully active in our music ministry and still gives of his time to develop our two websites.

First, he created from scratch the "To the Least of These Adult Only Church" website. (www.aztotheleastofthese.org). Secondly, he created our Eagles' Nest website (www.azeaglesnest.org), which went online the 1st week of September. Both sites are in their early stages with more content to be added on a regular basis. Kevin is a great example of giving of oneself to the Master in all things.

Thank you, Kevin, we love you and appreciate all you do. May the Lord continue to bless you as you serve Him.

Treasures From Inside

Misunderstanding Scripture

Why do so many people seem to misunderstand Scripture? Most of the Scriptures are easily understood, only some may give us a challenge. Peter comments regarding Paul's writings giving us some insight: "so also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures." (2nd Peter 3:15-16).

So admittedly, not all Scripture is easily understood. When dealing with the Scriptures we should first pray then talk to our pastor to help with any misunderstanding.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
Your brother in Christ

Richard G. (Rick is now home with us)

C.O.C.

(Continuum of Care)

GEO Group C.O.C. Post Release Services

This program is a Geo program and available on several Geo yards. At present it is available in the following locations: CACF, Florence West, Phoenix West, and Kingman (Only on GP side so far)

Some guys have gone through this program and qualified for the benefits once out. Some of the benefits are as follows:

- Rent payment for 60 days with the possibility of an additional 30 days (You must be living at a facility that is a vendor for C.O.C. Eagles Nest is a vendor as well as others in the area)
- Bicycle or Bus Passes
- Tools needed for job
- Work clothing to include steel toed boots or shoes, shirts, pants, etc.

You must go through the program while inside and continue with their program by calling once a week to your caseworker in Florida once you are out.

This is a great program and very helpful for those starting over again.

Talk to your COIII and find out if it is available on your yard. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us here at Eagles Nest and we will help you in any way we are able.

Check It Out!

Founder's Corner

As I remember the world of registered citizens... in 2012

Some men were coming out to live in expensive, overcrowded facilities

- Sometimes she's sharing a room with over 20 other men, multi-tiered beds, and mattresses on the floor, bedbug and flea infestations, visibility of the ground through the floor
- Very limited bathroom/hygiene access
- Very little food
- High expenses – rent, probation, group (SOETP), restitution, food
- Some of the facilities took the food stamps and would send the men to work with their pay checks coming directly to the facility. When the food stamps and available work expired, the men were turned out into the streets homeless and without resources.
- High demands both emotional and physical
- Many companies would not even consider hiring a registered citizen.

Some men were coming out homeless

- No home, no kitchen, no bathroom, no place for hygiene and grooming
- Most shelters would not provide beds or protection for registered citizens, too high of a liability since they housed women and families. Men were assigned to live on a street corner, always in the elements, without any resources.
- No jobs (and difficult to get one without a home, let alone registered status).
- High expenses – probation, group (SOETP), restitution, food
- High demands both emotional and physical

These sets of circumstances usually produce feelings of hopelessness and often resulted in deliberate offenses. (Almost always not sex-related, usually breaking probation or registration rules). Sometimes they resulted in suicide.

In 2012, our highest frustration and the source of most of the problems we encountered was probation. They painted all registered citizens with the same broad brush. All men had the same rules and requirements regardless of their personal history. No progress was EVER made. No possibility of getting off probation, no possibility of finishing treatment (SOETP). It seemed impossible to successfully comply with all the rules, many times, because they just didn't make any sense, so they were difficult to remember, even more difficult to understand. Some of the officers seem to enjoy setting men up for failure and sometimes it felt as if they were being deliberately tormented. Probation said that their function was to help the probationer succeed and keep the public safe. It appeared to me that they were indeed interested in public safety but had no compassion, plan or actions to help the probationers.

Another extreme frustration was the unwillingness of employers to give "second" chances to registered citizens. How can a man move forward without having a job?

I was not directly touched by any of the situations I observed, but even I, felt helpless and hopeless. Even writing this after all these years, still makes me feel depressed and hopeless. I wrote the above text several weeks ago and only now am able to continue...

Many changes have happened between 2012 and 2022. In no way, do we take credit for these changes. Some have been our honor to work on under God's instruction, guidance and blessings!

Fast forward to 2022... Many things happened in between, and I'd be happy to address specific events, if anyone is interested or asks...

Probation (for the most part) treats each man as an individual. His restrictions are based on court orders and his individual actions. As he gets involved in treatment (SOETP) and his probation team learns more how to trust him, he gains more and more freedom. As he progresses, he can be removed from probation! There is hope and a defined path to follow. Treatment (SOETP) also has a goal of graduating the men into maintenance. Eventually, they remain available for requested support and the man is free to live his life with the healthy skills he has developed during treatment.

When probation officers come to our home, they are friendly and respectful. When I am not present, the men tell me they are still treated with respect – a bit less friendliness, but it is difficult to maintain authority and friendliness. Most (if not all) of the men that I know like their teams. They feel their teams want them to succeed and are there to support them. They are not pushovers (so they haven't gone to the other extreme). If a man breaks the rules, he should expect them to come down on him. Coming down on him involves removing privileges like driving or being able to attend events. If he messes up very badly, he can expect to be detained and possibly returned to prison (depending on his actions and attitudes). There are many less broad-brush strokes and much more individuality.

There are many more suitable housings available. Very few homes are packed in tightly with residents. Most homes are limited to 5 men. Housing costs is high, but jobs are available. If you need resources for housing and employment (and many other categories), please let us know and we will get them to you.

Specifically, about Eagles' Nest – God has built a community! I was amazed the other day to review one of the first documents we wrote to see that God has done all that He placed in our hearts. (There are still some areas that haven't yet been developed, but we are progressing beyond my expectations or even my dreams!) So far, Eagles' Nest has directly helped over 60 men. We have touched many more. We currently have 6 houses and actively house 18 men. We are close to capacity most of the time. Last week we had a pizza party/workday and 23 men participated. It was a great time of teambuilding and preparing for their brothers who have not yet come home.

We started the church in 2017, "To the Least of These Adult Only Church". Each registered citizen has obtained permission from probation or parole to attend. We usually have about 30 people gather each Saturday to worship and fellowship. We start by having fellowship over dinner, then move to the sanctuary for worship and a message, then back to the fellowship area for dessert and more fellowship. Many of the men have curfew and must be home by 9 PM. It works out perfectly because we start at 5PM! I can't express how very blessed I feel watching these man that I love so dearly laughing and enjoying themselves!! Occasionally, probation or parole suggests that a man joins us!

Last week a probation officer called me to request housing for one of their men who was going to be homeless that night. She was earnest in her plea on his behalf. She stressed that he is a strong Christian man, and she sincerely wants him to succeed. She shared that she is a Christian too. These events are miracles!! Change is happening!

Deb

You Shop – Amazon Gives – No Extra Cost to You

AmazonSmile

If you already shop Amazon, why not help our ministry at the same time?

Eagles' Nest Ministries is now listed on AmazonSmile on their charities list.

How to generate AmazonSmile Donations

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app. Remember, only purchases made at smile.amazon.com, (not www.amazon.com) or with AmazonSmile turned ON in the Amazon Shopping app on your mobile phone will generate AmazonSmile donations.

Contact us for more information



Happy & Content

Jonathan shows us how freedom looks. You can be **you** again! He is doing well. He is an Eagle at a distance, and we are in constant communication. All things are possible with the Lord!

Eagles' Nest Newsletter

If you know of anyone who may be interested in receiving our newsletter by email, have them contact us with their name and email address at azeaglesnest@gmail.com and we will add them to our list.

It is a monthly newsletter and will keep you up to date with what is happening in the Ministry.

Eagles' Nest Ministries Donation Button Available

We have made it possible for those who want to partner with us in this ministry to make donations quickly and easily. Our Newsletter and our outgoing e-mails now have a donation button on them and soon our website will have one also.

Click Here to Donate Now Eagles'
Nest Ministries

Pastor's Thoughts

Almost every person on the planet has, at least once, suffered the dreaded condition known as “the Earworm”. It is not, much to the disappointment of the average Star Trek fan, those vile creatures that Khan put into the ears of two unlucky crew members. What it is, is that song that gets stuck in your head and will not leave. You hum it, sing it, curse its existence because it is written all too well.

They say, the only way to get rid of an earworm, is to listen to another well written and catchy tune in hopes that it evicts the other.

Lies from the adversary are like earworms. We hear them, try to ignore them but they have such persistent melodies and clever writing that we end up rehearsing them and making them our own. We begin to dance to their tune and sing it to others in hopes that they catch on to it too. Lives are lived by it, sometimes even ended by it. It is a condition that fallen man is conditioned to accept and live with like back pain or bad vision. He dances through life bitter, angry, defensive and miserable, finding no relief from the song of lies filling his mental playlist.

Our ultimate physician has a better remedy than for us to “just deal with it”. Over and over in scripture we are encouraged to meditate on His word. His word is truth! The tree planted by the rivers of waters, seasonally bearing fruit in Psalm 1, that blessed man meditates on God’s word day and night. The souls thirsting after God in Psalm 63, rejoices after his meditations on God’s goodness in the night watches. God’s instruction to Joshua as he prepares to usher the children of Israel into the land of promise, meditate day and night.

To meditate, in the Hebrew, means to recite so that you can hear it, like coherent and reassuring mumbling. If we could get ahold of His truth, rehearse it, own it, let it settle in our hearts and allow it to be the song we sing and move to, we would find the earworms of lies displaced as the light and love radiate within us and through us.

Eagles' Nest Ministries Website Available

Many of you know, we have been working on Resource & Services Lists to aid people coming out of prison in find Housing & Employment and many other categories. These lists are for anyone in need.

It is my pleasure to notify you that our website (www.azeaglesnest.org) is up and running and these lists are now available to anyone.

At present we have 5 lists up and we will be adding many more as they become ready. We will be updating the lists with new entries as they are called and verified.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may need help or anyone who works with people that need help.

Our website is growing and there will be much more material and information there as the days go by. It is a work in progress, so please bear with us as we serve the Lord by assisting those in need.

Request for the Newsletter

We would like to hear from each of you. We are always looking for our readers to share with us from their heart so we can share it with everyone. It may be your testimony of when you came to Christ, it may be a poem you wrote, it may be a short piece on any spiritual subject, but we feel your input is important and we want more people involved in this work for the Lord.

You may be still inside, or you may be on the outside, it does not matter, we still would like to hear from you. You may have never been inside, that's ok too. You still may have things to share with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let's share as a family for the Lord Jesus Christ or Savior and Sustainer.

From Us All to Each of You



Just had a great meal prepared by Deb. Getting ready to start our praise and worship service to thank the Lord for all He has done for each of us and for this Ministry. Join with us in praise to His name. There is room for you here at Eagles' Nest, if this is where the Lord wants you.

Admonition to Each of Us

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."

2 Peter 3:18

Eagles' Nest Ministries

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