

Steve and I spent Christmas Eve day traveling around to deliver food and gifts to the men in this ministry. We stayed to visit for a bit with each and were totally blessed by them and the awesomeness of the men God has brought into our lives. Sometimes I just sit back and ponder on each one and am SO VERY BLESSED. God has called us to serve His men and they are very spectacular, talented men. Their love and devotion to Him is totally obvious and they are genuinely living Godly lives. We are blessed!!

Steve and I spent the week between Christmas and New Year's at Kohl's Ranch (just North and East of Payson). We left a bit later than planned, because it was hard to separate ourselves from our visits. On the way up, it started to snow. Between Sunflower and Rye, we were able to follow a snow plow. After Rye, the snow had slowed down, even stopped at times. When we got to Payson, there was a soft, slow snow and we decided to stop at Safeway for groceries. We were shopping for about 20 minutes. When we came out, the snow was heavy and wet. The car had about 3 inches covering it and we were pretty cold and wet by the time we loaded the groceries into the car. I wasn't even sure we should continue up the mountain, but Steve felt confident we would make it. By the time we passed the leaving Star Valley sign, the visibility was pretty bad and we had trouble seeing the road. After that, we couldn't see any signs. The wet snow had stuck to them. We prayed quite a bit!! ☺ Very long story cut short...we found Kohl's and got safely tucked in. The snow continued all night and all Christmas day, so we did not get to come down to the valley to enjoy Christmas with our family or eat the steak dinner Sekou prepared for us. (Fresh salmon for me...) That was a bummer, but it was an adventure to be snowed in. A few days later, most of the snow had melted and Steve made this snowman on the cabin deck.



We spent the next several days watching TV in front of a fire, cooking, eating, doing puzzles, and resting. I was on-call for work, so worked a few hours each day. When the network was unavailable at the cabin, we drove down to Denny's and ate breakfast while I did my work. It was fun and relaxing...

We put peanuts, chips, pretzels, and bread out for the birds and squirrels. They were so fun to watch. One day, we stood out on the deck and threw peanuts to the various squirrels

(I think there were 6). They were so cute with their little noses wrinkling while they enjoyed the nuts!

There were blue jays, woodpeckers (with vibrant red caps), and a bird we cannot identify. It was not aggressive and stayed in groups. It was about the size of a small sparrow, had a brownish/dusty blue body, black eyes, a short beak, and a rusty brown/red oval down its back. They were so calm and beautiful and we loved the way they got along together.

On the last day, we walked the creek and enjoyed the rushing water, birds and a swing we found outside the cabin near the water. It held both of us and we just spent time talking to God about the beauty He had surrounded us with and especially for you! We prayed for your wellbeing, hope, faith and love...



We came back from the cabin a day early, because Shannon came home!! We got up early on 12/31 to meet Chuck and Gloria for breakfast. It was fun and relaxing (as always). Then we drove over to probation and waited for Shannon to arrive. It was a rainy day (I love rainy days). He arrived in the 2nd van and was shortly driving home with us!! It was exciting to finally meet him. Rick's Mom, Kay, made a quilt for him and he loves it. Here is a picture of him in his new home with his quilt. We went out to the car; while Shannon settled in and got changed into normal clothes (doesn't he look sharp). While we were waiting, I called the landlord and told them about another man that is coming home this week, Jim. She said she didn't have any room for him, so we continued praying about what we were going to do with him on the 4th. After Shannon got settled in, we went to Floridino's for an Italian lunch. He had cheese ravioli's. Then we went to Safeway to grocery shop. While we were shopping,

the landlord called back and said she would put Jim in with Shannon this week and put the man she had slated for that space at the house Kevin is staying. Praise God!!! We stopped at a clothing supply place and Shannon picked out a few more shirts, a pair of black jeans and some shoes. We called yesterday and Shannon seems a lot less shell shocked and relaxed. We will be calling again today to see if he wants to go get some lunch. Tomorrow Steve and him will start the process of completing all the requirements.

While we were away, Sekou received a significant promotion. He is now a salaried manager!! We are quite proud of him and he is quite happy. He will no longer be doing manual labor and will be using his people skills and analytical mind more. God is good!!

Mike is starting to work on getting his commercial license. He is doing well.

Kevin had an interview with Chandler waste water management. He thinks it went very well, but he's not heard back yet. He also applied for a job at a printing company, because he did that before. He's not heard back on that one either. He continues to work as a driver. He got to spend part of Christmas Eve day with his daughter. ☺



In the interest of honest perspective, here is Steve standing next to his snowman.

We have been spending as much time as possible with Sekou enjoying football games. (it's my gift to them) We found a great pizza place, Rosati's. The pizza is wonderful and they also have great wings. We go to Sekou's trailer and I sit at the table and watch them on the couch. They sit on the couch and eat, while being involved with the game. It is a blast to listen to and watch them. Who would've thought so much excitement could be caused by a TV program? For example: Sekou, "You'd better not say roughing!!" (Spoken to a referee on the TV just as he is getting ready to make a call on a play) Ref, "Roughing!" Sekou, "AWH!!!" Me laughing out loud! It may not sound like much, but we sure do have a good time doing it!!

Housing...we drove by the house with 8800 square foot of livable space that is zoned commercial. There is a day care directly across the street.

How you can pray? Please continue to pray that we will recognize where and when God wants us to act.

The next Eagle Family Support meeting is this coming Saturday. We will have chili with corn bread and probably cheesecake for dessert (maybe cookies). Curt and Linda have settled in Goodyear and will probably be coming to the meeting. My daughter was able to complete the prayer poster, so we will be able to show it to the families and encourage us all to pray. You should be able to find your picture...



The woman in the far left picture is Cheryle Touchton. She is a missionary in America. She goes to events, like Bonnaroo and Marti Gras sharing the Good News. She is highly effective and God always prepares the harvest before her. The couple below her are Joni and Kurt. She is going through aggressive cancer treatment. The man in the bottom left picture is Pastor Mike (his wife, Mary, is just to the right of him). Mike is on our board and is VERY supportive of this ministry. Doretta and John are just to the right of Mary. Mary and Ken are just to the right of Doretta and John. Our daughter, Sarah and Brandon, are just below them. Sarah made the poster and does the organizing support for Eagles' Nest. Of course, you recognize Mac and Heidi. Chuck and Gloria are in the picture below Mac and Heidi (with us). Kevin is at the top right and Eric with his family, Loretta, Kay and us are just left of Mac and Heidi.

We pray for your health – physically and spiritually – continuously. Keep your hope in Him and you will not be disappointed!!! Keep moving forward, do not be discouraged. Shine Him through you, so all will see and want to know Him! We are proud of you.

May God bless you above and beyond your imagination!

Blessings!

Steve and Deb

[Jeremiah 29:11](#)

"For **I know the plans** I have for you," declares **the** Lord, "**plans** to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans** to give you hope and a future.