

So much has happened in the last month...

We officially changed our name to Eagles' Nest Ministries, Inc. Shawn came home and we started 2 businesses with him. We found a property and made an offer.

We talked with Sekou and determined it would be good to officially change our name from group homes of AZ to ministries. After unanimous agreement of all our directors, we made it official at the corporation commission. We are waiting for the official documents, then we will publish under our new name.

We met Shawn a couple of months ago, he had been released to parole to finish a month and then would be paper free. He decided to return and finish his time in prison. He came home on 1/13 and was able to live in our home. He brought with him a business plan that seems VERY good to us, so we decided to fund and support it. We started Greene's Services, LLC and restarted Aerie Services, LLC.

Greene's Services is a set of services designed to help inmates while they are serving their time and after they are released. There are other services that provide much of the same services, but we will be much more affordable. Providing these services will save those inside financially and provide work for some of those already released. We hope to provide good wages, safe work, and an environment of respect for our brothers.

Aerie Services is still a handyman and commercial cleaning service. With Shawn's experience, we were able to license, bond and insure this business, so it will be easier to obtain work. We will be hiring mainly those from our brothers that are released, but we will have others that have never been to prison for the residential work and to help with skills not yet available from our brothers.

We got the businesses set up with the corporation commission, bank accounts created, and advertising printed. We've started a mass mailing into the prisons (not only in AZ, but nationwide). We used a legal service to establish Greene's Services to make sure we didn't miss anything.

On Wednesday, we took Shannon (our first employee) and Shawn out for a celebration dinner and had a great time!

Because of Shawn's experience with construction (all phases including blueprints, permits, plumbing, electrical, etc.), we were able to find a property that will immediately provide us with office space and enough room to house about 5 men; however, there is currently no shower in the building. It includes a lot of empty property where we can construct a dorm and chapel. The owner of the company has a family member currently serving for a sex related crime, so he is really wanting our ministry to settle there.

We initially were approved for financing, but the loaning institution will not have funding until the end of Q2. Then the realtor sent us to a small business lending organization. After a few days of working with them, we found out that a non-profit cannot get a loan for a property and actually reside on that property. The non-profit must lease it to the for profit businesses, but cannot occupy any of the facility. Tomorrow I will be contacting a different loan company to see about funding through them.

On Thursday, three sheriff deputies showed up at our door looking for Shawn. He was out finding work for Aerie (actually made 3 connections and one has called back – big jobs). Steve called Shawn to let him know about the deputies and Shawn called them to see what was going on. They said they just needed to talk to him about an old investigation in CA. Shawn did not believe them, but told them he could come home immediately. They said it was OK to call them when he returned home in the evening. When we all got home, we had dinner, met with God for our normal devotional time, and prayed together. Then Shawn called the sheriff's office and we waited for them to come. When they arrived here, they arrested Shawn on an old CA warrant for probation violation. We think it was for not changing his address on the registry in CA, when he was arrested in AZ. The Marshall's office will be coming to get him and take him to CA to meet with a Judge. We've not been able to talk to him since his arrest, but expect a call from him shortly. Steve and I will be going to CA to ask the Judge to send him back here and are hoping we can bring him back with us. Perhaps naive, but we are praying and are hopeful you will join us in that prayer!

Before the sheriff officers came on Thursday, Shawn asked us to keep the businesses running and we told him we would do our best. He suggested we hire Sarah (she has an MBA) to run it, since she had been working with us on getting them started. Sarah is now full time and we hope to be able to keep Shannon busy full time too soon. So far, Sarah is doing an excellent job. We don't have all the details of everything Shawn advertised, but he left us extensive notes and we will be able to communicate with him by phone and mail, until he comes back home. It has been VERY discouraging...especially for Shawn as he was doing everything correctly and listening carefully to God and to us. We are very proud of Shawn, because he did not run away. He stayed and followed the law, putting his faith in God – and God will take care of him.

So now we are trying to figure out what to do about showers in the new building. We know probation will not approve it for residents without showers. We are thinking about getting a portable shower and putting a tent outside on the patio for showers. We also discussed moving Sekou's trailer to the patio and using the shower from it. If probation approves him to come home, that will probably be our best temporary solution.

James is coming home in March, so we were doing our best to be settled before his homecoming. His parents have made other arrangements for him. Steve is coming home in April, so we must be settled by then. Henry is coming home in October. We are hoping for Steve to be part of the worship team and help Shannon with the Greene work. James and Henry have construction skills and we are hoping they will work on the Aerie team.

There have been some rumors that have come to our attention that we are not working diligently toward getting an appropriate facility. Please let me assure you that it is not true. We are working very hard to find the 'right' place for us to move to. We check every single idea that each of you send (or that your friends or relatives approach us with). Unfortunately, we do not always take the time to properly communicate our failures and the reasons things do not work out. That is my bad and I will work harder to communicate better.

There has also been quite a bit of pressure to expand our ministry to encompass non-born again brothers. This is always a point of sorrow for us. God specifically instructed us to take care of His men. Until they are taken care of and/or God changes His instructions to us, we must remain true to His call.

Other news, Sekou is still doing VERY well. He continues to be blessed at work. We continue to enjoy his company and are permitted to meet in places other than his trailer.

Mike is doing well. He spends quite a bit of time with his sister. This week he attended an Eagle's concert (that's a band – nothing to do with us). ;-) He is still working on getting his commercial driving license. This afternoon, after church, Eugina, Aman's Mom, and I joined Mike for lunch at a Chinese restaurant. We visited for most of the afternoon – it was fun. Mike is having some aches and pains and will be seeing the doctor this week.

Shannon has been working part time for Greene's and is looking for additional work to support himself. He is still living at Kokopelli sharing a room with Jim. He is very quiet, but we enjoy him – his smile is beautiful.

Jim is doing well. I don't think he will be looking for work (because of his age), but he is enjoying his daughters and their families.

Kevin is doing well. The job with Chandler waste water did not come through. He is working part time as a driver (almost full time) and looking for additional work. He recently started attending church services on Wednesday evenings and they have asked him to lead worship. He will start that ministry this week. Yesterday he took a 3-hour bus/train ride to north Phoenix to get a CD of the music they want him to play. Today he went to Guitar Center to practice. The church has purchased a keyboard for him to use at the church. He is very excited about starting this ministry. He is still living at a different Kokopelli than Shannon and Jim. He plans to live with us after we move and we are looking forward to that!

The Eagles' Nest Family Support group continues to thrive. Our last meeting was particularly rewarding as people opened up with each other and shared things of importance to them.

We have joined a group that is meeting to promote living without fear for registered citizens and their families. We meet monthly to discuss ways to improve the AZ situation. Some are interested in working toward changing the government, but we have been there and tried that – we hope they are successful. Our plan is to find a way to cause humanization of registered citizens. We are thinking it would be good to have pictures of some of the men at the age they first were mistreated. Unfortunately, we have observed that this is a continuous loop for most men and their families. We think if we can make people understand that aspect, it will help them realize we are all just people doing our best with what we have... I contacted Kirk Cameron last week to find out if God has been preparing him for a new, challenging project, but haven't heard back from him yet.

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 in 2 weeks. I've not yet figured out the menu – maybe potato bar again or spaghetti...still thinking about it.

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.