

Dear Kevin,

Eagle News:

I hope this letter find you very well and filled with His peace and joy!!

We had another first at our church – a memorial service – not as much fun as the baptism, but meaningful. We celebrated the lives of Dee Maurer, Chris Willingham, Chuck's sister-in-law, and Henry's father-in-law. We will miss them dearly, but rejoice they are with our Lord and no longer have pain. In the last couple of weeks, two more of my friends have gone home, Jeff and Joni. I worked for years with them at Boeing. They both were Christians. My friend, Eugena, Aman's mother, also went home. I miss them all a great deal! I've been imagining their homecomings. Chris left here timidly hoping in Christ – a fairly new Christian. Jeff left here a bit afraid that he hadn't lived up to Christ's expectations of him. Joni left joyfully anticipating meeting her loving Lord. Eugena left here in confidence. I think that when they arrived, they were all filled with love, joy and awe as they met Christ face to face!! I hope we can all live our lives in anticipation of that day, knowing we are fully loved and forgiven. We are no longer who we were before we came to know, trust, and serve our Lord – He has transformed us into His image!! We are His – He knows us by name, has the hairs on our head numbered, knows our thoughts and feelings before we do, loves us unconditionally. He laughs in joy as He watches us! He delights in us. He does not condemn us – that would be contrary to His great love. I know there are times that He says to me, 'You are better than that, My Dear Daughter.' But it is always in love and forgiveness, always to help me grow and be more like Him.

When I am fantasizing about heaven, I'm pretty sure I will be able to dance!! Here, I'm rather clumsy if I even attempt to dance, but there, in my new body, I will be able to express my love and gratitude with magnificent, flowing dance...pretty sure! Running, leaping and praising God!! Well, that's my fantasy! What is yours?

So...on to other news. I'll attempt to update you on each of the guys, as many of you have been asking.

Sekou is doing really well. They have hired a new general manager at his work. The new manager highly values Sekou and is making sure that he gets the rest he needs. He was moved to a new probation team and it appears to be a much better situation. He continues to be part of our worship team and is our shepherd – he loves us all dearly and it is obvious to each of us! His sermons lately have been on grace and love.

Mike is doing really well too. It has been a VERY challenging couple of months for him. His ex-wife sabotaged his job and got him demoted. He had to work digging and working outside for a few weeks. (Not easy for anyone – and we don't call him Bear because he is small). They took away his company truck causing his spending to increase. I was very proud of him. He did not lose faith, he kept working with a good attitude. A couple of weeks ago, they promoted him to manage a new warehouse they had just opened!! He got his truck back and is working inside in the air conditioning. He continues to be our worship leader. A couple of weeks ago, he mentioned that he has always wanted to learn to play the cello. Imagine our delight and joy when someone donated a cello a couple of days later!!! Our God is amazing and loves to delight us!!

Steve B is doing really well too. He recently got a scooter – a step toward the motorcycle he really wants. He goes out in the evenings when it's not too hot! He invents shopping needs...just say'n. ;-)) He continues to work for Eagles' Nest and I really appreciate his skills and attitude. He has been working on several musical instruments and does our sound equipment. He is also an essential part of our worship team (singing and playing). He often advises me, when needed.

Dave and Carrie Ann are doing well. They are going through a great deal just now. They recently bought a townhouse that sprung several leaks. The entire home has been demolished. They are living in a hotel with their 2 teenaged sons. So, that doesn't sound like doing well, but they are. They are not attacking each other; they are still loving and supportive of each other. They recently started working together at their jobs. They are doing well, because they rely heavily on our Lord and keep their focus on Him. I am proud of them!

James is doing very well. He moved into his new home a few weeks ago. He still comes by a couple of times a week and we are always very glad to see him. He is working a lot of overtime. He is in the process of getting permission to have a computer. When he gets permission, he will start college classes to get an AutoCAD certification. His company will promote him to the design department then. Then he will be able to use his experience and skills without being in the heat.

Henry is managing a house for our sister ministry. He was able to purchase a car for his daughter and was very happy about that! He feels he missed many of her important occasions and was happy to not have missed this one. He gets to spend time with his wife and daughter. He is doing well.

Bob is doing well. He continues to work at the airport. He wore too small of shoes for most of his prison stay and developed a hammer toe that has been causing him pain for many years. In two weeks, he will have surgery to fix it. He will be unable to walk on it for three to four weeks, so we will be helping him. Currently, he cleans the house for me each week. His love of God is evident in his words and actions. I don't remember every hearing a bad attitude from him. He shares a room with Glenn. Glenn says he is the best roommate!

Glenn is doing really well too. He continues to work the job he had before his stay at prison. They love him because he is a hard worker and has a great attitude. He serves others and helps them to succeed. He brings some of them food from home. On Monday mornings, they ask him, 'What did Deb make this weekend and did you bring us some?'. He has been working with Mike and Steve B

on stuccoing the new sanctuary. They waited until the hottest season...shaking my head... It is a pleasure to listen to Glenn talk. He is from North Carolina and has not only a nice accent, but uses words differently than the rest of us! Sometimes when Glenn and Bob are talking, the rest of us listen without understanding, but they understand each other so that's what's important.

Steve Bratton is doing very well. He lives in Henry's house and is a constant blessing to his household. He quietly cleans and serves. He just got a car this week. It was great fun for us to all go out to admire it after worship on Saturday.

Kevin (Ray) is now allowed to worship with us and we are enjoying having him with us. He is not yet allowed to eat with us, but baby steps... We will be celebrating his birthday this Saturday.

The Carfrey's are doing well. They are able to join us for worship most weeks. They recently got a new car that they are very excited about. They go to a food bank most weeks and bring us their overflow. It's really nice.

Luis often joins us for worship, but he is REALLY quiet, so we don't know much other than he says he is good.

Phillip got his knee replaced last week. They had him walking on it the very first day.

Audie is having arthritis problems, but he joins us most weeks. He works hard and keeps mostly to his self.

We have not heard from George, Randy, Shawn or Travis, so I cannot report on their progress or wellbeing.

My Steve is doing good. He has slowed down quite a bit, but says he's happy.

I've been working quite a bit. Boeing assigned me as the team lead, so I have more responsibilities. I'm enjoying it. I'm going to visit my sister in Indiana for a week at the end of this month. We plan to visit/do all the usual things we usually do when I visit her. They are moving to Arizona later this year, so it will be our last Indiana trip. I'm staying longer than usual, so we plan to rest a lot too.

So...how can you pray? Our prayer requests do not change, but are so very important to us! Thank you for praying and not growing weary. God answers these prayers (like you don't already know that) and they are essential to our well-being and success.

Please pray for God's people, that they will focus on God, listen carefully and always obey. Pray that we will all love Him with all our hearts, souls, strength and minds, that He will make us feel and see what He feels and sees and that we will all represent Him VERY well!

Please pray that in addition to loving and supporting each other, we reflect Our Lord so that those not already in relationship with Him will be drawn to Him.

Steve and I are feeling VERY blessed! God is faithful. God is more than capable. Please pray that we keep our focus on Him and that He receive **all** the praise and glory!

We want to be exactly where God wants us, doing exactly what He wants us to do – all the time.

Blessings!

Steve and Deb Schmidt