

Dear,

Eagle News:

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

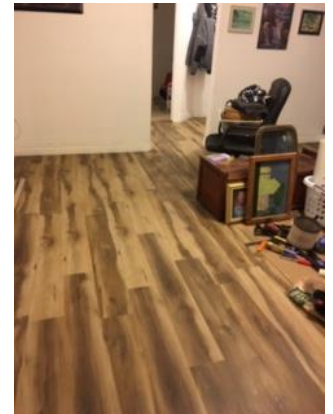


I'd like to remind you to remember who and whose you are. You are men of the Most Holy God, purified by His blood, most loved and honored by God. You are my brothers and I love you and am quite proud of you!!! I wish you were all home and celebrating with us.

Steve and I are currently at Kohl's Ranch for our annual week of rest. It has been snowing for days and is beautiful! We bring acorns and peanuts from the valley and the squirrels and birds enjoy it!

Christian and Larry have both come home and are currently living with us. Christian is planning to stay with us until he finishes parole in April, then he plans to move to South Carolina to live with and take care of his mother. Larry came over for dinner on Thanksgiving and was homeless. He has been with us ever since. They are both still looking for work and are adjusting quite well.

The thing that has continued consuming us here at the nest is putting in a new floor. The people that prepared it to sell to us, made shortcuts when installing the tile floor. Since we moved in 2 years ago, it had been deteriorating with the tiles and grout coming up and cracking. It had gotten to the point of being a safety issue. Steve B and I did most of the demolition of the tile floor. Dave, Larry and Christian helped too. Demolition is complete and installation of the new flooring has begun. Steve B and Larry installed the new vinyl flooring in our bedroom, and it is totally beautiful!!! They hope to have the living, dining and kitchen done by the time Steve and I come back home from Kohl's Ranch.



Steve and I moved back into our room just before we left for Kohl's. Someone had donated a corner desk that fit just perfectly. It feels like we have moved into an upscale room. I will now be able to work at a desk (instead of on the couch with a laptop). I feel very blessed!!

Kevin R is coming home next month, and probation says we are at our limit, so he cannot live with us. We decided to convert the garage at Sekou's house into 2 bedrooms and will be asking probation to approve Kevin to live there. If he is approved, he will only be 6 houses away from our home, so we can still kind of live together and will be able to help him get started in his new life. If they do not approve it, he has been accepted into our sister ministry home and we will still be able to help him get restarted.

Sekou is doing well, tired, but well. He had a cold for a bit and has been doing more of the physical work at Peddler's because of short staff, but he is well. He kind of thrives on challenges.

Mike has decided to purchase the home his sister left to him and his other sister. He will pay her half of the equity and it will be his! He is excited. He continues to succeed in his new managerial position at work. He and Larry have been building a shed over at Sekou's to empty out the room we had planned to use as our sanctuary. We are preparing it now for Kevin's homecoming.

So...if probation approves Kevin to live at Sekou's, the sanctuary will become housing. We gave away the couches in our living room to Henry in order to make more room for worship services. I was concerned about how I would continue cooking for our fellowship time, so this solution solves that question. I am convinced that God has a building selected for us to use as our worship/fellowship center and am watching for it. I think it will not look like a church on the outside, but it will be a holy worship center on the inside – I'm excited.

Steve B is doing well. As I'm sure I've mentioned before, he is the only Eagles' Nest employee. He manages all the physical problems and challenges that we encounter (he is a true gift from God). His knowledge and skill base is extremely valuable to us. Additionally, his insight into people and understanding of prison and its oddities helps us a lot when we don't understand behaviors or attitudes.

Dave and Carrie Ann are doing well. Carrie Ann will start a new job after the first of the year. It is much closer to home and will utilize her skill set much more than her previous job. They are excited about the change. Dave continues to do

very well at his job and will be finishing the room at Sekou's after the first of the year. He continues to lead his family in Christ. Please continue to lift them in prayer.

James continues to deal with a few challenges, but he is doing well. He is not allowed to come over just now and we miss him a lot! Sometimes we get to go to his house to visit him, so that's good.

Bob got a promotion at the airport and is very happy about it. He will work later in the day (so no longer will be getting up at 3:30 in the morning to leave), the work is less strenuous, pay is higher, and he already has friends. He has been growing in Christ and we are quite proud of him. He baked banana bread for each of the church members – that is an excellent annual event!

Henry is doing well. He is building a new site to hopefully house men as they come home.

Luis has been coming back to church again. He is still quiet, but he seems very happy.

Steve Bratton continues to worship with us every week and we enjoy having him with us. He seems very happy too.

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

Doug is still unable to join us, but we are hoping he'll be back soon.

Kevin (Ray) has joined the worship team and comes over each Thursday (when the worship team meets for fellowship and preparation). He is doing well, but still working on passing some kidney stones and could use your prayers.

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

My Steve is doing well. He has slowed down quite a bit but says he's happy. He was busy for a few days helping Christian and Larry get settled in.

Steve and I went to Tennessee to participate in Steve's brother's celebration of life. It was in Pigeon Forge (where Dolly Parton has her entertainment set ups). It was really beautiful. It was warm in the room we were all meeting in, so I took a break to walk out on the deck of the resort. It overlooks a river. No one else was there, probably because it was cold! There was a large gray heron that seemed to enjoy my singing. The trees were losing their leaves and it looked like flocks of birds flying over the water. It was an extremely beautiful time with God.

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. In addition, please pray that those of us who are married will continue to grow in our relationships. Marriage is intended as a reflection of our relationship with God. We face many challenges and your prayers are essential.

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 the 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