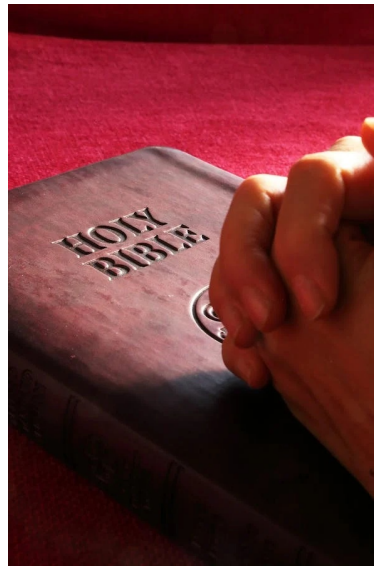


Newsletter / January 2023



Praise Reports

1. Abel M. came home on the 19th of January and is doing very well.
2. Kris A. came home on the 6th of February and is really excited.
3. We have 4 new individuals coming home by June
4. Growth in both Ministries
5. God's constant care and blessings to each of us and to the Ministries
6. New jobs and new vehicles
7. The many miracles He has performed in the lives of the Eagles' Nest Family inside and out.

Prayer Requests

1. Possible New Construction at our church
2. Upcoming surgery for Steve B.
3. Health of all our Eagles
4. New people coming out in the next few months
5. Volunteers and Supporters of "Eagles Nest Ministries" and "To the Least of These Adult Only Church"
6. Guidance from the Lord relating to all the plans He is leading us to pursue
7. Pray for the Lord's leading regarding another house.

Prayer Requests and Praise Reports

Our devoted friend and volunteer, who devotes her time freely to assist the ministry, Debbie D. hosts a prayer chain for prayer requests and praise reports. We participate with her in this endeavor. It is a wonderful thing when God's children unite in prayer.

If you have any prayer requests or praise reports you would like on the prayer chain please send them to us. For those of you on the outside you can email them to john@azeaglesnest.org or text them to 602 – 813 – 8283. Also, Those of you on the inside can snail mail them or send a message on your tablet. If you are not set up to contact us by tablet and you desire to do so, please mail us a request to set that up. If you would like to become a prayer warrior and receive the prayer requests, please send me your email address and I will have Debbie D. add you to the prayer chain

"Pray without ceasing." 1Th 5:17

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isa 40:31

Thoughts from Abel M. One Week Out!

Talk about unbelievable!

I've been out for one week now. I was welcomed here with more than open arms. Help every step of the way from football, registering, close, DES, and help with a phone. And but guided and helped all along the way.

Jobs are everywhere, my biggest problem is deciding which job I want to take. Next week, I'll be working!
PRAISE THE LORD!

Seriously - Life and transition are almost automatic taking this path.

Best Decision of My Life!

I am truly Blessed.
Abel M.

Thoughts from Kris A. 3 Days Out!

For the last ten years all I've known is life in the pod, life on the yard, life behind the razor wire. Looking toward my fast approaching release date, anxiety was growing. But I put my trust in God, and He reminded me that He would take care of me.

Looking back with three days out, God proved that the anxiety was useless, and that He was truly in control.

Take courage and submit to God's plan for you; He will prove His love by directing your steps and offering you a new family, who already love you and are here for you.

Kris A.

Thoughts from Inside

This comes from the book of 2 Samuel :

In hard times God is our security. 2 Samuel 22: 2-20

In dark days, God is our light. 2 Samuel 22: 21-31

When we feel weak, God is our Strength. 2 Samuel 22: 32-40

When the future is unclear, God is our hope. 2 Samuel 22: 41-51

When we keep God's will at the forefront of our minds we are able to do what we should be doing and that puts us at Peace with Life, with Ourselves and with God. Happy New Year to all of you and Keep the Spirit Alive...

Jamieson S.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Mat. 6:10

Another Miracle for Our Great God

The doctors were wonderful and we thank God for them! Here is the rest of the story:

Both of Art V's doctors were fighting over what should take priority, his heart blockage(s) or a suspicious mass in his abdominal area. They decided he would need a strong heart to battle what they were sure was cancer. They thought he would need at least one stint or a bypass depending on the strength of the heart tissue. Yesterday they sent a camera into his heart and found his heart to be strong with no blockage(s). They decided to do an MRI before taking a biopsy of his abdomen, intestines, prostate-all the organs and tissues in those areas. They couldn't find any evidence of a mass. No cancer anywhere! God has healed him!! We are blessed!

Our God is an Awesome God!

Founder's Corner

I have some personal joyful news to share this month. After 35 years of being a software engineer, I am retiring (from that job)!! 😊 I've actually been working for 53 years not including babysitting before I was 12 years old. It will be wonderful to have time to do all the projects we have planned for "Eagles' Nest Ministries" and "To the Least of These Adult Only Church"! I'm also looking forward to being able to travel to visit my daughter and her tribe and looking forward to road trips with my sister! When John M can get permission to go to Maine and Nova Scotia, I want to go see that coast and try a bite of Maine lobster. Yep! Big plans!!

I think the first project John has planned for me is to get the Small Business Co-op up and running. We have noticed many men coming home have incredible talents, and some want to start small businesses. We want to start a co-op that will allow the men to share resources. Things like an office space, computers, internet, web services, servers, (stuff like that)... My hope is that once they are established, they will hire other registered citizens and we can positively impact our population and the benefitting neighborhoods. Yes, that will be an exciting project!! Please pray that I will clearly hear God's directions and instructions for accomplishing this plan. This is one of the many plans God gave to me the day He asked us to start this ministry. Ironically, He gave the same exact ideas to John the same year (2012). So, like all the other plans He has given us, He will provide, and we are excited to see what He does!! We would really appreciate your prayers and if you are one of those men with ideas for a small business, please start planning for your homecoming!

I love you,
Deb



When Deb was given her marching orders from the Lord back in 2012, He told her, ***"have thousands of men like this and I want you to help them."***

The Bible says in Matthew 9:37-38, ***"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."***

Mat. 25:40 says, ***"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."***

He will help you!



and



so will we!

Spiritual Corner With Sekou

Recently, amid a lot of matters demanding my attention, our editor reminded me that it was past deadline to submit my article for the newsletter. With my mind a flurry of thoughts, I tried to clear the noise and focus. One scripture came to mind repeatedly, 2Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. “

While understanding the exhortation this passage gives, it also sparks a question. Why include the clause, “out of season”?

Working in produce, I have seen in how seasons affect what we can offer as a business. When something is “not in season”, it is usually unavailable to the customer. The only alternative is to bring it in from the other hemisphere of the planet, at great cost. As much as mankind tries to manipulate the system, there is an appointed season for plants to bear fruit.

However, for God’s greatest creation, we are expected to be ready in and out of season. Why? To share a thought, I first must take this in a different direction. While watching a show called “Gas Monkey Garage”, the shop owner was happy to come into possession of an old truck, well past its prime. He spoke highly of the truck, and it took some time and care into restoring and converting the truck into a hot-rod vehicle. Innards were replaced and beefed up, seats changed, and the frame strengthened. Upon completion this truck ran better than it ever had in its many years.

They changed, restored, and updated everything...except the paint. They loved the patina, the oxidation that comes with age, because it spoke of the history and character of the truck. Inwardly a new truck, outwardly a truck showing its age. The owner was delighted to show the truck off both in its not ready state as well as the finished product. Even though people around him could not see in the truck how he saw in his mind, he showed it off with excitement none the less. The process and the result were equally glorious to the owner.

In similar fashion, we serve a Father who has a master plan for us. We are the ultimate in His creation and, especially as a new man, He wants to show us off as we walk daily with Him. The process can be unflattering. We are seen sometimes as disassembled or inoperable, far from “perfect”. B.u.t. our “perfect” is our completeness in Him and our “perfection” is Him working out our completeness in our lives. Praise God!

As we walk with God, we go through seasons of growth. Colossians 2:9-10 tells us “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” What a great place to be. We are in the shop, with the master restorer, who will complete the work He started.

Be encouraged. When we are called upon “out of season”, it may look rough, inexperienced, and raw. However, it is God proudly showing us off as His “work in progress”. When we are called upon “in season” it is God proudly showing off His completed work. New “innards” as the Father restores us. Old “paint”, covered in a varnish of redeeming blood, that shows our testimony of redemption and His love.



WORRYING
doesn't take away
TOMORROW'S
TROUBLE
It takes away
TODAY'S
PEACE

A Worrisome Challenge Dismantled

Anticipation about release from prison to start life on the outside can cause for many anxieties, restlessness, anxiousness, lack of sleep, nervousness, just fear in general. It is okay to be excited and maybe even a little nervousness, but more than that definitely is not necessary. If you decide in your heart and mind to live in society the way that is right, you will be fine.

We all must remember the acronym for the word FEAR: **F**alse **E**vidence **A**ppearing **R**eal. In most cases, the information spread on the yards from those returning to prison and others, is almost totally incorrect. Most of the people returning to prison always have an excuse for why they're coming back, and it is never their fault. It is always either probation, parole, Arizona, their family, their friends, etc., but it is never them.

The stories I have heard and probably you have heard by these people are wild and never consistent. Since most of us in our lives have learned to be great manipulators of other people, these people use it to discourage others so that they don't succeed. Since they are back in prison, they have failed, and they want you to fail also so they don't look so bad. It has to be somebody else's fault.

I have now been out for over a year and a half, and it has been my experience, as I work daily with those coming out and those already out, each individual chooses how his life will be. There are always exceptions because sometimes things are beyond our control, but on the whole the direction your life will take is primarily on **YOU!**

Let's take a look at a few of the major concerns when anticipating release:

Probation/Parole:

Horror stories for years have run rampant and, in the past, may or may not have been true. But things have changed a lot in the past few years, and I have personally witnessed the drastic changes in the past year and a half.

If an individual is a troublemaker and determines they don't want anyone telling them what to do at any time, their path will be rough, and failure is the probable endgame.

Relax, remember, it was you who committed the crime, not probation or parole, not Arizona, not your family and friends. Therefore, the consequences are on you whether you like them, agree with them or not. Fighting the system will only cause you more problems. If you learn to spend your time concentrating on creating a better life for yourself and your family and handle the bumps as they come, not worry about them, complain about them, or fight them, you will do well.

It's just not that! Keep this in mind: "Your Attitude Will Determine Your Altitude!" You will decide if you succeed or not.

Employment:

This is of course a major concern for most people being released. I can speak only for Maricopa county in Arizona, because that is where most of my work takes place. There are many jobs available for felons including SO's in the Phoenix valley.

These jobs may not be your dream job or even the job you had before you went to prison, but they are available. You may have to start with a job that is not what you particularly care for, but you can work your way up to get back to where you were before prison. Sometimes it takes a little more searching and digging but once you prove yourself outside, there are people are willing to help you, help yourself. There are many second chance companies in this area and the list grows almost every day as we contact companies to make easier for you when you get out. Most individuals have a job with the first two weeks.

Church:

Generally speaking, attending a regular church may take some time to get permission to do. Each P.O. is different and usually they want to get to know you before some permissions are granted.

We have our own church called "To The Least Of These Adult Only Church". We are a small church designed to be a safe place for registered citizens to worship our Lord. Parole and probation usually grant permission for individuals to attend because no one under eighteen years of age is allowed at our services. Our church is open to all registered citizens who want to worship with us. We also have nonregistered citizens who attend.

At present, we have approximately thirty individuals who attend on a regular basis. Our weekly Praise and Worship service is held Saturday evenings at 5 PM. We start with "The Masters Table", a homestyle prepared meal for everyone, from 5 to 6, then our Praise and Worship service starts at six and goes till about 7:30 p.m.

Acceptance Or Rejection In The Community:

This is something that I was worried about before I was released. My good friend Rick Webb told me what he believed to be the truth in relation to this. I now believe, Rick was correct. He said, "10% of the people will hate you – 10% of the people will love you – 80% of the people could care less because they are busy living their lives".

In my year and a half of freedom, I may have run into or heard about one or two in the "hate" category, many in the "love" category and tons of people in the "care less" category.

Here are some words from an old Imperials song called "I've Got Confidence".

"When trouble is in my way
I can't tell my night from day
When I toss from side to side
Like a ship on a raging tide

I don't worry, I don't fret
God has never failed me yet
Troubles come from time to time
But that's alright, I'm not the worrying kind

Because I've got confidence
God is going to see me through
No matter what the case may be
I know he's gonna fix it for me"

We look forward to your release and so should you.

God bless as He leads you into green pastures.

John M.

**Let God Use You For His Glory
Seek the Lord's Guidance
If It is His Perfect Will
Join Us In This God Given Ministry**

We would love to hear from you.

Eagles' Nest Ministries

P.O. Box 33562 Phoenix, AZ 85067-3562

Phone: 602-813-8283

Email: azeaglesnest@gmail.com Website: www.azeaglesnest.org