

Eagles' Nest Ministries Newsletter January 2024

Praise Reports

- Praise the Lord for all the new blessings He continues to pour over us.
- Praise the Lord for the new people coming to church.
- Praise the Lord for the wonderful communication with many men on the inside which is a real blessing to us.
- Praise the Lord for the provision of new equipment to upgrade our church sound system.
- Praise the Lord for those who donate to help in the growth of God's ministry here.
- Praise the Lord for always being with us.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for all the new projects which are in the works, that God will show us the correct decisions in every case.
- Pray for the 6 men who will be coming home between now and June.
- Pray for the men who are looking for jobs.
- Pray for volunteers who will help with the Resource & Services lists.
- Pray for the men who are looking to purchase their own houses for Eagles' Nest use.
- Pray for the Lord to draw us all closer to Him.

Prayer Request & Praise Reports

If you have a praise report or a prayer request, please feel free to email, text, or for those inside use snail mail or tablet to contact us and, we will join with you in praise and/or prayer.



Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude!

Founder's Corner

Galatians 5:13 *“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*

This month's founder's corner is going to be a bit different...

As Eagles' Nest Ministries (ENM) has grown, 3 types of houses have evolved: Eagles' Nest, Associate Eagles' Nest and now Approved Eagles' Nest.

Eagles' Nest houses are owned by Steve and me. It is our goal to convert all of these 5 houses into Associate Eagles' Nest houses prior to us going home to be with our Lord (face-to-face). Rent from this type of house goes to ENM and is applied to the mortgages, utilities and upkeep of the homes. Additionally, the rents are applied to support expenses of running the ministry.

Associate Eagles' Nest houses are owned by men God has called to this ministry, preferably a registered citizen (this is the paying it forward plan). The purpose of this type of home is to expand and develop additional housing for those coming out of prison who qualify under the ENM criteria. These houses are privately owned but contracted to abide by all the rules and conditions presented by ENM and are overseen by ENM. Rents from this type of home will go directly to the owner of the home and apply to the mortgage, utilities and upkeep of the home.

Recently a need for a third type of house has arisen, the Approved Eagles' Nest house. The purpose of this type of home is to meet the needs of a specific group of men who might not meet the criteria of ENM but need quality housing. These houses are privately owned but contracted to abide by all the rules and conditions presented by ENM and are overseen by ENM. At this time, these homes will be inspired by specific needs. The home we are currently working toward will house men having learned a specific trade while in "Sweden". The company training them and using their skills from inside, wants to encourage their success after they are released and continue to employ their skills. They have asked ENM to provide wrap around services to better enable them to succeed. These homes will provide the same quality standards as the other two types of houses, but the people living there will not be expected to have the same relationship with God as those living in the other two types. The contractual rules for living will be the same – no violence, healthy living, respect for self and others, etc. The men will be referred to us by the company currently employing them. Rents from this type of home will go directly to the owner of the home and be applied to the mortgage, utilities and upkeep of the home. Additionally, the company being supported will pay ENM for "wrap around" services which we can provide but they cannot.

No one will ever get rich owning one of these homes – it is truly a ministry – a calling from God to help others succeed. Men receiving the care/benefits of this ministry will never be financially gouged or abused in any manner. The standards for those serving, those being cared for, and those growing to become servers will be extremely high and always governed by the love of our Lord. It is our goal to stand beneath and behind each man – lifting him to the heights God has individually planned for him!!

I love you – keep up the great work!

Deb

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Saints On the Record:



Meet Sekou A.

If music was a person, it'd be him.

And if you asked what genre he would be then like most great songs, he'd be hard to pin down. He's an earworm, a rhythmic rollercoaster with beats you didn't think would fit but honestly do. No doubt there are lyrics in his song that will make you question him but overall, he's a tune that you can't help but listen to on repeat.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota is where this track begins. Led by the whims of what only the young and foolish are capable of doing led him to turn tables (Dj) and move around the country. From the northern hills of Minnesota to the Silver Springs in Maryland, down to Louisville, Kentucky, and even to our nation's capital. All in the futile hope of keeping him out of trouble. However, wherever he went trouble followed, or worse yet, he caused it. That is until he reached the edge of himself and entered our Arizonian desert.

He went through a harrowing road to become our pastor, though that is not a title he claims to be. He much rather apply the word servant to himself as he leads as the shepherd because that is where God has told him to go. Yet, he is ready to step down if another is sent to replace him in this role. He is as those around him perceive him to be; to some he is their pastor, others, a friend, and to some he is an administrator. However, he tends to introduce himself as Sekou.

Although he is not a fan of the 80's one would be amiss to note the strange synthetic melody mixed in this piece that is he. If you ever want to know why this is, switch his tape to the B-Side and hear him spill into the extended lore of Star Wars, Star Trek, the Elder Scrolls, and oh so much more. Yes, our friend, pastor, and brother is a nerd. One with a penchant for sci-fi, kung-fu, gaming, and trains. If you ever dare to breach one of these subjects with him, take a seat because you will receive more than you asked for.

Overall, brother Sekou's song is worthy of a listen. To some he is a melodious track to a cinematic masterpiece, to others a harmony of dissonance, and yet in my own personal opinion, he is the silence that forces a musician to be creative.

Saint Anthony L. 2024

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Insights from Our Shepherding Elder Sekou

We need Jesus (Obviously)

We need each other (Seriously)

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor." John 12:26

With the invention and growing intrusion of social media, comes several concerns that most sweep away as irrelevant. For starters we are giving more and more private information away freely with little knowledge of who is using it and for what purpose. In addition to this, the traditional sense of community where people interact with one another is now being replaced by a digital world where individuality is rewarded, and "people skills" are diminishing.

In contrast, the body of Christ is designed to be interactive. People surrendered to Christ, in relationship with one another, helping each other to grow. Even the apostles went out on missions with a companion. The church is, members subject to Christ and because of this, members subjected to one another. As Paul writes in 1st Corinthians 12:12, "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

The world has a popular and pervasive message. In short and in summary, it is "Serve yourself". If we are not attentive, this message can slowly seep into our thoughts and grow into actions. I am specifically speaking to the attitude that says, "I can serve Christ on my own, I don't want the drama of other Christians complicating things."

This is a justification put in the nicest ways, that covers up the real sentiment of the heart that says, "I submit to Jesus, but will not submit to the church." One would look at the statement and point out the fact that a refusal to submit and be a part of the corporate body of Christ is, in fact, a refusal to submit to Christ.

A passage from Ephesians reads thus; "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph 4:11-16 NKJV)

This sends the message that we all have a part in helping one another to grow according to His Spirit and the gifts we were given and are edified by His Spirit and gifts operating in others. The way it was ordained to be, all submitted to the Head of the church Jesus Christ and subsequently submitted to Christ poured out into the various members of His body is something many in the church take for granted and the enemy knowingly exploits our ignorance.

The root stems in our pride and sense of self preservation. We have no desire to be placed into a position of vulnerability to anyone. The importance of a job or the arm of the law can bring about a begrudging sense of submission, but only because of what it can cost if we do not acquiesce. Even writing this brings a bit of sorrow to my heart, as it really means we see the consequences of rebelling in the world as having more gravity in affecting our lives than rebelling in the Kingdom of God.

It also acknowledges that the church is growing to the point of “unity of the faith”. If the church were only for perfect people who only reflect the image of Christ and have no issues with the flesh, the pews would be empty! This means that pastor, church mother, or the choir director we admire are...divinely gifted yet humanly flawed representatives of the Kingdom of God. The same Father who is working out in you what is well pleasing in His sight is also working on them. Not all of us in the church are quickly prepared and ready to serve like Ramen noodles. Some of your brothers and sisters can be like the Brazilian Maniçoba. (It's a “stew” made with bitter cassava leaves which are toxic, that's why you need to cook it for 7 days to eliminate all the toxins and get a proper taste/texture.)

I write this to encourage us not to cut ourselves off from what God placed here for our growth. While I cannot guarantee that the members of the church won't do something to harm us at some point, I can boldly say that as we submit and follow God in others, we know that the same God is ultimately in control. Many times, we see that the evil that men and Satan intends somehow only furthers the Kingdom of God and reveals His goodness.

So, I urge you all, to war against the message of independence that has “hornswoggled” man since Adam. James 4:7 says, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” This also encompasses His will and His work, often residing in the body of Christ. Please don't let the lies of the world rob you of the enrichment God has provided within the church, and please don't rob the church of the blessing God placed inside of you for its growth.

We need Jesus, and we need each other as we follow Him.

Prayer Changes Things!

God tells us in His Word to pray always! Pray without ceasing, pray for ourselves, for each other, for our families, our country, our leaders, pray about everything!

Prayer is how we communicate with God, get to know Him and build our relationship with Him. Prayer is also how we receive God's power in our lives! When we pray, "Your Kingdom come", it's not just for someday. We are asking God's Kingdom to invade our circumstances right now! So be it!

When we understand that our heartfelt prayers release the power of God in our lives, it is like nothing we have ever seen before! Once we've experienced the power of God unleashed in our life through prayer, our lives will never be the same, nor will we settle for anything less!

As we go through each day praying and receiving God's power, we will accomplish things we would have never been able to do! Our faith is strengthened, our strength renewed!

Our prayers for others have great power to heal and build up and change things in their lives also. Through God's love and power, attitudes change, circumstances change, miracles happen!

BECAUSE WE PRAYED!

Thank You, Jesus!

A Smile Increases Your FACE Value

ABC's of Friendship

A - Accepts you as you are. **B** - Believes in you. **C** - Calls you just to say "Hi". **D** - Doesn't give up on you. **E** - Envisions the whole of you even the unfinished parts. **F** - Forgives your mistakes. **G** - Gives unconditionally. **H** - Helps you. **I** - Invites you over. **J** - Just be with you. **K** - Keeps you close at heart. **L** - Loves you for who you are. **M** - Makes a difference in your life. **N** - Never judges. **O** - Offers support. **P** - Picks you up. **Q** - Quiets your fears. **R** - Raises your spirits. **S** - Says nice things about you. **T** - Tells truth when you need to hear it. **U** - Understands you. **V** - Values you. **W** - Walks beside you. **X** - Explains things to you when you don't understand them. **Y** - Yells when you don't listen. **Z** - Zaps you back to reality.

It's Not "You Shall Feel The Truth!"

Many believers want to feel the Lord's love all the time. That's great, but the Lord never said you'll feel his love all the time. If you feel God's love all the time, then what's the point of faith?

Many believers want to feel compassion so they can be compassionate. The Lord doesn't say *Feel compassionate*. He says, *Be compassionate*.

We mistake feeling love for loving. We want to feel good instead of being good. But more important than feeling good is being good.

Messiah never said, *you shall feel the truth and the truth shall set you free* He said, you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

God is real. The real walk of a real disciple must never rest on feelings but rather on truth and reality.

If you're feeling far from God that's O.K. It doesn't mean you're far away. If you're feeling God doesn't love you, it's O.K. Why?

Because it's just a feeling. So be blessed, be strong, and be victorious - whether you feel like it or not!

Submitted by Bob Y. From Message #467 - Secret Alms and Closets

Eagles' Nest Ministries is a Faith Based, Donation Supported, 501c3 Ministry.

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Social Security Note

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion as to how the amount of money you receive from Social Security is determined. When you apply for Social Security the amount you receive is determined by your age and the amount you paid in over the years. The amount you receive does not change after that except for possible yearly cost of living increases. That is the reason most people try to wait as many years as possible, so their amount is higher at the start.

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