

Eagles' Nest Ministries Newsletter March 2024

He Is Risen



"But now Christ is risen from the dead and, has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:20

Praise Reports

- Praise the Lord for the way He watches over each of us on a daily basis.
- Praise the Lord for the way He continuously supplies all our needs.
- Praise the Lord for the growth in "To the Least of These Adults Only Church".
- Praise the Lord for all the volunteers who work up front or behind the scenes assisting Eagles' Nest and "To the Least of These Adults Only Church".
- Please pray for the Lord's will regarding our church as we outgrow the current building.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the Lord to supply Eagles' Nest Ministries with a new home as there are many applying, and we need more beds.
- Please pray for the Lord to supply Eagles' Nest Ministries with donations and donors to provide the things needed as we expand.
- Please pray for the men who are looking to move to a better job.
- Please pray for the men who are going through health situations.

God's Presence

"Don't equate the presence of God with a good mood or a pleasant temperament. God is near whether you are happy or not."

My First Day Out

The first minute of freedom - March 13th, 2024, 1:30 PM

Outside of probation, Deb Schmidt and John M. were there to greet me. “Woo Hoo!” came from Deb. I signed my paperwork and went back out to Deb and John. At the car, I was closing the hatchback and fell to my knees as it closed. Both the pressure of the moment and the relief of finally being free after twenty years straight in prison, caught up to me. I couldn’t stop myself, I cried.

That done, I gave Deb a hug, got in the car and we went home to Eagles’ Nest. I changed clothes right away. The clothes came from a closet full of all sizes and I found white pants and a white button down shirt that fit! Then we talked, my new family and I until the food was ready. No details on that, it wouldn’t be fair to y’all still in there, but I will say that all of it was what I asked for and then some! Hallelujah!

I praise God for Eagles’ Nest and my family of Eagles! Amen!

I am yours in Christ and His Love.

Michael W.

“Wings of Freedom”

Chapter 1: The Long Wait

Twenty years. Two decades behind bars. For Kevin, the prison walls had become both his fortress and his cage. He had seen fellow inmates come and go, their lives marked by sentences, parole hearings, and the relentless ticking of the clock. But for Kevin, freedom seemed like a distant dream, a mirage shimmering on the horizon.

He had lost count of the seasons—the harsh winters that numbed his bones, the sweltering summers that baked the concrete yard. His hands, once strong and calloused, now bore the scars of time and regret. Yet, deep within him, a spark remained—a stubborn ember that refused to be extinguished.

Chapter 2: The Ministry of Second Chances

On the outside, beyond the prison gates, a different world awaited. Deb Schmidt knew this world intimately. As the founder of “Eagles’ Nest Ministries,” a ministry dedicated to helping former inmates reintegrate into society, she had witnessed countless transformations. Her heart beat for those who sought redemption, who longed for a fresh start.

Deb was no stranger to adversity herself. Her past held secrets—mistakes she had made, bridges she had burned. But she had found grace, and now it was her mission to extend that grace to others. She believed in second chances, in the power of love and compassion to heal even the deepest wounds.

Chapter 3: The Day of Release

The sun hung low in the sky as Kevin stepped out of the prison doors. His eyes squinted against the brightness, and for a moment, he wondered if he could truly breathe the air of freedom. His legs wobbled, unaccustomed to the vastness of open space. The world had changed—technology, skyscrapers, and a pace that left him dizzy.

And there she was—Deb, waiting outside the Probation office. Her hair caught the sunlight, and her eyes held a mixture of hope and empathy. She wore a simple dress, unpretentious yet dignified. As Kevin approached, he felt a lump rise in his throat. Words failed him.

Chapter 4: The Shout of Freedom

“Kevin!” Deb’s voice cut through the silence. Her arms opened wide, and before he knew it, he was enveloped in a hug—a warm, genuine embrace that shattered the walls around his heart. “Woo Hoo!” she shouted, her laughter echoing across the yard.

Tears blurred Kevin’s vision. He had expected judgment, suspicion, perhaps even rejection. But Deb’s joy was contagious. She stepped back, holding his face in her hands. “You’re home,” she whispered. “Twenty years, Kevin. Now let’s make them count.”

Chapter 5: New Beginnings

Deb introduced Kevin to the world he had left behind—the technology, the bustling streets, the taste of fresh strawberries, his first meal of real food. She helped him get set up in his room, find a job, get registered, obtain a license, and introduced him to a community that welcomed him with open arms. Together, they planted seeds of hope, watered by forgiveness and resilience.

Kevin learned to navigate this new life, stumbling at times but always moving forward. And every morning, as he sipped his coffee, he would remember Deb’s shout of “Woo Hoo!”—a reminder that freedom wasn’t just about escaping prison; it was about embracing life, redemption, and the chance to soar once more.

And so, Kevin spread his wings, carried by the wind of grace, and vowed never to forget the God who made this all possible and the woman who had greeted him with a shout of home and freedom.

You Can Be an Important Part of This Ministry

This story repeats itself every time a new man comes home to Eagles' Nest. Eagles' Nest Ministries is a faith based; donation driven 501(c)(3) organization. We depend upon support from individuals and/or companies in order to carry out the work He has given us to do. Your donations are tax deductible for income tax purposes.

Donations come in many forms and are all used to further His work. Here are a few examples of donations which are needed and very helpful to further this work:

1. Cash
2. Clothing
3. Household Furniture
4. Office Supplies
5. Vehicles
6. Desks for Bedrooms.

If you have any questions regarding donations, please feel free to call John M. at 602-813-8283.

Founder's Corner

God Hears Me

The Bible instructs us to pray without ceasing. That can be a puzzler... Often we think of praying as a certain posture (head bowed, eyes closed, on our knees, etc.) How could we possibly maintain that kind of prayer? We have work to do – God given living to do – a multitude of people to love (that's what God does, so we are busy there too).

For me, praying without ceasing is opening my mind and asking God to continuously be included in my thoughts. To me, it is increasingly amazing! He is with me continuously, conversing with me throughout each and every minute. Filling my thoughts, and therefore my actions, with His will. Responding to each and every thing I encounter each day.

Sometimes it's a relatively easy communication – "Lord, the soup has run out, what do I do?" *My daughter, add noodles.* True story – actually happened a couple of weeks ago.

Sometimes it's a broken man – angry and confused. "Father, how do I respond to this?" *My beloved, love him, listen to him, slap him upside the head if he will not listen.* (I don't actually slap, but sometimes strong words are needed and directed to be lovingly spoken. (Sometimes it doesn't initially appear as love.)

Sometimes it's discouragement. "Lord, he just doesn't get it. He keeps hurting himself. He just can't understand how very much we love him. He's so alone, Lord. What can I do?" *Trust me and just keep loving him.*

Sometimes it's fear. "Lord, he's coming home, and I have no place to put him!!" *Have I not always provided? He is my man first (he's just on loan to you). I am your provider. Keep listening to me and obeying. I will provide.*

These conversations are true – they have really happened – they are repeated thousands of times each day – continuously He is involved. They are only examples; in reality each issue is met with very personal and individually directed answers. I find this incredibly encouraging. He (the God that created the universe, the God that loves me without measure, the God who chose me (now that is amazing), the God... GOD!!)

HE HEARS ME! HE HEARS YOU!! Converse with God.

I love you,
Deb

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**"

Philippians 4:19 "**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**"

TTLT Church Services

Presently, all of the To the Least of These Adults Only Church services are available on the TTLT website, Spotify, Google Postcasts, and Podbean.

[Click Here to Visit our Eagles' Nest Ministries Website](#)

Eagles' Nest Ministries Story

Part 1

What happened?
Who was there?
Why did that happen?
Where did it take place?
When was this?
How did it impact the ministry?

Eagles' Nest ministries actually started down in Pinal County with a few members and neighbors that were less than friendly but more than just rude, they were the kind who said, 'if you don't bother us, we won't bother you,' kind of neighbors. Needless to say, but when the Nest decided to move into Maricopa, things changed. For the better? Well, we'll let you decide.

When ENM decided to move, they did it in the way that encapsulates the beliefs of the Christian walk; get up and follow me, type of mentality. They leave everything else behind and go forth, so they did. They built a house and moved their base of operations westward. From that house, Deb and Steve Schmidt went around introducing themselves to the neighbors with flyers in hand, information to let everyone know who ENM was, and more importantly, who the people were.

Well one day, once the house began to settle into its new roots, a ring rang through the house and at the door was a crew of reporters waiting. No one was expecting them. Deb least of all. Yet, there they were and they claimed to be there for the biggest story of the night: *Who is ENM?*

The interview went well. The aftermath did not. The person reporting the piece told Deb off camera, '*I understand what you're doing, and I think it's needed but I wish we weren't putting it on the news.*' This confused Deb considering that the reporter found ENM to be a necessity, but as it turns out, this particular piece was being played during a heavy political race. That same reporter also let her know that all of ENM's neighbors were going to host a demonstration of how much they disliked having them there.

Now, I'd like for you to imagine yourself there, waking up to an ocean of news caravans, a sea of flashing lights, and hungry reporters pacing the front of your house like sharks swirling around a stranded boat. Only for a few paces behind them, to hear or read comments like these:

- We're going to hang you by your feet and drain the blood out of your bodies.
- We're going to set the house on fire.
- If anyone tries to leave your house then we'll shoot on sight...

And other pleasantries like that...

The common sense around this situation is quite obvious: Call the Sheriff.

But. BUT what do you do when you learn that the sheriff is friends with one of the neighbors who is threatening you? What do you do when the only comfort you have from those who've sworn to protect you claim that they can't do anything until something is done physically against you? That actions are not equal to threats...

The obvious rebuttal is clear: Trust in God. And so ENM lived in this Job-like situation for a few months. Meanwhile, probation also stirred the pot. With hindsight equipped, Deb can now say that probation was trying to help but at the time, it felt as if they were pushing against them as well. An order went out: All ENM residents must leave.

This was, in my opinion (St. Anthony), the wrong move. The amount of threats and reporters and now probation was too much for one particular resident, so they left. Another, an eagle on parole was moved by their officer into a not so safe home, a housing unit where his past addictions would resurface and they did, and when he came back to ENM once he was free, they found someone who had gone back to the life they once escaped. Lastly, Sekou, dug his heels in and stayed, despite what probation asked. This led to constant monitoring and recording of his actions wherever he went. Until one evening, he was placed in handcuffs for stopping for a cup of coffee without permission. Then 28 days in Alhambra and released with the instruction that he may not return home.

Saint Anthony L.

Always Remember these words from the Scriptures

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, Yes I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

2 Timothy 1:7

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: .."

Acts 1:8 a

"... and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20 b

[Click Here to Visit Our Church Website](#)

" Hope And Peace For A Better Future "

How thankful I am today, to know that all my past failures were necessary for me to be where I am now. Through much pain came experience and, in suffering, I became obedient. When I sought God, as I understand Him, He shared His treasured gifts.

Through experience and obedience, growth started, followed by gratitude. Yes, then came peace of mind - Living in the word of the Lord and walking His righteous path.

"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.

Jeremiah 29:11

"Mark the perfect man, and see the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace."

Psalms 37:37

Jamieson S.



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

[Click Here to Donate Today](#)

Notes

- If you know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, inside or outside, ask them and if yes, send us their information. On the outside all we need is the name and email address. On the inside we need the name and DOC #.
 - If you have anything you would like placed in the newsletter, please send it for consideration.
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