

# Eagles' Nest Ministries

## Newsletter

### November 2023

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#### Praise Reports

- Praise God for Healings in our midst.
- Praise God for men successfully passing polygraph tests.
- Praise God for the new people coming to church.
- Praise God for growth on all fronts.
- Praise God for people's lives that are being changed.
- Praise God for new affiliations with other ministries who love the Lord.
- Praise God for safely bringing 2 of our men through car accidents this past week.

#### Prayer Requests

- Pray for Tyone R's daughter who has covid.
  - Pray for our full-time pastor, Sekou.
  - Pray for our new affiliations with other faith-based ministries.
  - Pray for volunteers who are willing to help in the ministry.
  - Pray for safe traveling mercies for all during this holiday season.
  - Pray for the 7 plus men coming in the next seven months.
  - Pray for those who are alone at this time.
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#### Missing You

Please tell all my brothers that are still on the inside I miss them.  
Marquis F.

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#### Thoughts from Inside

##### Let Go and Let God

**When I “let go and let God” I think more clearly and wisely. Without having to think about it, I quickly let go of things that cause me immediate pain and discomfort. Because I find it hard to let go of the kind of worrisome thoughts and attitudes that cause me immense anguish, all I need to do during those times is allow God, as I understand Him, to release them for me, and then and there, I let go of the thoughts, memories, and attitudes that are troubling me.**

**When receive help from God, as I understand Him, I can live my life one day at a time and handle whatever challenges that come my way.**

**Philippians 4:4-9**

God Bless and Peace Be with You

Jamieson S.

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# Insights from Our Shepherding Elder

## Sekou

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (Joh 1:14)**

In this month, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Savior of the world, and as John writes the only begotten Son of God, was born in a manger in a town called Bethlehem. Here, our Father gives us a timeless principle, the things of God are often presented in ways that the humble would seek out and the prideful would reject.

The eternal word of God became flesh which many refused because it defied their chosen way of understanding. B.u.t. those who recognized truth, gravitated towards Him because He had the words of eternal life. Hence Paul writes to the Corinthians; "but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1Co 1:23-24)

This principle is still valid in these "modern" times.

A few weeks ago, I joined representatives of Eagles' Nest Ministries in a monthly meeting conducted by Along Side Ministries, where several ministries are joining together to serve the incarcerated and those affected by it. I was there as a part of Eagles' Nest, and as a representative of To the Least of These AOC as well. Of all the ministries gathered at the table, we were the only ones who minister to sex offenders and their support networks. At times it can be uncomfortable, as we see the range of emotions of people joining trying to understand and accept what God has called us to do. It can be intimidating to contribute, often because of our own hyper-awareness of the stigma we carry.

We may have left Bethlehem's town limits. B.u.t. it can still affect our hearts.

There was a suggestion put forth, that all the represented ministries that go into the prisons to conduct services coordinate so they could present the Word of God in a unified fashion within their services. As they discussed this new concept, I remembered actually seeing this happen and how it affected the Christians on the yard.

Back in my days in the gated community known as CACF, a Holy Ghost inspired idea gained ground. With the obvious issue of Godly manhood being a common challenge to those incarcerated for sexual offenses, we were inspired to take a week, which was later modified into a month, to focus the inmate led services to teach on being a Godly man. It was called "March MAN-ness".

Not only did we get both the Spanish and English speaking congregations to participate, God moved on the hearts of ALL the civilian volunteers in their services to participate as well. This shared objective was carried out by a unified church, and blessed inmates, volunteers and even prison staff alike. Over a decade later, it still is a powerful memory and inspiring reminder of the power of a unified church serving Jesus Christ.

I shared this with the representatives, as an example of how seeing unity amongst the many volunteers who serve the body would encourage and bless the "incarcerated b.u.t. called". While they were briefly reassured by my comments, they were inspired by the idea of "March MAN-ness". A spirited discussion led to the goal of them taking this idea into all the prisons and outside ministries they served in. These are ministries geared towards "general population" inmates, their families and even traditional churches.

An idea inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve and edify Christians to grow deeper into being a Godly man, and carried out on a sex offender yard, was now spreading to minister to men and women who would normally overlook anything that would come from that environment.

Like Jesus, born in a manger in an unimportant town five miles away from Jerusalem, yet those who recognized truth would hear Him, many would ignore or challenge Him based on perception, history and affiliation.

The truth of the call to inform and inspire Christian men to grow in godliness was clearly seen as an undeniable need. Even a pastor who was attending for the first time, stated that not only was it desperately needed, but he could also receive this edification as well. A committee was quickly formed for both inside ministry and outside ministry. The snowball that had quickly grown in the room was now rolling and gathering momentum for March 2024.



"March MAN-ness" was birthed in a SO yard in Florence, Arizona. It was not a program just for SO inmates, b.u.t. eternal truth, birthed among them, that is applicable to Christians everywhere. It was through the obedience and dedication of many nameless Christians who contributed that this came to fruition and now, many years later, is inspiring in ways that were unimagined at the time.

God's truth is like that. What we are called to do for the Kingdom now, reaches into places we would have never thought and affects lives in ways we often do not realize.

You may think that your background, status in life, or perceived deficiencies hamper the ministry God has called you to do. B.u.t. our Father has a way, in His wisdom, of revealing His truth through the overlooked, the weak, the commoner. What you do out of obedience to His call can bless more than you know, and with greater reach than you can imagine. For those who will be contributing to this next phase of March MAN-ness, no matter where you are, your service will join in solidarity with many who are answering God's call, and the impact will outgrow your borders and out live your lifespan. Praise the Lord.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1Co 1:26-29)

(Author's note – b.u.t. = behold the underlying truth. When you reread this, think of the acronym and its meaning, then challenge the context in which you choose to use it in your own conversations. As Keenan I. Wayans would say..."message!")

If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: (Eph 4:21)

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## [The I Don't Know Prayer](#)

Did you know there's a prayer called the "I don't know" prayer? It's very spiritual. You just go off somewhere quiet and hidden and you walk right up to the heart of God, and you say, "I don't know."

I don't know where to go from here. I don't know what is happening. I don't know how to process this. I don't know what to do with these emotions. I don't know how to handle this situation.

It covers a lot of I don't knows.

And then with whatever dusty little sand grain of faith you have, you say, "But You know."

And you leave it there.

God most certainly hears that prayer.

Debbie D. via Maggie P. on Facebook

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## **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.



# Founder's Corner

I think it's important in the midst of all our celebrations this month to keep in mind the purpose of Christ's birth. The following is a poem submitted by Brian W. that I think describes it beautifully! Thank you, Brian.

## Calvary's Christmas Tree

Sinless One who came to earth,  
Born to us this day,  
All creation felt Your worth,  
As You came to bleed our sins away,

Do You hear what I hear,  
Oh, precious Little Lamb,  
Of the horror to befall You,  
When You become a man?

The mystery of virgin birth,  
As You were born to die,  
I wonder what Your mother felt,  
As she looked into Your eyes,

It's hard for me to reconcile,  
Such a tragic loss,  
To give birth to a baby,  
Who would die upon a cross,

A mother's expectation,  
Would never, ever be,  
To see the execution,  
Of her son upon a tree,

But the Prince of Peace stepped into time,  
In a dry and dusty land,  
And became the perfect sacrifice,  
At His own creation's hand,

When the angel told Your Mother,  
That you would save the lost,  
Through all her joy, I wonder,  
Did she glimpse what it would cost

When Simeon prophesied to her,  
That a sword would pierce her soul,  
Was there any revelation,  
About how this would go?

Did young Mary have a clue,  
How this would end, right from the start?  
And did she keep and ponder this,  
Inside her breaking heart?

You longed for her attention,  
From the manger where you cried,  
And You longed to see Your Father's face,  
From the cross on which You died,

Silent night, oh holy night,  
All creation holds it's breath,  
As You begin the journey,  
That will lead You to Your death,

God's greatest Christmas present,  
Was the blood You shed for me,  
As You unwrapped eternal life,  
On a hill called Calvary,

You were the single decoration,  
That hung with tender care,  
As the hopes and fears of all the years,  
Were met in you up there,

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
Come and set me free,  
Accept the gift of all my sin,  
'Neath Calvary's Christmas tree,

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Merry Christmas!  
I love you,  
Deb

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**"And it shall come to pass, that  
whosoever shall call on  
the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21**



# Introduction to a New On-Going Series

By Saint Anthony L.

## "Saints On the Record"

There's a lot of things that one thinks about when coming home, especially those who have been away for a long time, but maybe one of those anxiety provoking thoughts that isn't talked much about is: **Who are you?**

For the brother coming home, yes you might know one or two of the other Eagles here but every day the nest seems to grow, and you may (will) be overwhelmed with the number of people you have to interact with.

First, let me make this easy for you - we have all been where you are right now and it doesn't matter what happened, we still love you. Secondly, don't rush. You don't have a time collar around you anymore, take things in at a pace.

"Saints on the Record" is my little project. There were already a lot of Eagles when I came home and from them, I only knew one. It was daunting to get to know the rest, heck there's still people coming that I don't know. So, this is a section to get you to know your future family, a conversational piece for when you meet us.

Something to hopefully give you a little ease and a lot to look forward to.

Saint Anthony, 2023



### Meet John M.

If you have ever seen a film from the '40's and '50's and thought to yourself, man I wished I could have lived through those times.

John did it.

If you ever imagined what it would be like to sing on the Las Vegas Strip and get a standing ovation.

John did it.

If you have ever dared to dream of climbing the side of an erupting volcano.

JOHN DID IT.

A simple glance, Mr. John M. is a man with a few years behind him. He looks and dresses in a way that conveys coziness. You would never imagine that the man before you, the man who can't get through a prayer service without becoming a tad bit emotional, has made a career on speaking. When John speaks - when he shares a story with you - the room vanishes. He possesses a talent so few can accomplish, it means in his tales, he manages to swipe reality away from you until he is done talking and you love him for it. He is the human equivalent of a prism. While most may only see the white light of being Eagles' Nest general manager, he truly does shine with every color of the rainbow when you explore his life further.

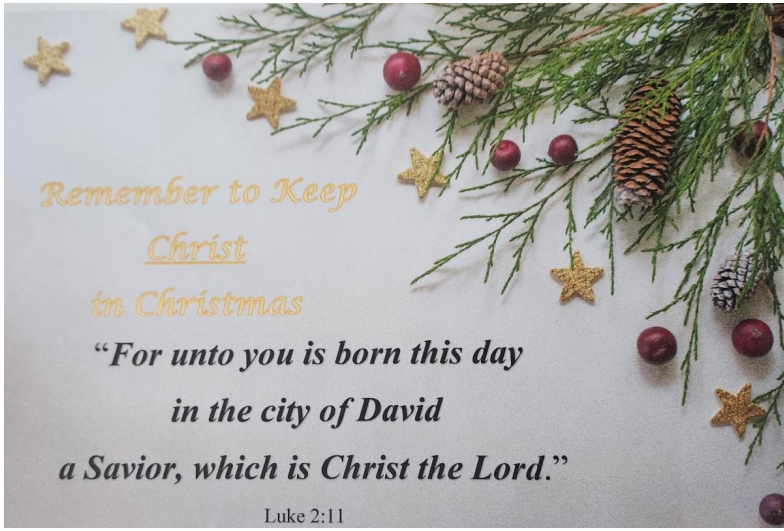
Perhaps by this point you're wondering, who really is John Matthews? And the truth is buried in the invisible UV rays. He is more than this blurb could fit, he's like a cold glass of lemonade on a hot summer day, you want to know all about him but it's better just to take sips throughout the day and enjoy the bits he allows you to see. If you ever get the privilege to sit down with him and you want to experience what I've outlined above, have him talk about his time when he's eaten fire. Yes, he appears like a docile man, but you'd be mistaken.

John has gone to the end of the road. Not metaphorically, but literally. Ask him about it. John lived the Americana life in Portland & Brewer, Maine - yes living near to the Roosevelt's - yes, those Roosevelt's. If you don't believe that he's been in those humble beginnings, then ask him about his time on the chicken farm with the Fox boys. He has gone into the woods several times and done survival hikes where he has to live with only what he's got - alone. He has built several businesses and has had the kind of life that is usually seen on screen.

He has two sayings that I'll end here with. Success is defined as the progressive realization of a worthwhile goal or dream. And his own testimony: don't waste your life, I have, and it led to nothing. Turn to God now... that's who John is. A servant.

Author: Saint Anthony L.

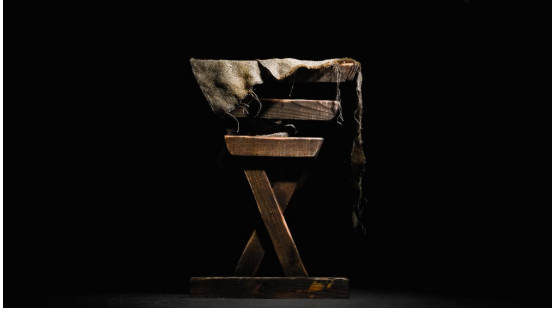




*Remember to Keep  
Christ  
in Christmas*

*“For unto you is born this day  
in the city of David  
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”*

Luke 2:11



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