



2012 • No. 1

## KAIROS OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

# He Has Risen, Alleluia!

By Beth Maycumber, Chairman, Kairos of Georgia



I love that God has given us four different seasons each year. The beginning of each new season is always my favorite. Spring is quickly approaching so it is now my favorite season. I love the spring flowers, the cool mornings, the sunny days, and Easter. It is a time of new beginnings and I always welcome the opportunity to do again that which I messed up the first time. It reminds me of our Kairos Ministry, offering the incarcerated and their loved ones an opportunity to start anew.

Easter's promises were born on a starry night in a little manger, grew to maturity on dusty roads and storm-tossed seas, died on a darkened hillside on a wooden cross between two thieves, and were miraculously fulfilled when a stone was rolled away and a tomb lay empty.

Easter is the greatest hope that ever was. Without it, we lose faith, grow faint of heart, tremble in fear and doubt. Without Easter's miracle, why love? Why give? Why forgive? Why live? With Easter's triumphant Resurrection we live each day

with hope. We try, we fail, we go on. We start, we stop, we begin again. We reach out, we venture further, and we succeed. We seek, we ask, and we find. Because of Christ we have new life. Because He lives, we live! And because He lives, we can live the miracle of Easter every day.

Matthew chapter 28, verses 2 – 7 says, "And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of

the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead'"

COME AND SEE, GO AND TELL! A message for all of us who believe our Savior lives!

May you have a blessed Easter filled with the hope and peace that the season offers!

# New Procedures coming soon for Agape

By Don Zagorski

By way of introduction, my name is Don Zagorski, I am the new Agape coordinator for Kairos of Georgia. One thing I can safely tell you is that Chris and Connie Burgett did a tremendous job and donated a great deal of time serving in this capacity for the past five years. In order to streamline the ability for Agape leaders for each weekend to receive their general Agape, my counterpart from Washington State, along with the help of our own Lee Turner, have been developing a concept. This new concept would allow each State representative to post all of the Agape received statewide on a Google Docs website. The website would be configured to make it easy to allow for local Agape coordinators to search and receive all

the Agape from around the world. It will be categorized by state, location of facility, activity or event then a scan number in order. Did I lose you? Sorry. Here is an example of what my entries would look like; GA Hayes SP Agape 1-22, GA KO Valdosta Agape 1-6. Then all the weekend Agape coordinators would need to do is access the Google Docs website and pick and choose any and every piece from all across the world. They will be given a sign in name and password. He or she will sign in using Google Chrome which is free and easy to use. They might need to sign up for a Gmail account if they don't have one already.

Here is the step by step procedure as it stands right now—

## To acquire Agape from the Google Docs website:

Open Google Chrome and select "Documents" (in black tool bar under the URL)

Sign-in as bevnchuck@comcast.net

Password is: "Kairos0\$" 0 is zero

To download the files designated for your Kairos weekend(s):

Select the files you need (file names will help you) by clicking in box to the left of the file name.

Find and select the "More" in a gray icon above the list of files.

Select "Download". Google will start zipping the files into a compacted folder and send them to your "My Documents/Download" folder. Open My Documents and look in the Downloads folder. The file name with the current date identifies the right zip folder.

Once you have your files on your computer, remove the files from the website so all of the agape coordinators know that you need more Agape for your next weekend at that institution.

Click in box preceding file name.

Right click on file name.

A dialog box will open. Select "Move to Trash"

Give it a try a see if this will help you in this effort.

Your Brother in Christ, Don

# THE MIRACLE OF SIDEWALK TEETH

By David Peterson

Weekend Leader, Kairos #13, Valdosta State Prison Annex  
October 13-16, 2011

I had the honor to serve as weekend leader for Kairos #13 at Valdosta State Prison in October. We see lots of miracles at Kairos, two leading gang members hugging each other and promising peace and inmates who make a commitment to Christ. However, sometimes it is the small miracles that have a great impact on the participants. Let me tell you about such an event that occurred on my weekend.

One of the volunteers has false teeth and after lunch on Saturday, had to take them out. Since we were about to go into chapel, he put them in a cup of water and covered the cup with a napkin and went with his family to the chapel. This was just before the participants were to get their letters, so the inside servers came and cleared off the tables. Cleared EVERYTHING OFF, including the cup with teeth. Into the trash it went! Upon returning to the conference room, the volunteer didn't immediately know that it was missing.

Later that afternoon, I am sitting at the back table listening to a talk and an inside server brings me a set of dentures wrapped in paper towels. "We

found these" is all he said. At the next appropriate break, I made an announcement and the volunteer came forward to claim them. "That would have cost me \$2500" he said.

OK, so not much of a miracle you say? Well listen to the rest of the story. The same inside server came up to me later in the afternoon to let me know what the full story was. They didn't find the teeth initially; it was swept in the trash along with everything else. There were 15 bags of garbage tied up and sitting on a cart waiting to go the prison dumpster. As it was being wheeled off, a bag fell off and split opened. From that opening, a single Styrofoam cup rolled out and from that cup, a set of teeth popped out and was sitting there, smiling on the sidewalk!

When the full story was relayed to the participants, they marveled at the odds of that one bag falling off the cart and that one cup coming out of the bag. God is truly a unique problem solver and we shouldn't be amazed at the numerous miracles, large and small, that can only come from divine intervention. God is large and in charge!

## HOW TO MAKE A DONATION TO KAIROS

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization. Contributions may be deductible on your tax return. Please check with your accountant. A large part of what allows us to reach new prisons and maintain the ones we are currently ministering in is through the giving of businesses and individuals. It takes between 3,000-5,000 dollars to put on a Kairos weekend in a prison. It takes around 10,000-12,000 dollars to start Kairos at a new prison.

Your gift will go to minister to men and women who need to know the love of Christ. Please contact Bill Dixon, Treasurer if you would like more information or to make a donation.

William Dixon/ Georgia State Treasurer  
Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.  
3301 Westgate Drive  
Albany, GA 31721  
229-436-8804

## SHORT AND SIMPLE – IT DOES HELP!

By Rev Beverly Upperman



Working in the federal government has made me an advocate of acronym use. I have learned that using acronyms (or a shortened form) really does help with remembering. With this in mind, I have found a few scripture-based acronyms that I believe will encourage you in our Christian journey together. (All scriptures references are taken from the New International Version (NIV)).

**FROG** – Fully Rely On God

Jeremiah 17:7 – “Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him.”

**PUSH** – Pray Until Something Happens

Luke 18:1 – “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

**FAITH** – Forsaking All, I Trust Him

Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

**DOG** - Depend On God

Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

**ASAP** – Always Say A Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing.”

**TGIF** - Thank God I'm Free (or Forgiven)

John 8:36 – “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

And finally, here is one acronym that I know is important for us to have, **P-R-A-Y!** Praying consistently will change our lives. God has so much He wants to get to us, but so often, we miss out on many of His blessings because we fail to spend the necessary time in prayer.

**P** – Praise – Psalm 100:1-4 “Make a joyful noise...”

**R** – Repent – Psalm 51:1-4 “For I know my transgressions...”

**A** – Ask – Matthew 7:7-11 “Ask, and it will be given to you...”

**Y** – Yield – Psalm 37:4 “Delight yourself also in the LORD...”

These four simple steps will help us have effective prayer lives, and I believe God sees us as His **“BIG FISH”** - Believers in God, Faithful in Serving Him!

# TORCHNEWS

By Frank and Annette Ciaravino

As of 2009, there were approximately 1,400 youth living in detention facilities in the State of Georgia. Statistics show that many of those youth will recommit crimes and eventually end up in our adult facilities. There is a solution to that problem though. His name is Jesus!

Each Kairos volunteer knows firsthand the miracles that can occur when a person is introduced to the love of God and salvation through Jesus Christ. So why wait to share that good news with troubled individuals until they are in an adult prison facility? I think we can all agree it would be far better to introduce them to Jesus while they are still young and have a greater chance of going on to become transformed and productive citizens.

That is where Kairos Torch, the youth version of Kairos, comes in. If you love touching lives through Kairos Inside or Kairos Outside, then we ask you to also consider volunteering for Kairos Torch Inside or Kairos Torch Outside. If we all pitch in to get Kairos Torch really rolling in Georgia, just imagine the miracles that will happen in those young lives!

Your first opportunity to make that happen is tentatively coming up in August. Chaplain Sanders of Eastman YDC and their volunteer coordinator, Pamela Lee, met with Beth Maycumber and Annette Ciaravino recently to discuss getting Kairos Torch going in that facility. They were very excited about it and even signed an institutional agreement right on the spot!

Now, of course, we need volunteers to make that happen. We desperately need some of you to immediately step up to the plate as part of the advisory council for that community. We also need everyone to spread the word at churches and elsewhere in that area so that we can get people to pray (that should always come first!), donate, and serve.

These kids need us, but more importantly they need Jesus! Can Christ count on **you** to bring his good news to these hurting youth? If so, please email Frank and Annette Ciaravino, Georgia State Coordinators of Kairos Torch, at: [fretheyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fretheyouth@gmail.com) or call 678-209-7614.



**Kairos Outside** is a special weekend retreat designed to support the female loved ones of men and women who are or have been incarcerated. Families of the incarcerated "do time" right along with their loved ones. In a safe environment with loving people, women interact with other women who are in similar situations and learn to form small support groups to give them strength for the challenges they face. For more information contact Kathy Huggins, Ph: 678-764-4296, E-mail: [kathy.huggins@chbe.gatech.edu](mailto:kathy.huggins@chbe.gatech.edu)

# Lighting a Fire

By Kit Cummings

I would like to share about Kairos from the perspective of a Pastor. Today I serve as an Evangelist, traveling and preaching across the country. For a number of years I led large churches and felt the heavy burden of pastoring congregations—I respect and admire the men and women who follow this calling. Their daily concern for the flock and the stress and sorrow of human pain can at times be overwhelming.

In today's spiritual landscape, the pressure is more intense than ever. Pastors are resigning in record numbers, some churches are closing their doors, and all churches are feeling the economic crunch. Church leaders are charged with growing their congregations, increasing their budgets, while continually looking for new ways to feed their flocks spiritually, while keeping them inspired. Again, I honor those who are giving themselves to this noble pursuit. However, many are simply burning out, while others are thriving... The difference? I have found that churches whose members are active in outreach ministries, churches that tithe, and churches that are getting involved in taking care of their community are thriving.

Many pastors are now looking for ways to get their members active in ministries that serve the "least of these." Feeding the homeless, taking care of orphans and widows, and serving in convalescence homes are always great ways to engage your people. Preachers teach and implore their congregants to be active in sharing their faith and to give away what we have been so freely given. Some even go on mission trips to third world countries and see up close and personal how the rest of the world lives — a life changing experience.

However, there is a "mission field" near your city that is ripe, ready and relatively untapped. This ministry has been there all along and has the potential to light a fire in your congregation and

even bring back the flame to preachers who have lost their heart. I am speaking of prison ministry.

In Matthew 25, Jesus reminds us that there are sheep and there are goats. The difference? The sheep fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, invited the stranger in, clothed the naked, looked after the sick, AND visited the prisoner. I believe that Jesus was very intentional when He added the inmate to this famous parable. The sheep will ask when they ever saw Jesus in any of these conditions, and He would say in this famous passage: "Whatever you did for the least of these bothers of mine, you did for me." I believe this is literal. When I go and visit with the prisoner, I experience Jesus in a way that I have not found in over 20 years of full time ministry.

I believe that most churches and pastors know that we should visit with inmates—there are over 2.4 million incarcerated in our country: husbands, fathers, uncles, sons, mothers, etc. Every one of them has a unique story to tell, but most of them have been forgotten and left behind. So Jesus visits them in a special way. Those of us who answer His call do as well. I would suggest that the reason that most churches do not have effective prison ministry is twofold: the barriers to entry are high (try to go serve at your local maximum security prison and see how far you get) and churches see the inmates as perpetrators, while seeing the others mentioned in Matthew 25 as "victims." Maybe Jesus understood that on some level we are ALL victims and we are all perpetrators. We are all fallen, and we all need grace. However, someone has got to go and answer his call to this growing forgotten population.

Thank God for Kairos Prison Ministries International. What I experienced behind those walls, not only changed my life, but started a fire in my home congregation that is still burning. I found my heart again, and deepened my faith and

relationship with Jesus in a powerful new way. I discovered that I received as much or more from answering His call to visit and attend to the “least of these” than those I served. There are pastors and churches all across the nation who desperately NEED Kairos. We need to go and share that we have an answer: Kairos removes the barriers to entry, takes care of the training and preparation, and helps you build a powerful ministry in your church—and many pastors need a lot of helping in bringing passion back into their congregations right now. What I experienced was that when Kairos volunteers came back from their “Weekend Miracles” and began to speak about what they had seen and heard, others were drawn to join them on

the next one. Soon there were dozens who had been affected and the fire had been lit.

I want to get you to consider a new conviction and approach to recruiting. Consider the pastor who needs Kairos to help his church find their purpose again. Consider the Christians out there who are studying their bibles, praying for answers, and are still floundering in their faith. Consider the fact that your church might NEED Kairos, just as much or more than Kairos needs their volunteers. It’s a paradigm shift—and it boils down to believing that Jesus knows what He is talking about when He calls us the go inside and SERVE. Maybe it’s as much for us as for those inmates.

Just maybe.

## Attention Newsletter Subscribers

Tough economic times call for tough economic choices and the issue of publishing the paper copy of the Newsletter is one of those tough choices that we have had to make.

In light of our current financial situation, it is no longer affordable to automatically print and distribute the paper copy of the Kairos of Georgia Newsletter.

Does that mean that the Newsletter is going away? Absolutely NOT! Does that mean you cannot receive one in the mail? Absolutely not.

Currently (and since 2006) the Newsletter has been available on the Kairos of Georgia website (<http://www.kairosgeorgia.org/newsletters.html>). We send out a notice to all Advisory Council Chairpersons that the Newsletter is available.

So what are your options:

1. If you still want to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter, you must notify Beth Maycumber to remain on the “snail mail” list:

Beth Maycumber  
P.O. Box 2191  
Villa Rica, GA 30180  
or call (770) 830-8985

2. Download the Newsletter when the Advisory Council Chairpersons send out the notice. If you are not getting the notice from your Advisory Council Chairperson when the Newsletter is published, ask them why not?

3. If you don’t receive the above notice and would like to receive an e-mail when the Kairos of Georgia Newsletter is posted to the website, please fill out the electronic form on the home page of the Kairos of Georgia website: <http://www.kairosgeorgia.org>

# Kairos E-News

The Newsletter you're reading remains one of the best ways to catch on the latest in Kairos in Georgia. There is an additional option that will help you stay in touch with what's going on in the larger ministry — The Kairos E-News

One of the issues that we found in the Communications Improvement survey was that information wasn't flowing up and down through the levels of the organization like we all hope. One of ways we are attempting to solve this is a monthly electronic publication designed to keep you up-to-date on the very latest happening

You can download a single issue (current or back issue) or you can subscribe to it. Subscribe from the home page of the [www.MyKairos.org](http://www.MyKairos.org) website or you can download single issues from the Newsroom page.

We hope you'll find it useful and spread it around in your communities.

Newsletter Editorial offices: 5 Althea Pky, Savannah, GA 31405. email: [kairos.news@comcast.net](mailto:kairos.news@comcast.net) Walt Kessel, Editor. Newsletter Coordinator, Lajauna Ellis. Kairos of Georgia is a chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. a non-profit organization located at 140 N. Orlando Ave., Suite 180, Winter Park, FL 32789-3860.

See  
important  
notice on  
page 7

TO:

2012 • No. 1

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Carol Crankshaw  
102 Ashley Marsh Drive  
Brunswick, GA 31523

*Amen, I say to you, whatever you  
did for one of these least brothers  
of mine, you did for me.*  
Matthew 25:40

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Brunswick, GA 31520  
Permit #906