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KAIROS OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

Kairos Representatives Attend Episcopal Women's Missionary Society Conference



Left to right: Lillian Robinson, Kairos of Georgia AKT Coordinator; Beth Maycumber, Past Kairos of Georgia State Chair; Mrs. Barbara Clayton-Hudson, 6th Episcopal Women's Missionary Society (WMS) President; Dr. Wilma Webb Williams, 6th Episcopal District Supervisor; Ms. Sylvia E. Moore, Macon Georgia Conference WMS President

Beth Maycumber and Lillian Robinson attended the African Methodist Episcopal Conference with the ladies of the Women's Missionary Society in Macon, Georgia. The attendees, Christian women, from different churches in different parts of the state, were actively seeking ways to reach out in their local communities to the sick, the elderly, the young, and the imprisoned.

During the meeting groups were formed to discuss the different actions that can be taken to help each sector. Lillian and Beth were in the group discussing how to help the incarcerated. The group discussed several ways they could help women in prison. Transporting children and other family members to visit their loved ones, donating

personal items, such as toiletries, to the prison for those who have no resources, writing notes of encouragement, helping with Angel Tree, and having their local churches partner with Kairos, an established prison ministry were among the ideas. Each group then shared with everyone the actions they came up with to help in their communities.

The Women's Missionary Society presented Kairos with a generous donation to be used for women's prison ministry. Beth and Lillian shared with the group about Kairos. There was a great interest in our ministry and many questions were asked. Pray that we will have many of these women join us in serving the Lord in prison.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

BY KEITH HARRIS

This story was originally published March 13, 2013 in the Monroe County Reporter in the Pastors Corner
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On March 14 –17, people from all over the state will be participating in an exciting ministry here in Forsyth called Kairos. Kairos is an international prison ministry that is totally funded and staffed by volunteers. It is the most effective ministry for life transformation in which I have ever been involved.

Literally thousands of hours of prayer go into each Kairos weekend. It is amazing to see the visible transformation that takes place between Thursday and Sunday. Men come in hard, cold, defensive and angry. Most leave joyful, peaceful, and free spiritually. They truly experience the unconditional love of God, many for the first time, in these four days.

“Kairos” is a Greek word that means significant time. It is sometimes translated “seasons”.

We call it God’s time. For many of these men, this weekend is the most significant time of their life. It is the time in which they meet God in a very real and tangible way. It is a time that they learn to trust God. It is a time that they learn that some people are trustworthy. It is a time where they learn the power of love conquers hate.

Thus far, we have had 6 Kairos weekend events here in Forsyth at Burruss Correctional Training Center. God has successfully planted a church, not a brick and mortar type, within this and many other prisons throughout the world. He has called men and women unto Himself, thus changing the atmosphere within the prisons.

You may be asking “What can I do?” For this weekend you can pray. People are scheduled to pray



around the clock during this event. We have people literally around the globe who will be praying for us here in Forsyth.

You can volunteer for future weekends. See Danny Newton with Piedmont Electric, or Brad Edenfield with Raymond James Financial to volunteer.

You can help with food. We feed the 42 participants lunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We give out plenty of snacks including thousands of homemade cookies. We also feed the 35 or so volunteers 3 meals each day. David Griffin here in Forsyth coordinates the food. You can join the army of people who volunteer in countless ways.

Keith Harris Pastor,
Christ UMC, Forsyth

RECRUITING TIP — Schedule a Kairos presentation at your church.

KAIROS – GOD’S SPECIAL TIME FOR ME

By Rev. Dr. Rick Mitchell

After hearing about Kairos for many years, I heard God’s call to become a part of this vital and life changing movement. In March of this year I was on the Johnson SP #2 Team. It was one of the most moving spiritual experiences of my life. I would like to share a little about my journey to this wonderful Weekend.

I am an ordained United Methodist Pastor serving two congregations in Middle Georgia. I found myself preaching and teaching my flock the importance of getting outside the four walls of the church and being missionaries in our local community all the way to the ends of the earth. While we may not all be able to personally go to foreign lands, there is plenty of mission work to do right here close by.

There is a YDC in our community and I began to feel burdened that we should reach out in ministry there. Then I got a call from Beth Maycumber asking if she and others could come and talk with me about helping with a Kairos Torch in our YDC. Well, it can’t get any plainer than that! Due to a change in administration at the YDC, this event was postponed. It seemed a door had closed.



Then comes an e-mail from a Lieutenant Colonel I had never met asking me to consider being a part of a Kairos Team at Johnson State Prison. Sometimes I tend to be thick headed but even I understood this was God’s call and I said “yes.” I saw right away I would have to miss a couple of the training sessions and I figured that would disqualify me. However, Kent Leonard, our team leader, informed me he could work with me on this. The training events I did get to attend were wonderful. They prepare you for this ministry, even though you may have absolutely no prison ministry experience, which was the case with me.

My congregations gave me wonderful support with financial contributions and cookies on top of cookies. The children of one of the congregations made cards to be given to the residents during the event. They also prayed for me and gave me the needed time to be away, including a Sunday. They also prayed for the residents and became a part of a “prayer chain” that surrounded the conference room at the prison.

As the Weekend began I was not apprehensive or afraid for I knew this was God’s call. I went with

Some Washington State Prison Kairos Memories Of Harry Marshall

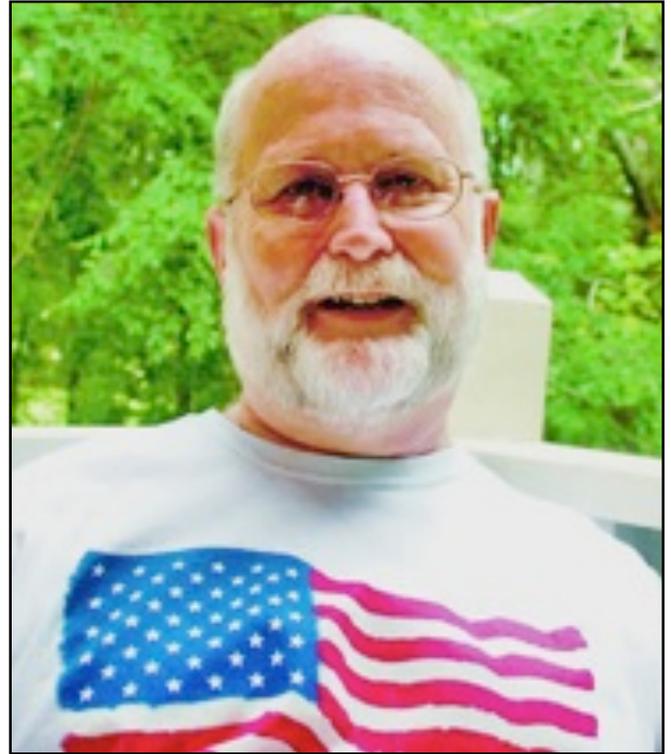
By one of his teammates

We knew that Harry Marshall had moved to the Lake Oconee area about five years ago but really do not remember anything regarding him until about 2010 when he started taking an active part in one of the local churches, men's Bible studies, and local mentoring activities. It was through some of these things that Harry learned about Kairos. Once he had his initial clearances, he was able to join the team reunions during spring and summer of 2012. There was absolutely no question in Harry's mind – he loved going into Washington State Prison with the Team to meet, sing and worship with the full team. He could not wait for the full weekend program.

He went through all the training for Kairos #10 and was raring to go. Some of us knew of his health items (Parkinson Disease and some breathing problems) and had some reservations. No question in Harry's mind – he was going. Overnight we were able to locate him in his own room close to the prison. He was an Assistant Table Leader at the Table of Paul the weekend of 10/25-28/2012- and enjoyed every minute of it.

Time came for training for Kairos # 11 and Harry was already not only ready but said that since he had been an assistant table leader once, he now wanted to give a talk – and he asked the team leader could he have Talk # 7, "Christian Action". He did not miss one training session and did give his practice talk.

In the meantime, Harry had some health concerns and had gone back to the Veteran's for several checkups, tests and scans in April and May



2013. When the results came in we were all devastated. He advised: "The doctor said I have a grapefruit size melanoma along with the three melanomas in my lungs. None of them can be cured (*he explained, no surgery or chemo possible*). The only medication has serious side effects, which are more than I want to try to deal with. He said I have six months to a year to live, but he forgot to talk to God."

So what about Kairos # 11 which was May 2-5, 2013? Absolutely no question in Harry's mind – He said, "I did my practice talk and am all ready. I cannot think of anywhere else I would rather be." This was so much like Harry – he loved the Kairos ministry and what it meant to the participants.

All of the team was well aware of Harry's situation and well knew he was determined to give his talk, share his experiences and be an assistant table leader at the table of Luke. However, none of the participants or inside team were aware of the situation. Our Kairos team worried about not only Harry but also how he would come across. At the appointed time late on the morning of Saturday,

KAIROS – GOD’S SPECIAL TIME FOR ME

the prayer that I could show the love of God in Jesus Christ and the amazing grace extended to us through Him. I asked the Lord to use me in any way He saw fit and I asked that I be open to what He might want to do in my life in this weekend. It was amazing. I went in and met men who are people in need of God’s grace just like me. They had made some poor choices along the way, resulting in their incarceration. Still they are loved by God and have value and worth in his sight. We spent the weekend telling them this and, by God’s grace and the Spirit’s anointing, showing them.

What a blessing to watch the transformation in their lives as the message of God’s love and grace broke through. God did use me to minister to these guys as a group and in some one on one sessions. It was amazing to see God use who I am and where I have been to be able to communicate forgiveness and grace.

The blessing was also in what these residents did for me and for my spiritual journey. An Inside Team member prayed for me before I gave my talk, and I mean he prayed heaven down! God touched me through Team Members and through the guys making their weekend. My fellow Team Members truly blessed my life as well.

I am convinced that the grace of Jesus Christ is transformative. I have always believed it and preached it. I have seen it in my life and in the lives of others. Now I can say I have seen it in a medium security prison. Should this surprise me? Of course not! The longer I walk with the Lord, the more I am blown away by His love and grace. What a joy to be a part of Kairos where we see this in so many marvelous ways. Thank you Lord for Kairos! May this mighty ministry continue to grow and bring more and more persons to the One who alone can transform and make new!

Harry

May 4 Harry was prayed up, stepped up and gave his talk on “Christian Action”.

Then, as Harry was with the participants being prayed down, one of our faithful pastors went front and center and explained. He noted: “Gentlemen you may have seen the last speaker stammer a couple of times and seemed a little shaky turning his papers. No – that was not nerves. You see he is a Marine who was in Vietnam, had many battles and medals but also had heavy exposure to Agent Orange. As a result he came down with Parkinson Disease that does this. In addition, you need to know that in just the last couple of weeks he learned he has cancer in the lungs and a grapefruit sized cancer. The doctor gives him six months. Even so, his priority was to come here to be with you and give his talk – even under all this.”

The pastor then asked all to join in praying over Harry. There was not one dry eye. One table came up with a “Christian Action” poster with a sketch of Harry in the center – large, yellow shirt, eyeglasses, beard and all. They explained that Harry is Christian Action. Many of the participants mentioned Harry during the closing and many more came up to give him a farewell hug.

Harry went back the next weekend for the training session and then his final visit was the reunion on June 1, 2013. They presented him with several hand drawn thanks and blessings cards and also a small linen banner with scripture and signed by all of them. Harry loved the men and the men and Team loved Harry. Knowing Harry, he probably is trying to arrange a Kairos in heaven with the men that have been thru Kairos.

Harry never was concerned for Harry. He was at ease and said he was in the Lord’s hands. His only request was that we all keep his wife, Irma Marshall in our prayers. He passed away Tuesday, June 25, 2013



This is the beginning of a new series of Fourth Day stories by Kairos graduates, both released and still inside. See the note at the end of the article.

By Elizabeth Macdonald

After eight years of prison, I stand here today on the “outside,” a positive and dedicated servant of Christ, thanks to the efforts of many people who stood by me and shared their unconditional love during my years of doubt and sadness. Because Kairos rescued me from depression, offered Christ as a solution, included me in its activities, and continued to come month after month, I found a way to keep going, and now I am sharing that love with others.

I was raised in Connecticut in a very abusive situation. I left home the day I graduated from high school and never went back. I spent 20 years in Montana, 10 years in Washington, married, raised two girls, taught English and Spanish, and completed a master’s in English. Divorced and alone, I moved to Georgia for a Ph.D. at Georgia State University and tried to reconnect with family which resulted in more violence and prison. Shortly after arriving at Metro State Prison, I was attacked in the kitchen and went to lockdown because I wouldn’t talk. I’d spent my

whole life being afraid, so I decided it was time to end it.

God knew differently.



Karen Miller, Elizabeth MacDonald, Peg Daniels

I came out of lockdown right into a Kairos weekend and committed my life to Christ. I forgave my abusers in the water ceremony. I cleared my life of sadness and found ways to help others. I started drawing for Agape and working at other weekends and reunions. I started a literacy class in prison to teach people to read and wrote inspirational books to pass

the time. For the first time in my life, I was wearing a smile and feeling hopeful about my future. I looked forward to the Kairos gatherings more than any church I had ever participated in. The women who came to Kairos became a net to hold me together while I healed.

Slowly, over five years, I transitioned from the one needing the love to the person offering the love. I realized one day I was happier using my art and teaching abilities in prison to help others more than I had been anywhere else in my life. It was then

I understood why the ladies in Kairos kept coming back to our dismal little prison. God's love was flowing through them and filling their hearts as well. I decided that is what I wanted too.

God started opening doors like you wouldn't believe. Miracles happened, one after the other. Even after being denied parole, I was released three years early. A pastor offered me a job as a custodian at the First Baptist Church in Gainesville. Not only am I a part of this amazing church, but I have a Sunday school class and a new family of friends and coworkers who are all involved in one ministry or another. All my dreams are coming true. Since December, I started a nonprofit organization called 2B Free Book Company (www.2bfreebooks.com) that publishes inspirational books for the incarcerated population, I write letters to thirty lifers and call it the Freedom Club, and I started three of those women in college-credited correspondence classes. I have self-published five of the ten books I wrote in prison and I have been able to send the verse collection to all thirty women in the Freedom Club.

March 25, I turned sixty. Thanks to God, I was able to celebrate that birthday out here. I invited forty people who helped me transition into who I am today and I was able to thank them all in person, including two wonderful women from

Kairos. Please know that what you offer as a prison ministry is not just a change in routine and real food, but a hug or a handshake that sends a message of love straight from God. You may not see it as saving someone's life, but let me tell you that I can honestly say I would not be here today if Kairos had not reached out to me with God's love. God bless you all for what you do.

The Fourth Day section includes submissions from those who have completed a Kairos weekend. It does not matter when the weekend was completed; we welcome submissions from all. This is an opportunity for the participants to tell us how the weekend impacted their lives and how they are continuing on in their Fourth Day. It is another way to spread the word about the impact of Kairos and prayerfully draw more volunteers to this ministry. What could be more meaningful than hearing directly from someone behind the prison walls! How can you help? We would like you to inform the residents of this opportunity at your next reunion and then remind them at subsequent reunions. All letters should be mailed to Kairos Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 475, Tyrone, GA, 30290 and should be no more than two handwritten pages in length. Letters may be submitted at any time.

The Board of Directors of Kairos Prison Ministry International is pleased to announce the
*Vision of
Kairos.*

**A community spiritually freed from the effects of imprisonment reaching
all impacted by incarceration, through the love, hope, and faith
found in Jesus Christ.**

**The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and
forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men,
women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive
citizens of their communities.**



James M.
Kairos #5 C.S.P.
Table of Mark

The love of God that comes from a Kairos weekend is pure agape love given by His servants. Nothing in this life can compare to the feeling you get when you are born again, by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

I've done nothing but open windows. God has done all the rest. This year, I have started out to live all of my waking moments in conscious listening to the inner voice, asking without ceasing, what Father you desire said? What, Father, do you desire this minute? It is clear that this is exactly what Jesus was doing all day every day. I feel convinced that for me and for you who read, there lies ahead undiscovered continents of spiritual living compared with which we are infants in arms.

Oh, this thing of keeping in constant touch with God, of making Him the object of my thought and the companion of my conversations, is the most amazing thing. *It is working!* I cannot do it even a half day not yet. It is a matter of acquiring a new habit of thought. Now, I like the Lord's presence so much that when for a half hour or so He slips out of my mind as He does many times a day, I feel as though I have deserted Him and as though I have lost something very precious in my life.

As I analyze myself, I find several things happening to me as a result of these several months of strenuous effort to keep the Lord in mind every minute. This concentration upon God is strenuous, but everything else has *ceased to be so*. I think more clearly, I forget less frequently. Things which I did with a strain before, I now do easily and with no effort whatsoever. I worry about nothing and lose no sleep. I walk on air a good part of the time. Even the mirror reveals a new light in my eyes and face. I no longer feel in a hurry about anything. Everything goes right. Each minute I meet calmly as though it were not important. Nothing can go wrong except one thing. That is God may slip from my mind if I do not keep on my guard. *Our* task is simple and clear.

God has a mission. We are his missionaries. We are His messengers to manifest Him and His ways. We have entrance into the sanctuary of God. We can abide in the secret place of the Most High, and mystery of mysteries. He abides in us. What understanding! What authority! What Peace! What Joy! What a "victory!"

Amen, Amen, Amen, Holy, Holy, Holy

The next State Committee meeting in Forsyth will be August 31. Same location and time. Our guest speaker will be Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director Kairos Prison Ministry International. She will focus on what KPMI is doing to build name recognition for Kairos Prison Ministry throughout. Her message will tell us what it will mean to our effort of recruiting new volunteers in Georgia.

WHAT YOU NEED IS ALREADY IN YOUR MIDST

By Rev Beverly Upperman

The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 6, verses 31-38, and 41-43, provides a valuable lesson for us when faced with what we see as insufficiency or a need in our life. In the text, we notice Jesus inviting His disciples to come away to a deserted place and rest a while. They had been busy coming and going, and Jesus recognized the need for rest. To be honest, when I think of a desert, nothing positive comes to mind. I think of a waste place, a desolate place, an empty place, a dry, barren, wilderness place. It is someplace I would never choose as a place to go, much less for a rest! And I definitely would not invite anyone to go there with me! BUT...anytime Jesus invites us to go to a place, there should be some level of excitement about it, because nothing is wasted with the Lord. A lot can happen in a desert place.

Scripture says when the disciples and Jesus got on the boat to go to that desert place, the multitudes saw them leaving and because they knew Him, they began to run there on foot from all the cities. Now that truly amazed me because what I see is that Jesus and His disciples made such an impression on the people that they wanted to follow them wherever they were going, even to a desert place. So here is a question – who has been watching us go to the desert place known as prison? Have we made such an impression on those we're with that they are willing to follow us into this ministry? How many of us were led to Kairos by someone we knew? How many of us have led others to this ministry? Our scripture doesn't give us too much detail about what the disciples were doing other than the fact that they had come to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. But whatever it was, the people knew them, and wanted to follow them. I challenge you to go back to that time when we led someone to Kairos by what we were doing or

saying, or that time when we were drawn to the Kairos ministry by what someone else was doing or saying.

Scripture also says that when Jesus saw the great multitude, He was moved with compassion. Compassion that led to action. He began to minister and teach them. When we go to the prisons and see the great multitude, are we still moved with compassion? Do we get so moved by all our brothers and sisters we see behind the walls that we want to do something, do more than we're doing? Or, are we waiting for "them" to do something? Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 9, and I believe He is also saying to us today, *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* We need our compassion to lead to action, and it starts with prayer!

As Jesus continued to teach the multitude, the hour grew late, and His disciples came to Him and asked Jesus to send the people away. They did recognize they were in a desert place, and were probably hungry, but they wanted the people to leave and go take care of their own need. But thank God for Jesus! Rather than follow the suggestion of His disciples, He turned the task back on them and said, "You give them something to eat!" I can only imagine what those disciples were thinking, and in my Holy Ghost imagination, I see Peter stepping up and saying "but, but, but...but Jesus, do you really think we have enough money to feed all these people?!?" Again, thank God for Jesus! He calmly asks them "How many loaves do you have? Go and see". He didn't ask them to go see *what* they had, He asked them to go see *how much* they had! What He was really telling them was **WHAT YOU NEED IS**



AKT **ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING**

Kairos Inside AKT

August 16-18, 2013, Forsyth, Georgia

Where: Ramada Inn Convention Center, 480 Holiday Circle, Forsyth, GA, I-75, Exit #186.

Cost: \$240 for double, \$310 for single, \$175 for commuter. No personal checks are accepted. Attendees from Georgia must submit an approved voucher from their Advisory Council Chairperson.

Fee includes 2 nights lodging (Friday and Saturday), 5 meals (Fri. dinner, Sat. Breakfast, lunch and dinner and breakfast on Sunday) and training materials.

Contact: For additional information or to submit application: Lillian Robinson, Georgia AKT Coordinator, 8608 Cedar Creek Ridge, Riverdale, GA 30274 Email: akt@kairosforgia.org; 678-634-8034 (cell). All registrations for AKT must be received 10 days prior to the training date. Any registration received after that date will be subject to a \$25 late fee plus additional postage and handling.

Note: Participants need to bring only personal items and current Kairos manual.

Kairos Outside AKT

September 20-22, 2013 PELL CITY, AL

Where: Camp Chula Vista: 1000 Chula Vista Lane, Pell City AL 35125. Attendees driving, please call for directions.

Cost: Commuters \$120:00; Single \$270:00; Double \$210:00. Make checks payable to K.O. of Alabama and mail to Terry Christopher. Registrations are due 10 days prior to Training. Late registration fee is \$25.00, plus charges for postage on training materials

Contact: Terry Christopher, 10693 Rosa Lane, Madison AL, 35756, 256-325-7155; Cell 256-656-5893. Email: aumom2001@yahoo.com.

ALREADY IN YOUR MIDST! Jesus knew what was there. He needed His disciples to know what was there! So they went, and returned and said all they had was five loaves and two fish. Just like the widow woman told the prophet Elijah in I Kings, chapter 7, "I only have a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar". And just like another widow woman told the prophet Elisha in II Kings chapter 4, when the creditors were threatening to take her sons into slavery to satisfy the debt of her deceased husband, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil." And just like when Jesus' mother came to Him at the wedding of Cana to report the wine had run out, all these seemed to be hopeless, impossible situations. But those are the times that are just right for Jesus! At the wedding of Cana, all they had were jars that Jesus told them to fill with water. And in the Master's hand, water was turned to wine. The best wine! In the case of the widow and Elisha, the jar of oil in the Master's hand (by way of the prophet), was sufficient to satisfy her creditors and have enough for her and her sons to live off. More than enough! And for the widow with the prophet Elijah, that flour and oil, when placed in the Master's hand (through His prophet), scripture says "The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah". Overflow! And in our text, the five loaves and two fish, when placed in the Master's hand, was more than enough to feed 5000 men, not including the women and children, and there were twelve baskets of leftovers – one for each disciple who earlier had said, we only have five loaves and two fish. That's what I call "exceedingly abundantly above all"! (Ephesians 3:20)

My Kairos brothers and sisters, there may be a need somewhere in your life, and it may seem so big, or even impossible, because there seems to be nothing you can do! Let us not focus on the enormity of the situation, what we don't have, or what may be going wrong in our lives. Let us look at what we do have, and what is right in our lives, and as we place the situation in the Master's hands, little will become much with Him. **WHAT WE NEED IS ALREADY IN OUR MIDST!**