

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*

Kairos of Georgia



September 2020

## Your "new" Newsletter!

I'M BACK! From 2006-2013, you counted on me to bring you our State Kairos info. Seven years later, I need your input to make me the best I can be! **In other words, I need you to survive!** So, send your testimonials, upcoming events, Advisory Council updates, photos or whatever is happening in your neck of the woods! Our newsletter team is excited to hear from you and share your news!

### Dear Kairos Community of Georgia,

In the economy of the Kingdom of God, the greatest serve the least. We who serve in Kairos experience the reality of Jesus' words, "I was in prison, and you came to visit me." This encounter with Jesus is worth more than 1000 sermons.

This year, 2020, threw up a barricade against us, styming not only our weekend preparations, but the continuing ministry that sustains Kairos volunteers and residents alike. What are we to do?

"BE PREPARED" is the prophetic word for this time! For the first time, no one needed to travel to participate in the Kairos annual conference. All of its parts and workshops are available online! praeparare from the latin, "make ready": "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

It is in this spirit that I hope to collaborate with Shelley Ross and the Kairos community of Georgia to BE PREPARED, by producing a quarterly newsletter. We want it to be more than a house organ. We want to bear witness to the experiences of the community of Jesus, who restores individuals and families, whose Word is alive in us.

God is not stymied. BE PREPARED to share the good news of what God is doing in your Kairos community and institution! Share it with us as a witness to the fruits of this ministry. Pray, Study, and Act to be transformed. Amen!

### David Carvin

Autry State Prison

Co-Editor, Kairos of GA Newsletter

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*

**Kairos of Georgia**



## Letter from Beverly Upperman, Kairos of Georgia Chair

Greetings Georgia!

What an awesome time to be serving in the Kingdom. I believe we've all been called to serve 'for such a time as this'! None of us imagined the turn of this decade would look anything like this, did we? We all have been, in some way, struggling with this 'new norm'. Yet, in the midst of it all – COVID-19, racial tensions, leadership challenges, prison visitations suspended - this is still God's Special Time! None of this has taken Him by surprise! And His plan for us is still GOOD! That alone is reason to rejoice!

I have watched our ministry transform from what seemed impossible to launching out into the deep! Our 2020 Virtual Annual Conference is evidence of that! What has always been a face-to-face conference was transformed into an exciting virtual reality event open to all Kairos volunteers! Only God could have made that possible! His Special Time is not dictated by situations or circumstances! Matthew 19:26 makes it clear that "...with God all things are possible." The conference theme, BE PREPARED, with Ephesians 6:13-18 as the foundational scripture, was God-inspired.

If you were unable to attend, you still can! Just click the link below and you will be transported to two power-packed days of inspiration and information.

<http://www.mykairos.org/conference.html>

I am humbled and honored to serve as your State Chair during these challenging, yet momentous times. One songwriter said it like this – God is getting us ready for that great day! Simply put my friends, BE PREPARED! Make the best of the time we've been given. Look for creative ways to continue serving in ministry. Out-of-the-box is where we find ourselves and that's the best place to tap into your gifts and talents and let them shine for God's glory!

Serving with joy,  
*Beverly*



**Georgia Kairos  
Executive Committee**

**Chairman**  
Beverly Upperman

**Vice Chairman**  
Ladson Golden

**International Council Rep**  
Audrey Jones (Temp.)

**International Council Rep**  
Arthur Fickling

**Secretary**  
Tom Kibler

**Financial Secretary**  
Walter Straham

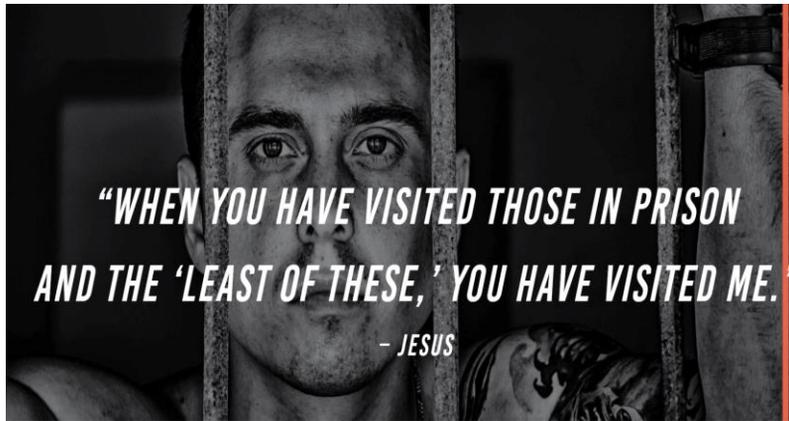
**Treasurer**  
Stan Yarbrough



# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*

## *Volunteer Resources for Kairos of Georgia*



**Kairos is a Distribution Partner of Fourth Purpose, a comprehensive non-profit organization that supports the United States prison community.**

**Have you ever heard of Fourth Purpose? This phenomenal organization defines itself in this way: “We believe that the fourth purpose of prison – after retribution, incapacitation, and deterrence, should be transformation. Click on the link below to check out their website – featuring several videos they’ve created with celebrity artists and athletes in their Visitation 2.0 response to the COVID lockdowns. Although Visitation 2.0 has ended, we can continue to be a distribution partner by ensuring these videos are provided to our chaplains for viewing within their facilities. Your Advisory Council has more information about this great tool to encourage and continue outreach to our friends in the Georgia State prisons. Click here for more info:**

<https://4thpurpose.org/visitation2/series/>

### **KAIROSOFGEOORGIA.ORG**

The Kairosofgeorgia.org site is designed to provide you with information on all aspects of the ministry: About us, Where we Serve, Programs, Calendar, Policy and Procedures, Minutes, Contacts, and so much more. This is the place that will provide you with every possible tool that facilitates your service in your community.

Do you know that the very first and most important thing on our website is a connection for you to submit your prayer requests to the Kairos community of Georgia? Our organization is fueled by volunteers. Your gifts to Kairos and to the local prisons are VITAL to the work we do. We care very much about YOU.

**NOTE:** Please watch for new updates that are coming to the website. While we bring things into compliance, we will also make some improvements to organization and functionality, while making it more user-friendly. Please contact [ladyzylo@gmail.com](mailto:ladyzylo@gmail.com) for questions or information. If you find any incorrect or outdated information, please let us know immediately so that we are always at our best.

Please visit [www.Kairosofgeorgia.org](http://www.Kairosofgeorgia.org)  
Let us know how you're doing, and how we can help. God bless you!

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*



## COVID Update for Georgia

COVID-19, or the Coronavirus, upset the applecart in Kairos across the United States. It first affected our ministry in the cancellation of our spring weekends. Of the 29 prisons and Youth Detention Centers we serve, prior to COVID, only one was able to provide Kairos with space and time this year to conduct our 3-day weekends. At this time there are no plans to serve the prisons for our fall weekends.

Our local Advisory Councils are in close contact with their chaplains to help us understand the constraints imposed upon the prisons. The preventive measures and care for those offenders stricken are of highest priority. This situation is terribly stressful for offenders who have not seen their loved ones in many months and cannot escape their crowded and highly social environment. It also affects the prison officers and employees in much the same way.

We are permitted to provide letters to the entire population through our chaplains during COVID. We can create Agape posters for the general population as well. And of course we should remember our brothers and sisters in all capacities of the prison system in our prayers. Our time spent in the prisons is less, but the breadth of our “virtual” efforts is expanded to the entire prison population.

Kairos Prison Ministry International (KPMI) and our State continues to monitor the situation, and will pass any changes to you.

## It's Election Time!

Every Advisory Council must hold elections by 12/1/2020.

We have been given a special one-year term extension for 2021. If an Advisory Council member is willing to serve in their role again for 2021, they may do so for one (1) extended year.

It is crucial that all elected positions are entered into KairosMessenger by December 31, 2020. The Advisory Council Operating Procedures (page 22) provides details on the election process and training is available on how to input the necessary information into KairosMessenger.

The link below provides everything you need to know about the election process.

<https://www.mykairos.org/Election.html>

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*

## *What's going on in Georgia?*

### **COVID Response at Emanuel Women's Facility, Swainsboro, GA**

*(A tale of sew-ers and sow-ers united to give God's gifts of caring and fun!)*

When our COVID 19 problems began back in March or April we were all at a loss for a way to let our Kairos sisters know that they were not forgotten and that we were praying for them and their well being. At that time I was contacted by the Odum Garden Club (of which I am a member) by one of our members who was trying to make masks for nursing homes and individuals who needed masks but did not have a source for them. She needed help and three of us got together to try to fill some orders. All the materials were donated: thread, material, elastic, etc. Everyone was very generous we only needed to get a pattern and sew them together. When I joined the group of "sewers" I asked if they would like to provide masks for Emanuel Women's Facility. God had given me a real burden for the inmates, staff and officers.

After talking to Chaplain Pinkston at Emanuel and getting permission to provide the masks it took only 3 days to sew the masks needed for the Warden and her staff as well as the officers and medical staff! I did explain to the staff that it would not be possible to choose a color or particular fabric but we would try to coordinate the color of the mask with their uniforms. Chaplain Pinkston was just thrilled with the gift of masks that they were getting and assured me that fabric, style or color was not an issue. We delivered approximately 100 masks to the facility the day after they were completed.

We sent flowered, striped, and various other patterned masks including some Minnie Mouse fabric!

Three days after delivering the masks I received a call from the Deputy Warden thanking the Odum Garden Club for their efforts. The Minnie Mouse masks were the biggest hits! The Deputy Warden was laughing as she was telling me about the inmates' response to those masks. She told me that there was a big boost in morale that day and that she told the whole facility that they came from KAIROS. The general consensus was that the staff and guards were not used to anyone "caring" about them. They have a tough job to do and we want them to know that we do CARE!! And of course the masks cut down on the chance of the virus being carried into the prison and again let all of our Kairos sisters know that we were thinking of them.

*Nancy Mylar*

AC Rep. Emanuel Women's Facility

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*



## Fourth Day Testimony: Charlie Buckhaultner, Dooly State Prison

My name is Charlie Buckhaultner, Dooly State Prison, Kairos #10, Table of Peter. I'd like to give you the perspective of the candidates who go through the Kairos program, because I personally have experienced the power of Kairos as a candidate. Here's my story.

I grew up in poverty, and was raised by a single mother who struggled with addiction. Some of my earliest memories include living in different projects and trailer parks across South Georgia. I remember many times being woken up abruptly in the middle of the night to run away from my mother's boyfriends. My father was never in the picture, so I didn't have anyone to look up to, other than my Great Grand Father, but that was only occasionally. My pawpaw, (as I called him), was a Godly man and a preacher. The only experience I had with Christ when I was growing up, was the occasional times we'd go visit Pawpaw's church.

As I grew older I recognized the differences between my family and the other kids at school, and because of the situations I was exposed to, I became more cynical and more sinister. I forgot all about those few times at Great Grandad's church, but I still felt a spiritual need and a longing to belong, so I began to study luciferianism, which is a form of satanism. I got involved with drugs and crime, which led me to become a member of a gang called the Gangster Disciples.

This gang promoted violence and criminal activity and had a spiritual aspect to it that leaned heavily on satanic symbolism, and it drew me in completely. It filled the need to belong that I'd had for so long, so I dedicated my life to being the best Gangster Disciple I could be.

I committed many crimes and did a lot of evil. In the year 2000, I learned how to manufacture methamphetamine, which seemed to give me everything I had always longed for, money, power, popularity..., but it also gave me an addiction. Once again, I dedicated my life, this time to being the best drug dealer I could be.

Well, that didn't work out so well... the drug lifestyle, combined with the gangster lifestyle leads to one of two places, prison or the grave. And thank God, I went to prison. I had to go to prison in order to be set free. Can you imagine that?

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*



## Fourth Day Testimony, Charlie Buckhaalter, (cont'd)

I got sentenced to a 10 year split sentence, with 4 years to serve, meaning I had 4 years in prison and 6 six years on probation. While I was in prison, I gravitated to the same sort of people I hung out with on the streets. The power players. The people that preyed on the weak. The gangsta disciples. I picked up in prison, right where I left off at in the streets. I started hearing about this program that happened twice a year called Kairos. I heard that these Christians would come into the prison for 3 days and share Christ. They'd give out free food such as fried chicken, pizza, sodas, and candy. I was very interested in the food, not so much Christ, so I turned in an application. Everybody in prison wants to go to Kairos, so only a few inmates are chosen a year, and I've never been very lucky, so I didn't expect much.

Well, I didn't need luck, because I had God, even though I didn't know Him at the time, He knew me! I was chosen to go through and it was the beginning of a new life.

As these men greeted me on Thursday night, all I wanted was a honey bun and soda and they could keep Christ. By the time the Agape letters showed up on Saturday, I was a changed man. At my table were lifers, thugs, and dope dealers, and as I read my letters, I looked up to make sure no one saw the tears in my eyes, and guess what I saw? Lifers, thugs, and dope dealers crying just like me! It was amazing. Right then I knew that God was real and that He loved me.

The seeds that were planted at that little church my Great Grandfather pastored were watered and began to grow, so for the final time I dedicated my life, this time, to be a follower of Christ and let Him be the best part of me!

He had a lot of work to do, I can tell you! When I got released, I'd like to say I started living the life Christ wanted, but I can't. I went right back to the lifestyle I always knew, but something was different. It didn't feel right. God had other plans. After a few years of straddling the fence, I became a member of a local church and because of my background I was drawn to prison ministry, but this church had none. I came across a Kairos recruitment flyer on the local scroll channel, and I knew that God had spoken. Since that faithful day, I've served on many weekends and I had the honor of being the leader for Kairos #40 at Autry State Prison. Kairos has blessed me tremendously, so if I could say anything to describe it, it would be this: **KAIROS MAKES A DIFFERENCE AND I'M LIVING PROOF!** Thanks for letting me share and God bless.

Charlie Buckhaalter



# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*



*A merry heart doeth  
good like medicine,  
Proverbs 17:22*



## Renewing Volunteer ID Cards for Georgia Department of Corrections

By Dr. Allen Hughes, State Coordinator Volunteer Services,  
GA Dept of Corrections

As with all things it seems you hear a myriad of varying pieces of information on most any subject. So I was given the opportunity to give everyone the "straight skinny" on how and when that can be done.

First, you can renew your card anytime it needs to be renewed, from 30 days before it expires to 90 days after it expires.

Next, you can renew your card by going on our website ([www.dcor.state.ga.us](http://www.dcor.state.ga.us)), clicking on the Volunteer Services tab, then going over to the right side of the page and clicking on Renewal Forms. Download those, fill them out and mail them to Kenya Walker in my office (300 Patrol Road, Upshaw Building, Forsyth, GA 31029).

If you have a computer but still have not figured out how to turn it on, just get the forms from your chaplain or group leader. After sending in your completed forms, your new ID badge will be mailed to your home.

What happens if my ID expires? If you let it go past 90 days then the SOP states you are required to retake the training in order to get it renewed. I suggest writing the date on your calendar just as you do other important dates. I hope this has been helpful. Thank you for all you folks do for us at the Georgia Department of Corrections.



# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*



## What Has Been Will Be Again

By Reverend Ron Jones, AC Rep, Kairos Outside NW GA

I bring you greetings my Kairos brothers and sisters from Kairos Outside Northwest Georgia.

During these difficult times the Word of God is our encourager and we can find peace even in a pandemic. We are experiencing and having to adjust to what we now refer to as the “new norm”. For the last nine months we watched as our nation went into a shutdown. Many of us who did not lose our job had to start working from home. Our children were not allowed to attend school, our churches were closed, and even the prisons where our passion to serve and make a difference in the lives of the inmates and their families, were put on hold.

**What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9**

So, today I want us to take the time and reflect back, I want you to remember the first time you were asked to serve in the Kairos Ministry. For some of you, you may have to think back a very long time, and then for some, not quite that long ago, perhaps it was just prior to the nine months before the pandemic. This was going to be your first weekend, you were so excited and had collected donations from the meal and bed tickets, you had attended all of your meetings, some of you had given your practice talk, while some had actually entered the prisons and started the weekend and were asked to leave. But as we wait and look forward to the time when we will serve again, I want to encourage you to lean on the Word of God and know this too will pass. Take the time to meditate on the following three points.

**1. Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9**

When you were invited to serve in the Kairos Ministry, what was your response? Was your answer an immediate yes? Or did it take a few invites before you were convinced that this was God tugging at your heart? As a child of God, when God is speaking to us, we must obey and trust Him even if it means going into uncharted territory, just as we find ourselves right now. We have to depend on our faith and know as long as we are being obedient, our God will take care of us and give us the strength to endure.

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*



## What Has Been Will Be Again (cont'd)

### 2. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

During this waiting period we are all faced with dealing with the uncertainties of various issues of life. Whether it be family, jobs, finances, sickness, death, or not being able to visit our loved ones, God cares. Remember there is nothing too big or too small that concerns us that we have to carry alone, just give it to Jesus!

### 3. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. Psalm 37:25

So, as we wait for permission to have AKT's, Team Formations, Weekends, Reunions, and SWAP Groups, let us be creative in our waiting and be prepared. Let us remember each other and check in to see how we can serve each other in our community. God is answering our prayers and KPMI has made it possible for us to serve even on a larger scale. God is so good that in the midst of a pandemic we have the opportunity to touch **ALL** of the residents, not just our Kairos participants, in the prisons we serve.

Hold on my brothers and sisters, what has been will be again. May God bless you and keep you and may His face shine upon you and give you peace.

*Reverend Ron Jones*

# Autumn: God's Time to Harvest

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*

*A Final Note From Your Newsletter Editors  
Let us know what's happening in your community  
and facility served!*

God has called us to serve Him, providing imprisoned offenders with an introduction to Christ, a renewal of hope and faith, and the support for a Christian community in the prison. He has also afforded us this wonderful opportunity to serve His people!

Please share your feedback on this newsletter, your stories, your breakthroughs, the words and sentiments of volunteers, clergy, chaplains, and our incarcerated brothers and sisters. We would especially love any photos you have of meetings, reunions, events, fundraisers and even the Minnie Mouse Masks!!!

*Worship the Lord with gladness:  
Come before Him with joyful songs!*

*Psalm 100: 2*



## NEWSLETTER EDITORS

David Carvin, [dvdcarvin@gmail.com](mailto:dvdcarvin@gmail.com), Autry State Prison  
Shelley Ross, [shelleyjaneross@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyjaneross@gmail.com), Whitworth Women's Facility

