

Find the Blessing!

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

Kairos of Georgia



December 2021



Letter from State Chair

Happy Holidays Georgia!

According to Andy Williams, *"It's the most wonderful time of the year. With the kids jingle bell'ing and everyone telling you, "Be of good cheer!" It's the most wonderful time of the year! It's the happiest season of all. With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings when friends come to call, it's the hap-happiest season of all!"*

However, some may disagree with Andy. If I've done my math correctly, as of December 25, 2021, it has been approximately 1 year, 9 months and 13 days since March 12, 2020, when we were informed that Kairos activities were being suspended due to COVID-19. It's hard to believe we have closed the book on 653 days of little or no Kairos activity to which we were accustomed. While the wait has ended for some, others are still waiting to return to our facilities. Is this truly "the hap-happiest season of all?"

I would offer a resounding YES! Why? Because, like Paul, I 'have learned to be content whatever the circumstances' (Philippians 4:11). Can you Find the Blessing in these 653 days, in these somewhat dismal circumstances? Yes, I agree there have been many losses, disappointments and setbacks that have been experienced during this time. But if you're reading this newsletter, you've found a blessing! You're still here!

Here's another blessing I found. One of our communities (Coastal) that had started their weekend March 12, 2020, was able to complete that weekend on November 7, 2021! To God be the glory!

But the true blessing of all is that we have received the most wonderful gift of all – EMANUEL, God with us! And because this is His Special Time, we're blessed!

So, Georgia, *"Be of good cheer!" It's the most wonderful time of the year!*

I Keep Finding Blessings!

Your humble servant,
Beverly

Happy
Holidays!



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Front Row: Lori Nichols, Stacy Cerone, Theresa Craft, Teresa Deaton

Back Row: Chaplain Jannie Davis, Julie Brannen, Robin Kersey, Pat Cooper, Cathy Smith, Nancy Mylar.

Not photographed: Vivien Losser

Emanuel Women's Facility

So much to be thankful for this holiday season!

Our Kairos Team is delighted as we have been allowed to re-enter Emmanuel Women's Prison for the first time since the COVID shutdown. October was our first visit, and we had eight volunteers present and fifteen Kairos grads, one of which was a new import that had attended Kairos at Pulaski. It was such a sweet, sweet time, and they were so grateful to see us, as well as we were grateful to be there.

Our November reunion (picture above) included our new Chaplain, who began her duties the week of the reunion. This is yet another thing to be thankful for this Thanksgiving season! The Warden even joined us for a little while. Grateful for her support! We had ten volunteers present and fifteen Kairos grads, and we welcomed two new volunteers that participated for the first time.

EWf has approved our December Reunion on Dec. 11 to do a "mini" Retreat, meaning that we will take in food for breakfast and lunch, and we will plan the program. We will have breakfast and lunch with our ladies. We will also bring in baked cookies (50 dozen) and ornaments for the staff. We've been busy collecting boxes of toiletry items and have enough donations for each resident (it's a 408-bed facility). We will probably have a few leftovers to help stock the shelves for the indigent needs. Each gift bag will include a personal letter to ladies and staff.

Pray for the ladies at this Christmas Reunion as we celebrate Jesus and that they would be blessed and grow closer to Jesus from hearing about the greatest gift of all!! Bless the Lord for opening the doors back up for us to minister! He is a good, good Father. In His perfect time, He came₂ and continues to meet with us!

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What's Happening at Whitworth Women's Facility

Kairos is again active at Whitworth Women's Facility in Hartwell GA. Our chaplain, Cynseria Jenkins, has invited the team to once again meet with, worship with, and interact with the offenders housed in the facility.

Our first weekend reunion was in October. We arrived at the prison at 10:00 am and by 10:45 am, we were inside, setting up tables and chairs and preparing our "snack lunch" for the ladies inside. They planned a wonderful reunion for us, and we enjoyed breaking bread and prayer and share as well as great music and singing.

How delighted we are as we see that the monthly reunion is becoming re-established as a regular event on the facility's calendar. We returned in November and again in December.

Chaplain Jenkins also invited a very limited attendance at Whitworth's Christmas party. The last bit of money we had raised in 2021 was used to provide both hygiene items and a devotional that contains the writing and prayers of former prison inmates.

God is good.

All the time.

Shelley Ross

Whitworth Women's Facility

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Kairos Returns to Calhoun State Prison

Due to COVID, Kairos has not visited Calhoun State Prison since January 2020. We have tried to keep in touch through cards, letters, and support of their Christmas gift program. Now we are ready and excited about the opportunity to return. Because the Department of Corrections has asked that all volunteer groups restrict their visits to weekday (7:30AM to 3:30 PM) activities, we determined that the early Monday time slot was open and would have less interference with interruptions from inmate counts.

We have two exploratory groups of our volunteers going in on December 6th and 13th to see who remains with the inside leadership team. Our plan (always with God's help) is to begin ministry again on Monday morning, January 10th at 7:30 AM. Thereafter, we would visit each Monday for a couple of hours. We are hoping for teams of three volunteers to visit on a rotation schedule.

On Monday, December 6th, three of our team members made our first exploratory visit. We had about 20 guys called out from the west side of the campus. The guys were very engaged and happy to see us back inside, even if it is restricted to weekday mornings. When questioned about what they would like to do each week, the men said they miss the activities that they used to do like bible trivia and music. They like talks by the volunteers—including testimonies followed by prayer and share time. They would also appreciate any agape material.

Stricter health protocols are in place with masks required for volunteers and inmates, and volunteers must sign the Kairos health form on each visit. But, after nearly two years, it is good to back with our Brothers on the inside.

Doug Porter

Calhoun SP Institutional Liaison

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My Testimony

2005: I was starting my life over after spending 4 years in jail for selling crack cocaine.

I had ten years of probation and ten years held over my head if I violate any of the rules of my probation. Well, this all took place in Sheboygan, WI. I was granted an out of state transfer to Atlanta, GA. I was trying to get back on my feet. I did many jobs from bagging groceries to cable installations.

As I was struggling to get back on track, I received a call from the mother of my son and daughter. She was wanting to start co-parenting and ask can I come see them. I explained that right now I can't leave the state. Plus, I had no money to buy a plane ticket. She was angry and said she will make it hard for me to see my kids in the future if I didn't come. So, I said I will come but I can't pay for the ticket. She volunteered to pay. I came up to visit and it went well.

But that night she asked to go out and celebrate and we did. Well, I became really drunk and she took me to another club, and she disappeared. When I found her, she was with some other guys, and I pulled her to the side and said you could have left me at the house. She got very angry and started yelling at me. We went outside to talk this out, but she had no intention to stop. All of a sudden, a car came out of nowhere and a guy asked if she is alright? She put her keys in my hand and left with him. I took her keys, got her car and drove back to her house. I went to sleep in the car because I figured when she is done with whoever she left with she will see her car when she get dropped off. Well, I woke up to 8 police officers with their guns pointing to me.

I was arrested for stealing a car and in the car there was drugs in it which was not mine. I had no permission to leave Atlanta. They took me to jail. They was laughing and joking on me because they remembered arresting me 5 years ago. When I was booked in the holding cell with 30 other inmates that was a hold over waiting their faith. As I sat in that jail for two weeks denying all negative thoughts and standing on God's word. I was laughed at and picked on with slick talk against the Word of God. I knew I was wrong, but I knew I did not steal the car and the drugs was not mine. I left it in God's hand.



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My Testimony (cont'd)

Then it was going on three weeks, and I had not heard from anybody. And I was starting to get weary. So, I prayed to God telling him if this be his will for my life, then I ask him to give me strength to endure. Well soon as I prayed to him, there was a Mexican who spoke no English but had a big bible. I just knew that was the answer. So, I went and got my bible. We read the Word for that whole week. He read in Spanish, and I read in English. Didn't know what we was reading. Meaning I didn't request him to find a breakout scripture or anything in desperate measures. But I felt the more we read I was being freed from my situation.

Well, that Friday God gave me a vision in a dream as I slept. I was bound and couldn't move. All I could see was my sins. And there where many just like me – Bound - and I could see a demonic face in the distance. Then all of sudden there was a whirlwind that appears right beside me. Then that demonic face start speaking (he's mine). Then there was this image of a man, but of light appeared. He came out and grabbed my hand.

Immediately I was in this mansion, and I was seeing all this beautiful colors and many books. Then I look and saw this beautiful woman at the top of the stairs. She ushered me up. I went up and she showed me all these doors open. Then she took me to the back of the mansion and there was this big double French door that opened up. There I saw a man in front of a plane, and he ushered me into the plane. Then I saw myself going from state to state, then country to country. Then I woke up laughing and full of joy." Everyone in the jail kept asking if I know where I'm going. And I said God said it will be all well. They laughed at me. They tried to break me, but I refused to let them steal my joy. I wanted to tell the Mexican, but he was bonded out in the middle of the night. Sunday came and I still had no word from anyone about my situation. I stayed focused on God. So, I cleaned the whole jail pod.

Monday morning came and 5:25 am the correctional officer yelled my name three times MR. XX, MR. XX, MR.XX 'PACK YOUR STUFF. YOU HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH YOU'RE NO LONGER WELCOME IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. IF YOU DO COME BACK, WE WILL MAKE YOU SERVE THAT 10 YEARS OF PRISON'. Now as I was walking out, a still voice said turn around. As I did, I saw every face in tears because they knew only GOD has the power to set you free!!!!

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Stepped out of time into eternity.



Lillian Williams Robinson Grier

8/20/1949 - 11/22/2021

“What a sweet, sweet spirit Ms. Lillian was. She served the Lord through Kairos with love and grace. My prayers for comfort and peace are lifted for her family. Rest In Peace, dear Lillian.”



Artie May Storey

10/11/1937 - 12/19/2021

“She attended a North Georgia Emmaus weekend which led her to a deeper love of Jesus Christ and her Heavenly Father. She became very active in the Atlanta South Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities. God then called her to become involved in the Kairos Outside of Georgia ministry – a ministry for women who had loved ones who were incarcerated. This ministry was her joy for more than 20 years.”

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Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and soon coming King! I pray this finds you well and enjoying the abundant life God promised.

How have we been blessed? For what are we thankful?

First, God blesses us with life each moment with his loving presence. We are so grateful for the presence of God in our lives and I, for one, enjoy making a game out of thinking of Him for a second out of every minutes. Sometimes I succeed and other times I fail but I am in there for the long haul to be in the presence of God and ever inviting Him into mine.

Secondly, there is so much to be thankful for this Advent season! Where does one begin? How can we ever thank and praise Him enough. We keep doing it! The Joy of the Lord is our strength.

Our Advisory Council has been meeting, through Zoom, most months, to keep the fires burning in our souls for the love of Christ, each other, and the dear souls inside Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women in Alto, Georgia.

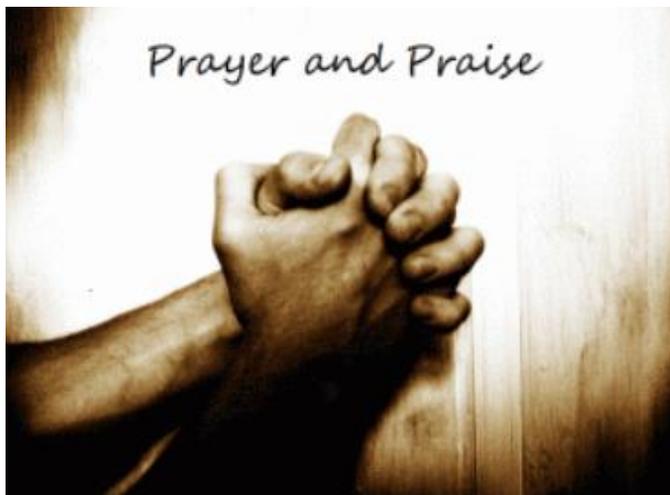
We were inspired to send along an abundance of blank Christmas Cards to Chaplain Bishop for every lady inside. In the past, we have been told how much they love exchanging Christmas cards among themselves as well as sending them out to friends and family.

God supplies abundantly and so we, in turn, supplied abundantly blank Christmas cards. It is so easy to love because God has so generously loved us, first.

Praise be to our Father God, praise be to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and praise be to the Holy Spirit! Love and Merry Christmas to all!

Jane Allen

Communications Coordinator



To God be the Glory!

Our final Prayer Vigil of 2021 was held December 17-19 and the Spirit of the Lord moved on the hearts of Kairos volunteers sign up for more than 80 time slots to pray for KPMI staff, volunteers, those impacted by incarceration, prison staff, and so much more! God bless everyone for your sacrifice, and we look forward to traveling on our knees again in 2022!

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MEMORIES

If you will let me wander down memory lane for a moment or two it would be so kind. As we approach Christmas many memories come back into my mind.

I was reared on a small family farm in southwestern Pennsylvania and if we had two nickels to rub together it was a very blessed day. Being the oldest of us four kids it did not take me long to figure out the older I became the less the number of packages under the tree that had my name. We could always count on our stocking having an orange, a popcorn ball, a couple of neat little toys and the best thing; a box of crackerjacks. I always ate the popcorn and saved the candy-coated peanuts for last. By the way, I still do.

My mother was a fantastic cook. She poured out all her love for her family when it came time to be called to the table. We have a heavenly father who has poured out all His love for us and has set a banqueting table just for us. All we have to do is to accept the greatest gift of all, His son Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

One of my best memories was when my son was saved and baptized in a small country church in Missouri on Christmas day. That is a gift that will always be a part of me and my family.

As we go into the New Year, I look at it as a time not of a new beginning but a time of grace and mercy our heavenly father has given us to be light in this dark world. KAIROS brothers and sisters, may the King of Kings, the Lord Almighty, the Most High God, bless you and strengthen you as we advance His kingdom until He calls us home.

Come Lord Jesus.

Chaplain Jim Smith, Georgia State Prison



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Walter Larry
Financial
Secretary



Ladson Golden
Vice Chair



Arthur Fickling
IC Rep



Tom Kibler
Secretary



Stan Yarbrough
Treasurer



Audrey Jones
IC Rep



Beverly
Upperman Chair

**MAY YOU KNOW THE JOY OF THIS SEASON AS WE
CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

*Happy Holidays and many blessings!
from your 2021 Executive Committee*

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2022 Georgia State Chapter Committee

- Chair - Beverly Upperman
- Vice Chair - Ladson Golden
- Secretary - Tom Kibler
- Financial Secretary – Walter Larry
- Treasurer - David Griffin
- IC Representative - Audrey Jones
- IC Representative - Dawson Long
- Outreach/Volunteer Recruitment - Octavia Everett
- Fundraising - Debra Wrape
- Agape - Edward Bynum
- Program Committee - Diane Morgan
- Website Development - Lalena Wilson
- Clergy Recruiting/Training - TBD
- Advisory Council Coordination - Colleen Freemon
- AKT Coordinator – Ann Straham

We thank God for their servant hearts and commitment to the ministry. Continue to lift them and all our leaders in prayer!

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- 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1/4 cup Dutch-processed cocoa powder sifted
 - 1/4 cup black cocoa powder sifted
 - 1 tsp baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp sea salt
 - 1 cup unsalted butter room temperature
 - 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 - 1 cup light-brown sugar packed
 - 2 large eggs room temperature
 - 1 tsp peppermint extract (optional)
 - 1 bag Bright White Candy Melts or white chocolate, melted*
 - vegetable shortening as needed to thin candy melts
 - Crushed candy canes
- ✓ In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powders, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
 - ✓ In the bowl of a stand mixer, beat butter and sugars on med-high until light and fluffy (approx. 2-3mins). Reduce speed and add egg and peppermint extract. Beat until well combined. Add flour mixture and mix until just combined.
 - ✓ Chill dough for at least 1 hour or overnight.
 - ✓ Preheat oven to 350°F and line baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone mats.
 - ✓ Using a medium cookie scoop, portion dough onto baking sheet (I did 9 cookies per sheet). Bake for approximately 10 mins, or until the middle is set. Cookies will deflate and crinkle a bit upon cooling.
 - ✓ Cool on pans for 5 mins then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
 - ✓ Dip in melted candy melts or white chocolate, place on a parchment lined baking sheet and sprinkle with crushed candy canes. Allow to set.

Dark Chocolate Mint Cookies

Delicious holiday treats - easy to make, easy to bake, beautiful as a gift, and easy to pack and transport.

Enjoy!



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Kairos of Georgia



December 2021

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love!*

Joy to the World!

