

More Than Survive: THRIVE!

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

Kairos of Georgia



June 2022

Letter from the State Chair

As I was preparing and reflecting on this last month in the first half of the year, a thought came to my mind - *"Bloom in June"*! I said to myself, that sounds like a real catchy phrase, doesn't it?

But it's much more than a catchy phrase; it's exactly what I've seen us do since our last newsletter and specifically this month. It also perfectly aligns with our ministry theme for 2022, "More than Survive – THRIVE!"

With June kicking off the official summer season, we can look around and be amazed at all the beautiful flowers in bloom, God's handiwork on display! We can also look around our State and see some 'blooming' taking place!

- *We held a Number One Kairos Torch Weekend at Macon Youth Development Center.*
- *We welcomed five new volunteers to Kairos Torch.*
- *We've held numerous reunions and prayer and share events.*
- *We also received several emails from individuals interested in our prison ministry.*

What does all this mean? We're blooming! We're thriving! Praise God!

Now I must get personal and ask, are you blooming? Is your commitment to God and this ministry visible? Are you remaining faithful in serving? When was the last time you invited someone to join you on your Kairos journey or shared your experience? Have you taken the time to reach out to an inactive volunteer brother or sister? Are you allowing your Kairos 'glow' to grow?

In other words, is your little light shining?

You may be asking yourself whether my small effort will make a difference. Well, let me reassure you, no matter how small your effort may seem, little always becomes much when done in Jesus' Name! You can and you do make a difference! I'm issuing a challenge to everyone –

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED!

We have six more months to finish strong in 2022. I can't wait to see what God will do next!

Still serving joyfully,

Beverly,

Beverly Upperman, Georgia State Chair

More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



Kairos of Georgia Presents the Three Kairos Programs at the 25th Annual Atlanta Archdiocese Eucharistic Congress



On June 17-18, 2022, the Archdiocese of Atlanta held a Eucharistic Congress at the Georgia International Convention Center. Returning for its 25th year, the Congress theme “Come To Me” echoed Jesus’ call to each of us.

The event was an amazing opportunity for Kairos of Georgia to highlight our ministry and provide information on how to become a Kairos volunteer. Six Kairos volunteers eagerly embraced the chance to encourage others to engage in being the hands and feet of Jesus: Diane Morgan, Walter Straham, Octavia Everett, Beverly Upperman, Enid Merck and Helga Silverio.

The event director commented, “Your presence models how we can all make a difference by taking action.” Special thanks to all for their weekend volunteer service to share about the three programs of Kairos!



Kairos Inside Volunteer **Enid Merck** (left) enthusiastically highlights the benefits of becoming a Kairos volunteer, while Kairos Torch Volunteer **Octavia Everett** (background) answers questions for a mother/daughter pair.



Kairos Inside Volunteer **Helga Silverio** uses her native language to share the ministry with a potential volunteer.

More Than Survive: THRIVE!

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



Rosa Gilbert, Kairos Outside Volunteer Interviews With PREACH THE WORD Worldwide Network

I truly love the Kairos Ministry and it has been a blessing to me. I enjoy talking about Kairos Outside and sharing how it can change the lives of women who have been impacted by incarceration.

On May 16, 2022, I was featured on an episode of "Ignite Into Your Purpose" on Preach The Word Network TV. The interview gave me an opportunity to share information about Kairos Outside with the female loved ones directly, instead of them having to hear it from their incarcerated loved ones. Hopefully, this will have more ladies signing up to attend a Kairos Outside weekend. It was also a chance for me to reach a broader audience with information about Kairos Outside and the Kairos Ministry.

I have spoken at many Kairos Inside Closings to share my story and give information about Kairos Outside. When I speak at the Closings, my audience is men, women and youth who are incarcerated. It is my hope that these individuals will share the information about Kairos Outside with their female loved ones and encourage them to attend a Kairos Outside weekend and become a part of the Kairos Community. I feel honored that I was able to represent Kairos Outside on this program. I hope that the interview will result in Kairos receiving more Guests, Team Members, Angels, and donations for the ministry. Kairos is a wonderful ministry, and hopefully this interview lets more people know who we are and what we do. *ROSA*



More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



1st weekend at Whitworth Women's Facility Since COVID Shutdown

On April 21st, 50 women gathered in the Whitworth gym to sing, talk, listen, listen and love, love. Hurray! Kairos Inside was at long last let in for a 3 ½ -day weekend! And what a wonderful weekend it was!

Our leader, Janet Rooks, assembled a team of veteran and new volunteers to serve and love the women incarcerated at Whitworth.

Chaplain Cynseria Jenkins said, "Everyone here at Whitworth is so glad to have Kairos back. Our warden brought this ministry in first – she believes the presence of the Kairos team impacts program participants, the general population, and the staff in a uniformly positive way."

Turnout for the event was robust – 26 team members and four full tables of residents spent a long weekend together learning about Jesus' redeeming love, and ways to live a healthier, happier lifestyle.

Volunteers were most impressed with the way residents supported one another throughout the weekend: verbal support, new friendships, and strong participation in Open Mike and Closing comments (often with a table mate alongside for "moral support"). The ladies exemplified the transformation available through the facilitation of God's awesome love, forgiveness, and salvation.

More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



Department of Juvenile Justice bids Farewell to Chaplain Danny Horne

On Thursday, June 23, 2022, the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Office of Chaplaincy Services held a retirement celebration for **Chaplain Danny Horne** in the Board room of the Central Office located in Decatur, GA.

Colleagues, interns, seminary graduates and friends gathered to celebrate the outstanding service of the bowtie-clad Chaplain Horne to share well wishes and fond memories.

Chaplain Horne has always been a staunch supporter of Kairos, beginning with his time as Director of Chaplaincy with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

He spoke at several Kairos State Committee Meetings and worked with volunteers and institutions to ensure they received proper DOC training and badges. In 2017, when Kairos was invited by the DJJ to bring the Torch program to all YDC facilities in Georgia, Chaplain Horne was in charge of the Chaplaincy for the DJJ. He has been instrumental in championing the Kairos Torch Program, and prior to retirement, helped launch the first Kairos Torch at Atlanta YDC and Macon YDC. He attended the 1st Weekends at each facility and offered support, prayers and encouragement to youth, staff, and volunteers.

May God continue to bless Chaplain Horne as he moves into this next chapter of his life.



Kairos volunteers Beth Maycumber (left) and Beverly Upperman (right) joined **Chaplain Danny Horne** to celebrate his retirement.



Chaplain Danny Horne

More Than Survive: THRIVE!

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



Volunteer badge renewals **can** now be completed **ONLINE!**

The Department of Corrections is crossing another milestone in Volunteer Services. Simply go to their website: www.gdc.ga.gov and at the top of the page, click on Volunteer Services. In the middle of the page, you will see a line that says, Begin Volunteer Renewal Process. From that point everything will be automatic. There are two videos that will have to be viewed (PREA and Sexual Harassment Prevention) and then complete the application (see detailed steps below).

For a short while, paper renewals will still be accepted as volunteers get acclimated to the new system. The DOC will give advanced notice before they stop accepting the paper renewals.

Please note: If your volunteer badge is expired over 90 days, you must complete the online application and attend a training class. If you are within the 90-day window, there will be no problem in completing the above-mentioned renewal process.

Here are the steps of the process once the applicant begins:

- Applicant will enter the information from their current ID card as requested
- Two videos will play sequentially
- Two attestation forms will come up and be signed by electronic signatures
- Organization is mandatory
- GCIC form
- PREA form
- At end, a box pops up and requires an email address
- Last step is applicant receives an email with a link, they click on link which verifies their application, and it is complete.



More Than Survive: THRIVE!

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



I Now Bear the TORCH!

Rev. John T. Chism, Jr.

My journey to KAIROS Torch began with a vision and desire to serve youth at the local Department of Juvenile Justice facility.

After several unsuccessful attempts to speak with the Chaplain at my local DJJ Facility, I went to the city jail to find out who I would talk to about starting a Bible Study for any person inside the jail. While waiting for a response, God clarified the vision to teach and mentor youth residents. This was God perfecting the desire within me to serve in this capacity. God does all things well. Volunteer Resource Coordinator Alexis Nelson mentioned that Kairos Prison Ministry International was planning to begin working with the youth at the local DJJ facility. She explained it was an established ministry and put me in contact with Beverly Upperman. God answers prayer.

I went to the first meeting, expecting to be trained; instead, I found myself a part of a community of believers, whose sole purpose was to share God with the youth housed at the DJJ Facility.

The team meetings were informative, enlightening, fun, and emotional. We were introduced to the same activities that would be used during our Kairos Torch Weekend. We were thoroughly prepared when we got to the Kairos Torch weekend.

We engaged the participants at the Mixer, and this lasted through clean up on Sunday. I became a part of this community united to share the love of Jesus Christ, adapting and changing as needed.

I am convinced that the weekend was successful. The young ladies that were selected to participate seemed to be open and willing. They were indeed...like sponges. I am looking forward to mentoring and seeing what the end will be.

Bring on Macon YDC Kairos Torch #2 – I'm ready to bear the TORCH!!!!

John

More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



Rest in Peace Dear Friend

Melvin "Lou" Louis Carreras, 1942 - 2022
Hancock State Prison



Born in 1942, Lou Carreras served honorably in the United States Air Force. Upon his discharge he worked as an electrician/contractor.

Lou was a member of the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church and had a special passion for bringing God's love and forgiveness to the incarcerated men at the Hancock State Prison through the Kairos Prison Ministry.

Survived by a large family, Lou's greatest accomplishment were being a loving Son, Husband, Dad, Brother, and Papa. He is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters, sons, stepson, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and cousins.

"Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown."

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

If you recall in our last newsletter in March as we were preparing to return, we were given a challenge to **march on!** Praise God we now have more boots on the ground in some of our institutions. I want to encourage you, as more and more begin to open the door, let’s not put our hand to the plow and look back.

“Continue to press on.” God doesn’t expect us to be able to do as much as we could do when we were young, but we are expected to do something. So, what can you do? When everyone does a little, a whole lot can get done. David was a musician, a worshiper, a warrior and a king; in other words, David kept fulfilling his purpose.

Most of us have at least one if not all, of the same giftings. God gifted some of us the ability to play an instrument, some of us can sing, and surely all of us should know how to be a prayer warrior. You may not hold the status of a king, but you are a child of the King, amen! God is wanting us to continue to fulfill our purpose by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

In many cases you showing up is all they need because action speaks louder than words. You may never see the results on this earth, but I encourage you not to take off your combat boots too soon; there is still so much for us to do in this ministry. I encourage you to keep your hand on the plow until God sends an Elijah and he comes over and throws his cloak across your shoulders. 1 Kings 19:21

At that time, you will surely hear “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.” Matthew 25:23

Are you ready to take the love of Jesus into the prisons and set the captives free? Men and women, boys and girls are waiting to hear how God can break every chain.

Ron

Reverend Ron Jones, State Clergy

More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



COCONUT LIME SHORTBREAD!!!

1. Preheat oven to 325°F.
2. In a food processor, combine coconut, sugar, lime zest, and the vanilla extract. Pulse a few times until the coconut is finely chopped. Add flour, and pulse until combined. Gradually add in the butter pieces and pulse until the mixture is smooth and combined. (The dough will appear fairly dry.)
3. Transfer to a very large bowl and knead dough until smooth. (If the dough is still too dry and crumbly, add in a half teaspoon of water at a time until it clings together.) Shape dough into a ball, then divide in half.
4. On a lightly floured surface, roll out one of the dough portions to about 1/4-inch thickness. Using your desired cookie cutters (I used a 1.5-inch round cutter), cut out dough. Place cutouts 1" apart on an ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Repeat with the remaining dough on a second cookie sheet.
6. Bake for 15-17 minutes, or just until bottoms start to brown. Transfer cookies to a wire rack and let cool to room temperature.
7. Drizzle each cookie with the lime glaze, adding extra lime zest on top if desired.

TO MAKE LIME GLAZE:

In a small bowl, whisk together powdered sugar, lime zest, and lime juice until combined. Add in the two or three tablespoons of water and whisk until it reaches a good consistency for spreading.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/3 tbsp lime zest
- 1 tbsp lime juice

Baking & Spices

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Nuts & Seeds

- 1/2 cup coconut, toasted

Dairy

- 1 cup butter

Liquids

- 2 tbsp water



More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World



Share the good news from your community! We love stories, feature articles, pictures, and insights! Help us inspire and empower our Kairos community in Georgia!

Email your information to Shelleyjaneross@gmail.com

If you're not sure how to put together a "newsletter article" give Shelley a call at 678-491-4919. She can take your information and write the article for your approval to publish. Easy as that!

It's so important this year that we share everything we're learning about delivering God's message through Kairos in the post-COVID world. Facilities will not all be the same. By sharing your insights and solutions, together we will **SURVIVE AND THRIVE!**

*Shout from the highest mountain, The glory of the Lord,
Let all men rejoice in Him, Sing from the highest mountain,
The praises of the Lord,
Let all men know the wonders of our God.*

All graphics designated with ** are images provided by Google Images.