

# More Than Survive: **THRIVE!**

*Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World*

Kairos of Georgia



September 2022

## Hello Georgia!

I greet you in the Name of our Marvelous King Jesus!

I was recently studying the characteristics of sheep and something stood out to me. One article said that sheep are dry-weather animals, and can go for months without ever taking a drink of water from a pool. However, this is possible only if the sheep get up early in the morning to eat the grass while the dew is still on it. While this will allow the sheep to survive for months without any lasting damage, it will not cause the sheep to thrive!

This reminded me of our theme for the year, which repeatedly begs the question, are we thriving, or just surviving? Are we like sheep and only doing just enough to survive, going for long periods without refreshing themselves? Or, are we looking for opportunities, going that extra mile to not only survive, but thrive, even in these challenging times? I am aware of the disappointments with showing up at your facility, only to be turned away. I understand the frustrations some communities are feeling while waiting to return. I understand some of you began planning for a weekend and then learned you didn't have enough volunteers to fill your team. Yes, I understand the proverbial being "all dressed up with nowhere to go"!

But there is always Good News! I believe God has new places He wants to take us! I believe He has new things He wants to do in and through us! I believe the Lord of the harvest will send just what we need at the right time we need it! After all, this is His Special Time, and everything we need to thrive is found in Him!

May we keep our eyes wide open for new opportunities, new recruits, new facilities where we can share God's love. In the words of Casting Crowns, we know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives; it's time for us to more than just survive, we were made to thrive!

I remain gripped by His grace and mesmerized by His mercy!

*Beverly,*

**Beverly Upperman, Georgia State Chair**

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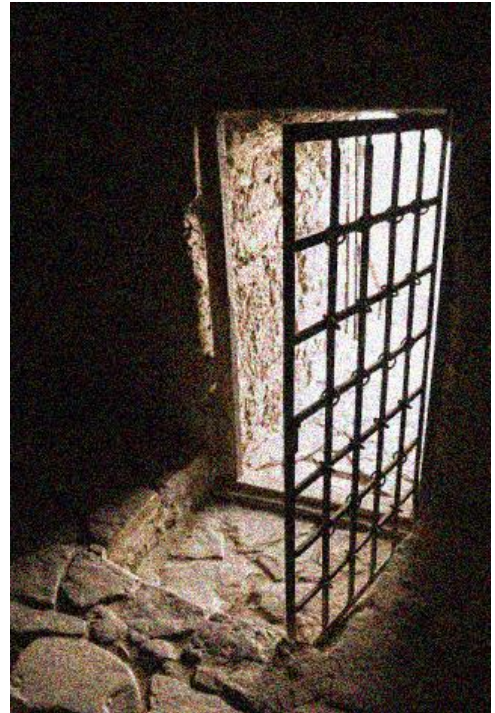


September 2022

## THRIVE! Weekends and Events in the State of Georgia.

### Kairos of Georgia Calendar Fall, 2022

<u>Pulaski #48</u>	<u>9/22</u>
<u>Valdosta SP #41</u>	<u>9/22</u>
<u>Emanuel #15</u>	<u>10/06</u>
<u>Valdosta SP #42</u>	<u>10/13</u>
<u>Whitworth #12</u>	<u>10/20</u>
<u>Augusta State Medical #66</u>	<u>10/27</u>
<u>Atlanta Metro #2</u>	<u>11/03</u>
<u>Kairos Outside #42</u>	<u>9/30</u>



*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;  
as I have loved you, that you also love one another.  
By this all will know that you are My disciples,  
if you have love for one another.”*

*John 13: 34-35*

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## THRIVE! Kairos Inside Prison Updates

### Kairos Inside at Phillips State Prison

We have “re-started” our ministry, holding two reunions in July and August. The reunions were scheduled on Friday mornings to accommodate staffing challenges at the prison.

We met with the Deputy Warden and have gained agreement to start back on Saturdays, a great help for Kairos volunteers. We held our September reunion on a Saturday.

We also have commitment from the leadership at the prison to do a Kairos Weekend at the end of April, 2023.

*Jeff Parow*  
*AC Chair*

### Kairos Inside at Hancock State Prison

We are “re-starting” in 2022 with some modifications to accommodate prison post-Covid conditions.

We have conducted both a reunion and a 2-day retreat this year (we've been having difficulty holding a full 31/2-day event due to prison staffing issues) and will be holding another reunion later this month.

We hope to also have a second 2-day retreat before the end of the year.

*Mark Bopp*  
*Vice Chair*

### Kairos Inside at Augusta State Medical Prison

In May we held our first post-Covid weekend with 4 tables, and our leadership team of Mal Lawrence, Denny Armstrong, and Archer Bell. This was #65 and we are conducting #66 in October.

We don't have lots of modifications for our program – there's a little less hugging but the prison is very supportive.

We have Prayer and Share twice a month with about 50 guys attending, and had our monthly reunion in August with over 100 inmate attendees.

*Craig Stone*  
*AC Chair*



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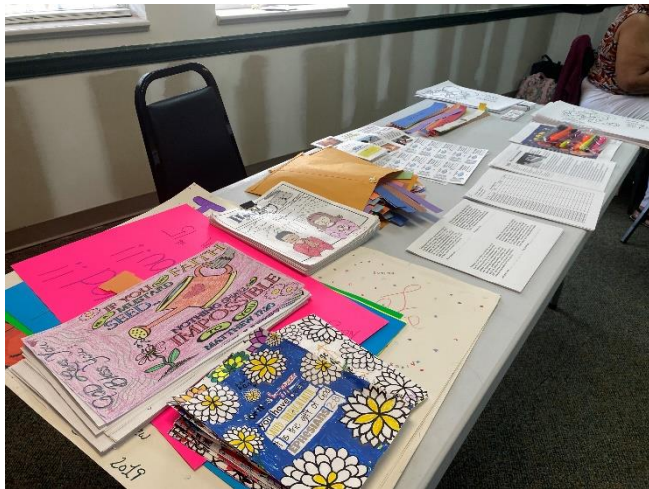
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## THRIVE! Send Agape to active Kairos Programs!



Not all of our Kairos prison ministries are able to attend a Reunion, a Retreat, or conduct a Kairos Weekend event. However, that doesn't mean you can't participate! Check the dates listed in our THRIVE Calendar. All of these weekend leaders would love to receive agape from your Kairos group. Posters, letters, prayer strips, placemats – reach out to your Kairos community and let's cover the state of Georgia with prayer, love, and visible representations of the Love of Christ!



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## **THRIVE! Kairos Outside of Georgia, #42**

KAIROS OUTSIDE is designed to support the wives, mothers and female relatives/friends of men and women who are or have been incarcerated. This is done by providing a safe environment for a short time with Christian people and the opportunity to interact with women in similar situations. We believe that the women related to the incarcerated are doing time right along with their loved ones. We want to let them know that there is a Christian community who cares about them and their needs. The weekend process will provide an opportunity to not only explore one's relationship with God, but to also experience a time of fun, music, great food and community.

Kairos Outside will be hosting their 2 ½ day weekend event September 30 - October 2 in Lizella, Georgia.

Saturday will be a day of learning, growing, communicating, and worship with an open invitation to fellowship with the participants from 8 – 9, followed by candle light singing. Sunday there will be a half day session with the closing at 2:30.



Image from Google Images



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## Prison Ministry Helping Georgia Inmates



ALBANY, Ga. (WALB) - The Kairos of Georgia State is helping inmates around Georgia through ministry.

[WALB's Jim Wallace](#) spoke with Beverly Upperman, the Kairos of Georgia State Chair. She said it's important for inmates to have a support system.

"We are an international prison ministry that serves over 37 states and 9 countries and we go inside the prison as well as we serve family members that are on the outside that have loved ones that are doing time," she said. "We go into youth facilities and we have found through our ministry that behaviors are modified because of having gone through our ministry."

It's through the organization's mission that they strive to heal those serving time.

"Our mission is to just share the transforming love of Jesus Christ with those who are impacted by incarceration. So that together we all can become better citizens of our community and our states, and our country," she said. "And we just love serving inside and outside of the prisons."

Upperman said one thing inmates don't get enough of is love.

"We are a ministry that tries to meet the basic needs of individuals. And one of those needs is to be loved. And we show love through sharing of home-baked cookies," Upperman said. "We share love by offering prayers for them and letting them know in a tangible way that there are people praying for them."

To learn more about the Kairos of Georgia State visit: <https://www.kairosprisonministry.org/>,

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## Thanks to an Army of Angels

Let me first say that if it had not been for Kairos, I would probably not be on this side of the earth in my right mind! As the senior pastor of a youth ministry in Atlanta, and a business owner, I found myself making a decision that led me to prison. Pride, Shame, and Silence took me out!

Looking back, while I was in prison at Emanuel Women's Facility, I was like the walking dead. I was so broken, ashamed, and virtually comatose. I lost my freedom, integrity, church, business, money, and most of all the respect of those that I served. I was at the lowest point I had ever known. I was spiritually bankrupt and hopeless. I had decided that I could never forgive or be forgiven. I was mad at God and thought I could disconnect from Him by not saying words like amen, hallelujah, thank you Jesus, or reading His word, and, no way I was going to pray to Him again.

Well, God had a plan! He knew that I needed more than one angel, so He sent an army of angels to rescue me. Kairos, you all rescued me! Someone signed me up for Kairos. When I was selected, I immediately said I didn't want to go. Well, I did. On the first night, God began to cleanse me because the tears never stopped flowing. Love was in the building!! The women flooded us with the love of God! The worship, scriptures, visuals, activities and not to mention the food!

I can go on and on about how God sent Kairos to save my life! I am rebuilding my life now and telling my story, Kairos is always a part of my story. Hugs and kisses to all of you for your love and service!

Brunetta N

*Brunetta*



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## **We Can't Do This Thing Called Life Without God**

Hello my Kairos family, my name is Kim L. I went through Kairos #3 at Metro State Prison. I sat at the marvelous table of Martha. We've read about God's love all our lives. We've heard about God's love. But I don't think many of us have really believed it. If we did, it would totally change everything around us. My life changed when I went to Kairos. That's when I felt the change in my life. It's also when I really realized that I was loved beyond my family and friends. I was loved by people who didn't know me or my name. That was only the love of God.

It also made me realize how big God's love is. It made me see and feel the presence of God. To know Jesus loves you and to feel Jesus loves you is so much different. It's a feeling that I wouldn't change for the world. It's a feeling that I wish everyone in the world could experience the love of God. Once I realized for a fact that God/Jesus was and still is on my side and has my back, I felt that I could conquer the world. It made me feel very strong, mentally and physically, emotionally, spiritually. I used that strength each and every day as the devil came for me.

I was incarcerated for 30 1/2 years. I've been home for five months and God is still working on me, and I'm still working with him. Because I/we can't do this thing called life without God. Kairos has changed my life for the rest of my life. Everyone will find something different when they take that walk (Kairos walk). But one thing is for sure: that all will find the love of God,

*Kim*



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## 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](http://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.



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**Kairos Prison Ministry's First Annual**  
***DISTANCE FOR DELIVERANCE* Walkathon**  
**October 7 – 16, 2022**  
**Sign Up Today!**



**Second Annual *DISTANCE FOR DELIVERANCE* Walkathon**  
**June 9 – 18, 2023**

October 7-16, 2022, Kairos Prison Ministry is holding the first annual Distance for Deliverance Walkathon to raise awareness and raise funds to support our ministry programs. All participants are encouraged to walk as many days as possible, which can be in your neighborhood, park, school, gym, or even your own treadmill. Select your state and sign up to donate, participate individually, start a team, or join an already existing team. It is encouraged that every Advisory Council starts their own team and gets competitive with the others in the state.

Please visit [www.distancefordeliverance.org](http://www.distancefordeliverance.org) to find tools, videos, fundraising campaigns to register with, and outreach materials to help make your experience a huge success!



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## Red Velvet Ooey Goey Bars

### **Cake:**

Nonstick baking spray

One 15.25-ounce box red velvet cake mix

4 large eggs, at room temperature

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

1 1/2 sticks (12 tablespoons) unsalted butter,  
melted and cooled

8 ounces cream cheese, at room  
temperature

3 cups confectioners' sugar

### **Royal Icing:**

4 cups confectioners' sugar

3 tablespoons meringue powder

Sprinkles, for decorating, optional



1. **For the cake:** Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare a 9-by-13-inch cake pan with nonstick baking spray.
2. Add the cake mix, 1 teaspoon of the vanilla extract and 2 of the eggs to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Beat on medium speed until combined, about 1 minute. Add 1 stick of the butter and mix until just combined. Spread the batter evenly in the prepared pan with an offset spatula.
3. Beat the cream cheese on medium speed until light and smooth.. With the mixer running on medium-low speed, add the remaining 2 eggs and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Once combined, add the remaining 1/2 stick butter and beat until smooth. With the mixer running on low speed, add the confectioners' sugar, one spoon at a time, until combined. Evenly pour the mixture. Bake until the edges are puffed and golden brown and the center is just set, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool on a wire rack for 30 minutes, and then chill in the refrigerator at least 4 hours.
4. **For the royal icing:** Add the confectioners' sugar, meringue powder and 6 tablespoons water. Whisk until stiff peaks form.
5. Spread an even layer of royal icing on the cake with an offset spatula and decorate with sprinkles if desired. Cut into 24 bars (4 lengthwise strips and 6 crosswise strips).

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## What You Least Expected

Galatians 6:9 – “*But let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*”

As this year quickly unfolds in the remaining three months, we have the privilege of thanking God for allowing us to add another year of serving in the Kairos Ministry. There is one thing all of us have had in common no matter what our participation. All of us have been disappointed when ministry does not go the way we expected.

We can spend countless hours pouring out love and wise counsel just to have them walk away. How many times as a volunteer have you been denied access? Although you are a firm believer in Jesus Christ and are following His commands, it appears the enemy is winning. No matter how much you pray, the situation may not change for the better; in fact, it can get worse.

This month I want to encourage you to not get discouraged when the ministry you believe in does not go the way you expect. Don't quit, even when people let down.

Lifted from the pages of God's Word is a great example of how ministry does not go the way these men expected. In Luke 24:12-35, we find Peter running to the empty tomb and finding only the linen. As he walks away wondering what happened, we immediately see two men walking down a dusty road to a village called Emmaus. None of these men expected the ministry of Jesus to turn out the way they believed that it had.

As they talked with each other about everything that happened Jesus himself came up and walked along with them, even though they did not recognize him. Jesus asked them, “What are you discussing?” As they stood in sorrow they asked Him, “Are you the only one who does not know what happened?”

It's not that Jesus didn't know. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will ask us a rhetorical question to get our response and see where our loyalty lies.

They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet, powerful in word and deed, was sentenced to death, and crucified. We had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel.”

As they approached their village Jesus continued on. “Stay with us,” they requested.

When Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, their eyes were opened.

***Sometimes we need to be reminded that ministry works best the way only Jesus can do it. Expect the unexpected and keep your faith in Jesus.***

Sincerely yours,  
Georgia State Clergy

*Ron Jones*



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## Thank you!

To all of our wonderful Kairos members we appreciate everything you do to make our world and our State a better place.

We are especially grateful to those contributors who called or emailed information about their group's efforts and events as we re-build our ministry after Covid.

Please forward any and all input you may have for us – we can give you a call and work through the information.

It's your specific input that is most interesting to everyone who reads this letter – help us keep the newsletter engaging and informative.

***God bless you!***

Beverly Upperman  
Michelle Barton  
Shelley Ross

Email contact: [shelleyjaneross@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyjaneross@gmail.com)