

Returning to Our Ministry

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

Kairos of Georgia April 2023



Greetings From Georgia Chair, Beverly Upperman

Hello Georgia!

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

I’d like to pose a question in the context of our service in Kairos.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

And that question brings up several other questions. Are you waiting for your prison to open back up for Kairos? Are you waiting for weekends to be like they were pre-COVID? Are you waiting to get more volunteers? Are you waiting for leadership to change, i.e., warden, chaplain, etc.?

These questions and more were running through my head as I was preparing this communication. Recently, I went out to dinner with a friend, and I had a very positive experience with our waiter. The waiter was so attentive to us, offering suggestions for what we could eat, even offering her favorites as suggestions. And even though there was a slight delay with the food coming to our table, she checked on us frequently, apologizing for the delay. She did everything she could to make our dining experience pleasant, asking if there was anything we needed while we were waiting. It was clear her desire was to please the ones she was serving.

This challenged me as I meditated on the above scripture. Am I waiting on the Lord? Am I frequently checking on the One I am serving, asking Him what I can do for Him? Am I waiting on Him with patience and giving Him my best service?

If by chance you’ve grown weary with the waiting, why don’t you try doing what the prophet Isaiah said, wait on the Lord. And...the beauty of this waiting is the blessing that follows! Those who wait on, trust in and rely on the Lord will find new strength! What a return on investment! In exchange for my waiting, I’ll receive renewed strength and will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings. And there’s still more, I will walk and run without getting tired! So, I’ll end where I started - **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?** After all, this is God’s Special Time!

Still on this battlefield,

Beverly



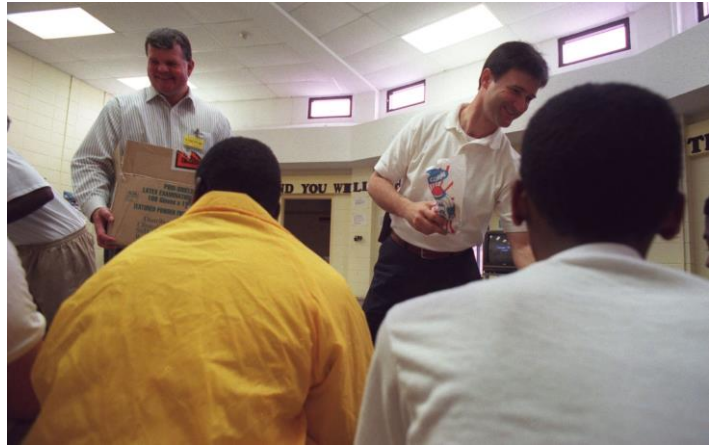
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Kairos of Georgia Events Calendar 2023

Kairos Inside		Kairos Outside		Kairos Torch
Pulaski	3/23	KO GA	11/10-12	Atlanta YDC 3/24
Emanuel	4/13	KO GA 25 th Anniversary Celebration	6/10	Macon YDC 4/21
Walker	4/13	Reunions	1-6/23	
ASMP	4/20	KO NW GA	10/27-29	
Washington	5/11			
Smith	11/02			



Images captured from Google Images

“...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” Eph. 3/17 - 19



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Kairos Outside Coastal Georgia

God is opening a door for a new Kairos Outside program in Coastal Georgia (Savannah).

In February, an interest meeting was held at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Pooler, GA. The meeting was a success, with 23 potential volunteers in attendance. Thanks to Rev. Father Pablo Migon who graciously opened the church and willingly offered his support for whatever is needed.

Kairos Outside provides women from all walks of life or church a break from the daily grind, from the issues of financial hardship. Most importantly, it supports women enduring societal rejection and isolation experienced because of their connection to incarcerated loved ones. This is a 100% free weekend specially designed to pamper and love on them.

"A Kairos Outside weekend is designed to give the women a time to decompress from the cares of their everyday life", said Rhonda Barlow, Kairos Outside Coastal Georgia co-organizer and former Kairos Outside Guest. "I like to call the weekend a 'retreat's retreat'. It gives women who have incarcerated loved ones, or who have been incarcerated themselves, a safe, supportive and accepting place to really relax, recharge, and rethink life through the lens of a God -- and a community who loves them."

If you are interested in serving this group of women, please call or text the numbers below.

Thank you!

Rhonda: 678-451-4477

Debra: 912-713-7816



KAIROS OUTSIDE



From left to right:

Rosa Gilbert, Debra Greene, Rhonda Barlow, Diane Morgan, Rev. Fr. Pablo Migone, Vanessa Velez Cruz



Father Pablo and Diane Morgan

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Kairos Outside Fundraiser

On Saturday, March 25th, Kairos Outside of Georgia held a fundraising event at First Christian Church of Morrow in Morrow Georgia. There was a Flea Market ("Benefit Sale ") with lots of items available for donations. Cakes, cookies, and other baked goods were won during a "Cake Walk". Donors enjoyed varieties of delicious "all you can eat" chili, and we had fun laughing, singing, and being entertained at the Talent Showcase. It was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship.

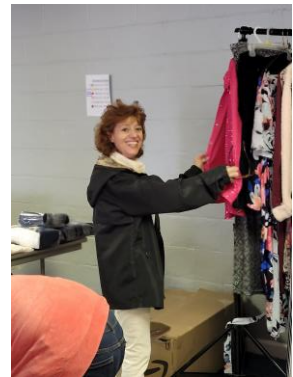
Our next Reunion will be on April 15, 2023 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Christ United Methodist Church, 417 N. Frontage Road, Forsyth, Georgia. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Lynne Green at (917) 302-4578 or at lynnegreen01@gmail.com



Chili Table



Fundraiser Benefit Sale



Maria Bailey



Talent show

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Kairos Recruiting 101: Hearts to Serve

She asked me and I said no. I had no interest whatsoever. It just wasn't my thing. ..Until it was.

My Reunion Sister, Carol, was leading a Kairos team at Lee Arrendale State Prison in North Georgia several years ago. At our usual Friday morning breakfast, she told me about serving in prison; how she loved the ladies, watched them blossom and grow in their faith, and how she enjoyed doing the "Electric Slide" with them during the weekend. I said, "Good for you, Carol! Glad you enjoy it. You do you, but I am not going." The next Friday, she handed me the outline for the Christian Action Talk.

I could *not* say no.

Arriving at the prison, when the big metal door slammed behind me after going through the entry process, I wanted to leave. Seeing the razor wire, bars padlocked over manhole covers and the dorms housing the inmates all made me a little nauseous. I was in prison.

However, Christian Action was my most impactful takeaway from Walk to Emmaus. I had a message to deliver and would be giving that talk to the inmates to inspire them to be better people. Little did I know that when I walked out through those gates on Sunday afternoon, I was the one who would be changed.

I was hooked the moment I met my participant. Thinking back to my invitation to serve, Carol did several things to prepare me. She asked our Reunion Group to pray for her, the team going in and the ladies on the inside. She shared the importance of the mission, and she shared what she experienced inside the prison. Even though I was resistant at first, she was planting seeds for my final "Yes".

Obviously, recruitment of persons with hearts to serve is key to make Kairos Weekends, Reunions and Retreats happen. Prayer is key as we ask God to give us the words and the people to share them with.



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Kairos Recruiting 101: Why Kairos?



Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Pooler, GA

Ask your church, friends, and family to pray for your Kairos Event.

Ask someone to pray for Kairos and open the door to conversation about what our ministry is about. Mention your involvement in Kairos and tap into the curious.

Share the Mission of Kairos. Memorize and share the Vision Statement:

A community spiritually freed from the effects of imprisonment reaching all impacted by incarceration (those inside, families on the outside) through the Love, Hope and Faith found in Jesus Christ.

Learn and share statistics about incarceration

- In mostly white churches, 42% know or are related to someone who has been incarcerated.
- In black churches, the statistics are 63% and Hispanic, 48%.
- 33% of the US population has an immediate family member who has been in prison or jail. (113 million of us from Prison Policy Initiative 2016 survey).
- Kairos Graduates who are active in Continuing Ministry when release, are much less likely to be reincarcerated. Recidivism rates drop drastically.



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Kairos Recruiting 101: Share Ideas and Resources

Who do we recruit? We need to seek Christians with a heart for service, following the example of Christ. We need persons who value each person, regardless of their condition, respecting that we are all Children of a loving, forgiving God. These persons are in churches, civic groups, neighborhoods and even our own families. Building relationships is necessary when we invite others to serve. It is the soil in which our seeds can grow.

We can always invite others to serve by *going in with us* through other means; Meal Tickets, Advisory Council Sponsored Fund Raisers, Amazon Fundraisers, Bake Sales, Church Sponsorships etc.

Ask for help with Agape: Colored placemats and posters, and of course Prayer Warriors to help build the beautiful Prayer Chain. Provide a signup sheet for continuous prayer during the weekend.

The State of Georgia has a PowerPoint Presentation with information about the three programs of Kairos: Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside and Kairos Torch:
<https://www.kairosofgeorgia.org/videos/videos/>

So, plant the seed, enrich the soil with Vision, Mission, and Sunshine through heartwarming stories of how being a Kairos servant has changed your life! God does wonderful things when we put the garden in his hands!

For information about the Kairos Presentation in Georgia, or to serve in your area as a program support to help with presentations:

**Contact dianew.morgan@yahoo.com .
770-378-0399.**

Diane Morgan, Kairos of Georgia
Program Coordinator

Diane



Diane Morgan, SCC Program Coordinator, speaks to a captive audience at a recent Kairos Outside recruiting event



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Department of Corrections Online Badge Renewal



"The new on-line renewal process is a godsend. It eliminates the need to move paperwork around physically and to get ink signatures, and it avoids missteps. After the brief on-line training from the comfort of my home, it took me about ten minutes to fill out, sign and submit the forms on my laptop, and my new badge arrived by mail in just a few days. Thanks to all who contributed to bringing this process into the 21st century!"

Mark Worsham

Calling all Kairos Inside volunteers! Please check the expiration date on your badge. Renewals are now done online at the Department of Corrections (DOC) website: www.gdc.ga.gov. Simply select Volunteer Services at the top of the page and then look for Begin Volunteer Renewal Process. From that point everything will be automatic.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: The DOC has experienced the recent loss of the staff member that handles badge renewals. As a result, they are working feverishly to address a backlog. Therefore, please don't delay in getting your renewal in!

Until We Meet Again

ANGELA PARISE (DOC)

Angela worked at the Georgia Department of Corrections for 8 years. She was indispensable to Kairos of Georgia, assisting with badge renewals. She lived in Milner GA with her husband Vincent and was a passionate lover of all animals. She worked to save dogs to place with foster and loving permanent homes. She will be greatly missed by her family, the Georgia DOC, and her friends in the Kairos ministry.



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Until We Meet Again



ARTHUR FICKLING

“He devoted himself as a Volunteer Mentor for GDOC, DJJ and Kairos Prison Ministries, every Thursday night at CTC, every Sunday Morning at YDC, every Monday night Bible study at GSP, every 4th Sunday night Church Service at CSP and every 3rd Saturday Church Service at CTC. Soul Survivors Choir, picnics in the park, Revivals at CSP, Christmas mornings at YDC, etc. May the work that Arthur committed himself to, let it speak for him.

From all of us, he will missed.”



MAMIE LEWIS

Mamie faithfully served Kairos in the former Washington State Prison for Women, Emanuel, Lee Arrendale, Atlanta Metro Women, Pulaski, and Whitworth communities until her health began to fail. Her service over the years touched many lives and she made an impact wherever she went.

Mamie’s kind and caring spirit will be missed by all.



DAN RHYNE

Born February 19, 1927 in Plains, He began his working career as a chicken farmer. Mr. Rhyne was a member of First Methodist Church of Americus. He was a member of the American Legion John D. Mathis Post 2 and a member of the Kairos Prison Ministry.

He was best known as a tennis champ, Bulldog fan, and a good man.



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EASY Chocolate Chip Cake Mix Cookies!

Ingredients

- 1 box (15.25 ounce) chocolate cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup canola or vegetable oil
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350F.
- Add cake mix to a bowl and make a well in the center.
- Crack eggs into the well.
- Beat eggs, then add oil.
- Stir together just until combined.
- Stir in chocolate chips.
- Scoop cookie dough by the tablespoon onto a parchment-lined baking sheet with about 2 inches of space between each.
- Bake in center of oven for 12 minutes, until edges are set.
- Remove from oven and let rest on the cookie sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.



Notes

- These cookies baked for 12 minutes are very soft in the center when you take them out and may fall apart if you remove them from the cookie sheet right away. If you want a firmer cookie, you can bake them for closer to 15 minutes.
- Store the fully cooled cookies in an air-tight container kept at room temperature for up to 5 days.
- Feel free to swap out the semi-sweet chocolate chips for any flavor you prefer. White chocolate, peanut butter, butterscotch, dark chocolate, peppermint or mint chocolate chips all work wonderfully here. You can even chop up some Andes mints, Reese's peanut butter cups, or toss in some M&M's in place of chocolate chips.



Easter Reflection

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. (Luke 23:34)

Brothers and sisters, in only a few weeks we will be celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after His crucifixion. And because He got up, we also know and believe we will also be resurrected.

"For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died."

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves." (1 Thessalonians 4:14, 16)

But before we wait to start the countdown of the celebration, I want to remind us that we should already be celebrating because of the grace we received before He rose. So, let's take a closer glimpse to the time when Jesus, the Son of God, hung on a cross in the balance between heaven and earth for all of humanity.

The words *"Father, forgive them"* is a prayer, and had he not uttered this prayer, then the immediate execution of God's wrath may have taken place. The Father is a God of vengeance and judgement, but He is also long-suffering, slow to anger, and compassionate. And because of His love for us we celebrate.





The Father had chosen to offer us a means of salvation even when we were His enemies. Jesus stayed in unity with the Father, even in His agony while dying on the cross. Jesus' concern was for the forgiveness of them.

“The only hope for them was Him”. Jesus had to do for them what they couldn't do for themselves. So, the question could be raised:

“Who are the THEM?”

Were **them** the Roman soldiers that executed the crucifixion? or the crowd that shouted, “Crucify him! Release Barabbas”? Were **them** the Chief Priest and Jewish Rulers that mocked him by saying “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.”

Were **them** the Disciples, the Apostles who were with Him daily but now, they are hidden and not mentioned except for John and the one who denied him three times about being a follower? Beloved, forgiveness is a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or a group, whether they actually deserve it or not.

Jesus said; *“for they do not know what they are doing.”* I praise God that **them** is an indefinite number that refers to those I previously listed, and it also included you and me.

All of us, past, present and future needed to be forgiven. In fact, the reason He *was on that cross was for our forgiveness.*

“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

Jesus became the sacrificial **Lamb** so that all humanity would have access to God's forgiveness.”



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Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb so that all humanity would have access to God's forgiveness.

My brothers and sisters, never forget **Jesus** paid the penalty for the sins that we committed in our ignorance and even the ones we've committed deliberately. *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

They divided up his clothes by casting lots. The world may not realize it, but we are at the foot of the cross, the halfway point of our destination that separates us from Heaven and Hell, and I am afraid that some people are still rolling the dice and gambling for a small piece of Jesus' covering when we could have His complete covering of forgiveness.

Today, risen and glorified, **Jesus** remains the *"one mediator between God and mankind"* and the Holy Spirit, therefore, is the down payment from God. This obligates God to follow through with what He has pledged.

It is by grace we are justified, sanctified, and forgiven.

The only hope for **them** is Him, and the only hope for us, is to trust in Jesus. Have you accepted Christ today?

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Brother Ron Jones, State Clergy

Ron

