

Returning to Our Ministry

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World
Kairos of Georgia June 2023

Greetings From Georgia Chair, Beverly Upperman

Hello Georgia and welcome to summer!

Where has the time gone?!?! If you're like me, it seems as if time is speeding by so quickly! This brought a burning question to my mind that I gleaned from scripture - ***“Am I making good use of every opportunity I have?”***

Ephesians 5:16 from the Good News Translation says, *“Make good use of every opportunity you have, because these are evil days.”*

I'm not as focused on knowing these are evil days, because that goes without saying. Every day the news and social media confirm that! But what I am focused on is making good use of every opportunity I have. Kairos is an opportunity God has given us and I am challenging every volunteer to ask yourself:

- *Am I making good use of every Kairos opportunity I have?*
- *Am I making good use of every opportunity I have to pray?*
- *Am I making good use of every opportunity I have to serve?*
- *Am I making good use of every opportunity I have to give?*
- *Am I making good use of every opportunity I have to share about this wonderful ministry with those I come in contact?*
- *Am I making good use of every opportunity I have to encourage those impacted by incarceration?*
- *Am I making good use of every opportunity I have to use my gifts, talents and abilities to bring glory and honor to God?*

My prayer is that your answer is a resounding YES!



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Greetings From Georgia Chair, Beverly Upperman (cont'd)

We had a wonderful opportunity in May to honor our mothers and in this month of June, we celebrated and honored the fathers in our lives. What better way to honor our Good, Good Father than to make good use of every opportunity we have to recommit our lives and service for what He has placed in our hands.

If your program is **Kairos Inside**, make good use of every opportunity you have.

If your program is **Kairos Outside**, make good use of every opportunity you have.

If your program is **Kairos Torch**, make good use of every opportunity you have.

In this midpoint of the year, the growing season between planting and harvesting, may we continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest for more laborers!

I am committed to make good use of every opportunity I have and am determined to finish strong!

Beverly

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1



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Words of Encouragement For All Kairos Volunteers

The Kairos volunteer experience is one of joy and fellowship, but we also see our incarcerated brothers and sisters struggling with deep, almost impossible problems. We often need some encouragement for them and can be completely surprised when it comes out of nowhere, from an unexpected person or event.

Yes, our Kairos brethren have seemingly unsolvable problems. But God!

I want to share with you a few words of encouragement that came my way when I was discussing staffing issues with the GA DOC. I felt blessed to have this information offered up unsolicited – a special gift from our Lord who loves us.

“Let me give you a good story. I was listening to Christian radio on my drive in today. A woman called in and told the story that she was in prison and had now been released, and how much listening to Christian radio had meant to her.

She then said that she had gone on a Kairos walk while in prison and how it changed her life and how thankful she was.

She has been to rehab, is now sober, has a job and a place to live and following Christ. Kairos played a huge part in that for her. Thought you would like to know that.”

Dr. M. Allen Hughes
Coordinator, Volunteer Services
Georgia DOC

I can feel the brush of angel's wings. I see glory on each face.

Blessings,

Beverly



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Lee Arrendale Hosts First Reunion Since 2019!

Since 2020, chaos, change, and uncertainty have been the way of life for all of us, but we remained hopeful. Not because we trusted in men, but because we understand that on our journey in sharing our Messiah in a broken world, our strength can't come from within ourselves, but in Messiah. We look through the lens of his purpose and not our own.

After waiting, praying and hoping for 3 years to return to our sisters inside Lee Arrendale, our hearts were overjoyed when we were finally asked to return. On Friday, April 28, 2023, God in His perfect timing, opened our first Reunion at Lee Arrendale since 2019!

We were blessed to serve 137 residents with 20 strong volunteers eager to serve. The presence of our Lord was evident. The Joy of our Holy Spirit was on everyone. There were tears, dance, praise and group participation like never seen before. It truly was a day of glorious celebration!.

Most exciting to us, God revealed the fruit of our previous ministry: many of the ladies continued to have fellowship with each other by praying and sharing the Word. Others have pursued the knowledge of our Lord through obtaining degrees in Theology and graduating with various college degrees this month.

Though we know our time is short at Lee Arrendale, we choose to remain steadfast because God Himself goes before us. So, in conclusion, brothers and sisters, we encourage you with these words:

*“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters stand firm. Let nothing move you.
Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*
1 Corinthians 15:5-8

Enid Merck

Advisory Council Chair
Lee Arrendale State Prison



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Events Calendar - Weekend Leader Comments

Atlanta Metro #3 (5/18/2023) - The weekend went extremely well because I was surrounded with a great team and the Holy Spirit was with us. Thank you for your support. **(John O'Sullivan)**

Augusta State Medical #67 (4/27/2023) - What a wonderful Gift from God we received! God used His servants to man six family tables and participate in a life changing weekend. Of the 36 men who started the weekend, 35 finished, and 32 returned for the Instructional Reunion. **(Phil Lewis)**

Macon Torch #2 (4/21/2023) – Yes it was a good weekend. Everyone did their job. The facility was great; got us everything we needed. And the officer who was with us participated in Lite and Lively. All was good in the hood!! **(Jane Wix)**

Emanuel #16 (4/13/2023) - Many interesting discussions with spiritual and personal applications. Closing comments on Sunday afternoon were very touching for the change in attitudes from Thursday until Sunday afternoon. The Lord is working at EWF. Praise His holy name. **(Julie Brannen)**



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Events Calendar - Weekend Leader Comments, cont'd

Atlanta Torch #4 (3/24/2023) - Participants discussed their true feelings about experiences with the church and its members. Some wanted to know more about Jesus and did not particularly like the Christians who have crossed their paths; unforgiveness, lack of trust in others, anger, love and the lack of, and much more. All eight participants signed up for mentoring. To God be the glory. **(Eddie Brown)**

Pulaski #49 (3/23/2023) - Kairos #49 was a wonderful God-centered weekend. The weekend was indeed a model of believers coming together to fulfill the mission of Kairos at Pulaski State Prison. The participants were excited. **(Judy Fountain)**

Coastal #24 (3/16/2023) - There were a lot of break throughs. Five or six guys came to Christ. The forgiveness ceremony and teaching seemed to be very helpful for many. In general, everyone said that it was a good weekend. Many said it was a very good closing. It is noted that less than half of the participants made comments at closing. However, good weekend, God was there. **(David Crowley)**

Valdosta #44 (3/16/2023) - This was a great weekend - it started out a little bumpy, but God smoothed it out. Everyone pulled together as one team and made the weekend easy. The guys inside were very receptive to the Holy Spirit. God is good all the time. **(Greg Powell)**



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Kairos Outside of Georgia Celebrates Silver Anniversary



Kairos Outside of Georgia celebrated our 25th Silver Anniversary June 10, 2023. The event was well attended. Over sixty people celebrated with us. We honored 45 sisters and brothers in our community who have passed away in these past twenty-five years and were grateful to have in attendance some of the family members of those mentioned during the Memorial service.

We received congratulatory messages from our Chief Executive Officer, Evelyn Lemly; Women's Ministries Coordinator, Ruby Burris; Kairos Georgia State Chair, Beverly Upperman; Advisory Council Chair Kairos Outside Northwest Florida, Debbie Timmons; Kairos of Texas Vice-Chair, Michelle Edwards; and the Kairos of Tennessee State Chair, Carol Boelter. Jo Chapman, one of the Founders of Kairos Outside in Georgia, sent us a heartfelt message.

We also looked ahead. As we recognized our past Leaders, we were able to introduce the Leaders for the next three Weekends. We also celebrated our newest Kairos Outside Coastal Georgia community with the presence of their Advisory Council Chair, Rhonda Barlow. We look forward to what God is going to do through Kairos Outside of Georgia in the next twenty-five years and beyond!

*Nita Hodges
Advisory Council Chair
Kairos Outside of Georgia*

*Vanessa Vélez Cruz, Chair
25th Anniversary Committee
Kairos Outside of Georgia*



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Observations from a Kairos Volunteer



The following information was freely provided by the participant.

Frankie is wheelchair bound. 36 years old and doing a life sentence for a violent crime 18 years earlier. Two years ago, he was viciously attacked by gang members in the prison with knives. He is now crippled and walks with great difficulty.

He is a small man and seems to always have been an easy target for bullies. His life seems very hard. His physical movements are greatly restricted. He constantly fears the taunting of inmates. He desperately wants to leave prison and can't seem to grasp that he will probably serve his full sentence. I watched Frankie during the whole weekend. He seemed to really enjoy being at his table. He sang songs with a full voice and bonded with the volunteers at his table (hopefully inmates too). I think he is greatly sorry to have the weekend end. As time goes on, he will continue to have a hard life.

For my part, I will never forget seeing him next to a volunteer at his table with their arms around each other's shoulders, singing their hearts out. It seems that Kairos was a small slice of heaven for him. I pray that Frankie will take something from the weekend that will enable him to find hope and the ability to carry his burden. I think he did find some thing at Kairos that is life changing, and that gives me hope and motivates me too.

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Until We Meet Again



ROY EARL SEARS



VANESSA YVONNE
HERBERT



DEB MEDDINGS

Roy Earl Sears, 71, of Ashburn, Georgia, walked through Heaven's gates on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

He actively supported and encouraged others through Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Brother Charlie's Rescue Center, and the Kairos Prison Ministry.

He loved listening to and singing music, caring for his plants, investing in his children and grand children, and continuing to chase the love of his life, Lisa Sears.

On Friday, June 9, 2023, God called home one of His true Angels, Vanessa Yvonne Herbert. In March of 1998, Vanessa joined Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Roswell. There she became a faithful member who served in the following ministries: The Sanctuary Choir, Gospel Choir, Mass Choir, Women's Choir, Women's Ministry, Women's Bible Study, Friday Night Prayer meeting, Usher's Ministry, Kairos Prison Ministry, Stephens Ministry, Evangelism Ministry, and Lifeline Lead for Small Group Bible Study. She also was a devoted servant at the Lee Arrendale Women's Facility.

Deborah Ann (Dykie) Meddings, was suddenly ushered into the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on May 14, 2023.

Deb was a devoted Christian. She was an active member of Sojourn Church, and she, and her husband, Rich, served in the Kairos Prison Ministry, where they shared their faith with prisoners and gave their time in ministry.



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Department of Corrections Badge Renewal

For Kairos Inside volunteers, the badge renewal is now an online process. Click the link below to find a document that provides helpful instructions to guide you through the process.

<https://www.kairosgeorgia.org/downloads/georgia-department-of-correction-forms/>

Volunteer Experience

"I recently applied online to renew my Kairos volunteer badge. The whole process took no more than a half hour to complete. This renewal process has been incredibly helpful by allowing me to carve out a time most convenient for me to apply, instead of taking most of a day to attend a class in another county. The process was easy to navigate, and my badge arrived at my home within a short period of time, making this a most pleasant experience!"

Bonnie Wilson, Pulaski Women's Prison

DOC Staffing Status

"I wanted to make you aware that after a long search we have found an excellent replacement for Angela Parise. I believe our wonderful Lord brought us just the person we needed to step into that critical position. Her name is Angela Austin.

Her number will be the same, 478-992-5908. She is a very experienced, highly competent and wonderfully personable lady. We are getting her email and scribe, etc. set up and that takes longer than we would like but it is out of our hands.

For now, Kay will still be your go to person for most things until we can get Angela up and running. I just wanted you to know she is on board and would love for you to say a prayer on her behalf. Thank you for all you do for the GDC."

**Grace & Peace,
Dr. M. Allen Hughes Coordinator,
Volunteer Services**

For questions or assistance, contact the GDC Chaplaincy/Volunteer Services Team at 478-992-6406 or chaplaincy.services@gdc.ga.gov



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Refreshing Summer Lemon Bars From the Barefoot Contessa

Ingredients

For the Crust

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

For the Filling

- 6 extra-large eggs
- 3 cups granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
- 1 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup flour
- powdered sugar, for dusting



Directions

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175°C).
- Place a foil or parchment paper in a 9 x 13-inch pan. Spray the lined pan with a thin layer of non-stick cooking spray.
- Combine the butter and sugar until they're thoroughly blended. Next, add the flour and salt to the mixture. Continue mixing until the dough forms.
- Flatten the dough firmly into the prepared pan to form the crust.
- Bake crust at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 15-20 minutes or until the edges are lightly browned. Once the crust is out of the oven, set it aside and let it cool.
- Mix the eggs, granulated sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice, and flour in a large bowl. Whisk until smooth and perfectly blended (strain if it looks a bit lumpy).
- Pour the mixture into the warm crust. Bake the bars for 30 to 35 minutes or until the filling is set (it will look jiggy but not watery).
- Let bars cool for 2 hours at room temperature. Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving.
- Pull the parchment paper to loosen the bars from the pan. Dust the whole thing with powdered sugar before slicing it into squares. Serve and enjoy!

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To See the Father

John 14:8-9. *“Philip said, Lord show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered; Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say ‘Show us the Father?’”*

Greetings to you my brothers and sisters. June being the month for Father’s Day, the Holy Spirit led me to write about the Father. If we were standing before Jesus in Philip’s shoes, or in this case, his sandals, would we also be guilty of requesting to see the Father? I admit there have been times when I looked around and saw the condition of the world, and it made me wonder, ‘where is God’? During those times, I needed to see Him.

Where is God when a loved one is dying of cancer? Where is God when the doctor bills are due, and you lost your job? Where is God when you’ve got mouths to feed and a mortgage to pay? When we see crime and drug abuse and our world in chaos, where is God? There comes a time when we not only want God to show up, but we also need Him to show up.

No legislation or written laws will cure this human condition. We can add all the amendments we want to our Constitution, and it won’t change the condition of man’s heart.

Jesus said let not your heart be troubled. But our hearts are troubled because although we confess to be Christians, many of us have an inaccurate concept about our Heavenly Father and that misconception may stem from our experience with our earthly father. For instance, if someone had a strong disciplinary father, they may look at God as a slave master.

Romans 8:15 – *“So, you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves, Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, Abba, Father.”*

We can be with Jesus and see all the signs and wonders and be just like Philip. He heard messages from Jesus Himself, and still did not know the Father.



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Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were sinners, Christ died for us.*

Our Father knows everything about us, and He still loves us unconditionally.

He sacrificed His son for us.

So, three quick things I want to say about this text to help us understand the Father.

#1. We have a Loving Father. Jesus was not rebuking Philip for asking, He was using this as a teaching moment just like He did in John 6.

#2. Philip makes a true statement. If Christ were to take us behind the scenes and let us see what is to become of us when the visible world is done, this would give us assurance that behind all this dumb, immovable mask of outward things there is a living God whose love we can trust and whose power can preserve us to life everlasting.

#3. Jesus responded. No further revelation is to be made. All has been shown that can be shown. Jesus is saying, "I am the truth, the reality." In Christ we find perfection of moral character and superiority to circumstances.

We find in Him One who forgives sin and brings peace of conscience, and He is the One who bestows the Holy Spirit and leads to perfect righteousness. It is my prayer that you get to know your Abba Father and not be limited by your earth-bound experience.

"When in service for my Lord dark may be the night, but I'll cling closer to Him, He will give me light; Satan's snares may vex my soul, turn my thoughts aside; But my Lord goes ahead, leads whate'er betide. Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face, there to sing forever of His saving grace. On the streets of Glory, let me lift my voice; cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice."

Ron

Brother Ron Jones, State Clergy

