

# Kairos of Georgia

Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World

June 2024



## Greetings Kairos of Georgia!

### TELL IT TO JESUS

During a recent early morning quiet time, as I sat musing about our nation, our leaders, and our ministry, amongst other things, the words to an old hymn suddenly came over my heart.

***“Are you weary, are you heavy-hearted? Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus; Are you grieving over joys departed? Tell it to Jesus alone.”***

These words were like a soothing balm and quieted my spirit as I poured out my heart to the One Who is able to keep me from falling. Yes, Lord, I am weary. Yes, Lord, I am heavy-hearted. Yes, Lord, I am pondering and grieving over past joys that have now departed. I chose, in that moment, to “Tell it to Jesus alone”. No phone calls to friends. No text messages to a prayer partner. No posts on social media. I just had a little talk with Jesus! And the only way I can describe what happened in that moment were the words of another familiar song. As I turned my eyes upon Jesus, as I looked full in His wonderful face, the things of earth grew strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace!

My Kairos Brothers and Sisters, if you find yourself in a season of questioning, worry, anxiety, doubt or disappointment, may I challenge you to “Tell it to Jesus alone”? As you look at what appears to be declining volunteer participation, will you “Tell it to Jesus alone”? When the weight of ministry seems to be pressing you down, “Tell it to Jesus alone”. He is a Friend that’s well known. You’ve no other such a Friend or Brother, TELL IT TO JESUS ALONE!

*Beverly*

Beverly Upperman, Kairos of Georgia State Chair



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## From Lemons to Lemonade

One songwriter penned, ‘God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.’ These words described what recently happened at Phillips State Prison. Due to the prison being placed on lockdown because of violence, Weekend #28 was postponed one week prior to the start. But rather than being discouraged, the community was proactive. Since the team had already collected cookies for the Weekend (120 bags), rather than let them go to waste (or volunteers overeating 😊), they took the cookies to the prison Chaplain and asked that they be distributed to the staff, who were under a lot of pressure and stress. What an awesome move of God! He truly worked everything together for good!

**Kudos to the Team!** Also, pray for the staff and the residents to reduce the violence. The team is encouraged as the prison has since exited lockdown and they are ready for their next reunion!

*Jeff*

*Jeff Parow, Phillips AC Chair*



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## Weekend Leader Notes

**Valdosta SP #48 - 3/14/2024** - We had a very positive experience with a unified and focused team of volunteers and one of the most engaged group of residents I've every been a part of! A number of men (3-6) gave their lives to Christ, and we had a great group of first-time team members that contributed actively. Again, we had such wonderful interaction and powerful engagement between the residents and team. **Jorge Tomas, Weekend Leader**

**Coastal #26 - 3/14/2024** - It was a wonderful Weekend and Instructional that saw many lives changed for the better and two participants accepted Jesus as their Savior. It couldn't have been accomplished without the amazing leadership of the veteran volunteers who guided me through the process and helped out when I couldn't keep up with all the details required of the Weekend leader. Of course, all glory goes to God for all the good work that was done in His name. **Brian Schindler, Weekend Leader**

**Pulaski #51 - 3/21/2024** - It was clear that the Holy Spirit was directing every aspect of the weekend. The Participants were greatly encouraged to return to a strong walk with the Lord, there were four salvations, and the Prayer and Share plans have been modified to take place in the dorms, with seasoned Kairos Graduates facilitating the groups, with Bible Study added. This is because there are insufficient officers to have monthly reunions. All Participants wanted to be a part of the new Prayer and Share groups. The team was very unified, peace and order prevailed, and all went very smoothly. **Suzy Varner, Weekend Leader**

**Walker #23 - 3/21/2024** - The Holy Spirit showed up and was present throughout the weekend. It was a very relaxed weekend. We were ahead of schedule concerning the participants steps thru the process all weekend long. We had 28 out of 30 speak at open mike. The change in the participants was notable in the compound and throughout the institution by both the staff and Kairos Alumni. **Donald Hopkins, Weekend Leader**

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## Weekend Leader Notes, cont'd

**Emanuel #18 - 4/11/2024** - What a journey! During the meet and greet Thursday night, I was so nervous and couldn't help but wonder how did I get here? Standing in front of our participants and volunteers like a deer in the headlights, I felt so unqualified to be leading a weekend. On Friday, we were underway and my whole perspective changed. God had blessed Kairos #18 with a team that projected love and graciousness to each participant. During the talks, I was overwhelmed as I watched the participants listening and taking notes. Their posters were insightful and demonstrated the quality of their discussions after each talk. Reactions to the prayer chain encircling the room had many reaching for tissues, team members included. By Saturday I could see that the participants had made a connection not only to table volunteers but to each other. They were finding a common bond, the best one possible, GOD. The volunteers for the weekend were the best. They were the listening ears and loving hearts these girls needed. Again, I was blessed with an outstanding team of background and conference room volunteers. What can I say about Sunday? Yes, there was sadness because nobody wanted the weekend to end. As I placed a cross on each participant, I saw joy in their faces that I had not seen on Thursday night. There was no doubt that the LORD had been with us and was going to do great things in the hearts of these women. I am thankful for the privilege and honor to have participated in Kairos #18 in this servant's role. **Pat Cooper, Weekend Leader**

**Atlanta Metro RF #5 - 5/16/2024** - WOW!!! Leading a weekend was a daunting task and amazing Journey. There were so many details that were overwhelming at first but Ezra helped to make sure they all got covered. I said many times that the Devil is in the details as I got ready for team formation. Then God sent a special message to me during a sermon at church. JESUS has the details repeated many times during the sermon. It gave me the comfort that no matter what came our way Jesus has it not me or the team. Truly comforting. What a wonderful team we had. There every step for whatever was needed. God showed up in a mighty way to use us all as His Tools. God Is Good! **Todd Littlejohn, Weekend Leader**

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## Weekend Leader Notes, cont'd

**Smith #17 - 5/02/2024** - We began the Weekend with high hopes of what God planned to do during His time. We had to use 6 of the remaining 7 alternates to complete our count of 24 participants. And so we began! Friday one of the participants decided that he doesn't wish to come back, so the final alternate is called but declines to come. We continue with 23 participants. Saturday all is moving along smoothly when the inside leader lets me know that one of the participants has a visitation. We all know what Kairos rules say but we have erred on the side of Grace in the past and it has been a blessing to all. Not this time. While continuing the program and waiting for our participant to return, we learn he also has visitation for Sunday which is scheduled in advance. So after praying about it, I made the call for him not to complete the Weekend and invite him to be a part of the next Weekend. Saturday continues with open mike. A participant renounced his Arian brotherhood, another gave his drug addiction over to God and others who were beginning to see the Light. Sunday is always hectic; seems as though it's a race to the finish line. We were in the final stretch approaching the cross ceremony when we were informed that we had Closing visitors in the gym (an hour and a half early). The inside team began racing to get the Closing area set up so that the early arrivers could be seated. We completed our program and prepared for Closing which went off without further mishaps. God showed up in a mighty way and was there guiding us through all the ups and downs. **Clifford Hewitt, Weekend Leader**

**Hancock #52 - 5/16/2024** - Covid extracted its toll for far too long, but things are slowly returning to normal at Hancock State. From 2020 to mid-2022, Covid blocked Kairos from visiting inmates at Hancock State. In the Fall of 2022 Kairos began conducting 1/2-day reunions for program graduates, but post-Covid staffing issues made it difficult to secure the time necessary to conduct a full weekend. However, May 16-19, Kairos at Hancock State conducted its first full weekend since November 2019. This May Kairos volunteers met with 33 eager inmates. All the volunteers noted a high level of reception and attentiveness among the participants, and the Instructional the following weekend saw almost all participants return. Kairos at Hancock State wishes to offer its gratitude to several men from Kairos at Washington State who filled several of the volunteer spots necessary to conduct the full weekend. God is good! **Mark Bopp, AC Chair**

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## A Great New Way to Accept a Donation to Kairos!

The use of CashApp, Zelle, Venmo, etc. is prohibited per KPML policy. In today's society, most people do not carry cash or checks. This often presents a challenge when we are having fundraisers. To address this, we have come up with a solution.

We now have a **QR code** that when scanned, will take the Donor directly to Kairos GA Online Donation page. On that page, the Donor can select the donation amount, fill in required information and hit Submit. When completing information, as long as the Donor selects your AC the donation will be credited to your AC. The QR code can be used for the following:

- Fundraisers
- One-time donations
- Monthly donations
- Bi-monthly donations

A copy of the QR code is shown below, and can be duplicated and placed on signs, cards, flyers, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of the QR Code, please contact our State Financial Secretary, Roxann Davis ([davisroxann@hotmail.com](mailto:davisroxann@hotmail.com)).



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## Kairos Annual Conference

This year the Kairos Annual Conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport.

We are excited for those volunteers who will be attending the Conference for the first time this year. Representatives from 10 Georgia Advisory Councils are registered. PRAISE GOD!

Business meetings for Board of Directors, International Council, and State Chairs will be conducted on July 24 – 25.

The Conference begins on Thursday evening, July 25<sup>th</sup>, with dinner at 5:30pm, followed by the evening general session. The Conference will conclude on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

For those who are unable to attend in person, the good news is that you can join us virtually! Check the Conference website at the link below for more details.

[KPMI - Conference \(mykairos.org\)](http://mykairos.org)

**2024 Kairos  
Annual Conference**

**Louisville, Kentucky**

**July 24 - 27, 2024**

Registration is Now Open at  
[www.mykairos.org/conference.html](http://www.mykairos.org/conference.html)



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## *Welcome Home, Good and Faithful Servants*

**Edward Perkins Williams**

November 15, 1941 – June 5, 2024

Greshamville - Edward Perkins Williams, 82, passed away on June 5, 2024 after a 6-month battle with cancer. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Perkins was a devoted husband and father. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, sharing stories, walking in the woods, watching movies, and vacationing together. No matter what challenges they faced, he was always there to offer guidance, support and encouragement.

In his free time, Perkins enjoyed playing golf and competing in softball for the Senior League softball team in Madison. He was an avid reader with a talent for writing, public speaking and teaching - especially adult Sunday School. He was an active member of the St. James Methodist Church in Athens and Fork Chapel Methodist in Greshamville. He volunteered at the homeless shelter (Bigger Vision) in Athens for many years. He was also an active member and leader in the Kairos Prison Ministry and the North Georgia Walk to Emmaus community.

**James Hugh Smith, Jr.**

December 13, 1948 – June 6, 2024

Jim loved nature, gardening, cooking, and hunting. Jim proudly served his country for 20 years 9 months in the United States Air Force, He continued service to his community with 20 years in the National Weather Service.

His love for Jesus permeated all aspects of life which led him to becoming ordained with the Southern Baptist Convention January 1990. His favorite ministry opportunity was in Georgia prisons since 2011, primarily through Kairos., *and teach a kid to fish*"



If you would like to honor the life and legacy of James, "*hire a felon, support a missionary, and teach a kid to fish*".



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## Beautiful, Cool, Glazed Lemon Cookies!



### INGREDIENTS

#### For the cookies:

- 2 ¼ cups (286 grams) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 sticks (227 grams) unsalted butter, at cool room temperature
- 3/4 cup (150 grams) granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest, from about 3 medium lemons
- 1 large egg, at a cool room temperature

#### For the glaze:

- 1 ½ cups powdered sugar, sifted
- 2 to 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Additional lemon zest, to garnish, if desired

### DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Whisk flour, baking powder, and salt in a small bowl. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, sugar, and lemon zest until light and fluffy, about 3 to 4 minutes. Beat in egg about 1 minute. On low speed, add the flour mixture and blend until just incorporated. Dough will be slightly dry.
- Drop 1 ½-tablespoon sized balls of cookie dough onto baking sheets, spacing 2 inches apart. gently flatten dough to about 1/3-inch thick.
- Bake for 12-14 minutes or until cookies are just set and slightly golden brown at the edges; cool completely

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## BILLBOARDS

Oh, how I dislike billboards. I find them to be litter along the roadsides just up on stilts. They tend to show up in obnoxious places, hiding the most panoramic of views.

Billboards can and do provide a vast variety of information. These billboards are read by thousands of folks every day, displaying their messages for all to see.

A common theme seems to be that this lawyer can get you all the money you deserve, or, at the next exit you will be able to have your choice of X amounts of fast-food joints, which by the way, are not always fast or whatever they are offering might not even qualify as food.

Now, I have a question. If you were a billboard, what message would you be displaying for the whole world to see? As we go through our daily routines, believe me, we are being read just like a billboard along the road. We are called to be an ambassador for Christ; as such, we have to display to the best of our ability, the good news of Jesus Christ.

When we start our day, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide and equip us for what the world will throw at us. Being charged by Christ that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, let this love be on display as we walk our walk and talk our talk.

*Jim*

Jim Smith, State Clergy

## NOTE FROM STATE CHAIR

*Our dear brother and State Clergy, Jim Smith, went home to be with the Lord two days after submitting the above article. These were his last words to us as a State. Jim was truly 'faithful unto death'. He also attended his final reunion with his Kairos brothers at Rogers State Prison two days before his transition. I can only imagine that great reunion in heaven as he stepped into the presence of the One he truly loved serving!*

Jim, you were a faithful servant and will be missed!