



"You came into prison and visited me" —Matt 25:36

# THE STONES CRY OUT!

U.S.P.  
LOMPOC

Newsletter #21

GOLDEN STATE KAIROS • LOMPOC

July 2002

# The Greatest of These... LOVE

After every Kairos weekend people say, "That was the best one yet!" And we mean it. There is never an attempt to "out-do" previous weekends, yet the Holy Spirit naturally builds community on an increasingly solid foundation established over past years.

Kairos #17 was the best one yet! Each weekend has a unique character: #17 was led by Dave Matthews who is pragmatic, sensible, and surrenders absolutely to the leadership of God. Plus, the candidates arrived with a strong contingent of well-founded Christian leadership. Some of the candidates at my table began singing before we introduced any songs, spontaneously initiated group prayer during chapel time, and led one of the other residents in our table family to Christ, while we members of the outside team sat back and watched. When the residents in our table family tried to thank us, I just laughed. "All we're doing is sitting here; you guys are doing all the work. Don't thank us, thank God!"

Comments at the open mike expressed a wide range, from residents who approached the weekend from the dark end of the spectrum feeling "spiritually weak, broken, confused, with low self-esteem, bankrupt, desperate, depressed" and "skeptical," to others on the brighter side who arrived "with a hope for the future, hungry for what the program had to offer, happy, walking with the Lord," and "full of love."

There was a rainbow of consensus about discovering an environment of "peace, love, faith, friendship, unity," and "the presence of Jesus." Residents spoke of receiving "spiritual strength, new life," and "sharing a piece of each individual's heart that's in here." One man said, "This is what 'aloha' really means." Another discovered "a new belief in the Lord." Still another stated, "We will always be your friends."

**"It's one thing to know about Jesus. It's another thing to know him."**

Residents said, "We leave behind our hate, anger, unforgiveness, resentment, lack of understanding, and all the burdens we carried when we came in." One said, "We leave the walls behind us."

"I found out it's okay to share this," one man said, choked with tears. "It's not cool to be emotional in here, but the outside team has been a good example that it's okay to be emotional."

Some of the individual stories touched me deeply. One man shared a clearly difficult confession: "I didn't want to be here, because I found out my grandfather was dying. It wasn't because my grandfather was dying that I didn't want to be here, but because it didn't bother me that he was dying. But I knew it *should* bother me." He went on to explain how he was able to pray for his grandfather as a result of how God had touched him through the Kairos weekend. "Today I got a call from my family. My grandfather's last words were, 'Praise be to God.'"

Several residents expressed how God had broken through racial barriers during Kairos #17. "The hardest thing I have to deal with in here is how we can be so separated – the different races and ethnic backgrounds. This weekend I saw all the different races acting as one. It's a trip! We have to take it back to our blocks; we have to take it home. This Kairos stuff is real."

One man seemed surprised by his own transformation: "I never figured this would be happening in a prison. I'm here for a reason. I want to leave a different man. I know a lot of people were shocked at me being here. I came for the cookies, but I didn't realize there was spiritual food as well as physical food."

"It's one thing to know about Jesus; it's another thing to know him."

"I've seen incredible transformations in my group."

"Participating and helping each other is where it's at, not just saying, 'Yo, dude!' in the hallway."

"God showed me through this experience that sometimes you have to listen to people to understand where they're coming from."

"They had us do a scale today about our lives, and it's all been ups and downs. I realized for the first time my whole life was in the negative. I've made the first step to making it positive, but I need you to pray for me."

"I'm a mathematician. You can't just tell me something; you have to prove it to me. These teachers have shown us the elementary steps, and they showed us the three basics: faith, hope, and love. And they proved it to us right here. A miracle has happened in Lompoc!"

"Every morning when I wake up, I feel like a person with cancer. I look in the mirror and my forehead has wrinkles. Sunday morning I got up and felt something different, and I got on my knees. The way I used to feel every day since I've been here, I don't feel anymore. All the feelings of animosity, the feelings of hate...I don't feel no more."

"I was shocked. One day I came to work, and I stopped by to pick up my mail, and there was a letter from Scott Wilson inviting me to Kairos. And I said to myself, 'Who's Scott Wilson?'"

"I would encourage everybody to encourage each other."

"Keep praying for us."

The sharing at the Closing Ceremony was genuine, and it flowed like living water. There was very little "performing," but a lot of heartfelt thanks to God.

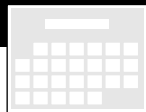
Johnny Etimani delivered the "Fourth Day" talk with his customary warmth and his contagious smile. "Now the real question comes up," he said. "Where do we go from here? It's a big challenge for us to come here, because our lives get changed." Johnny encouraged the graduating candidates, reassuring them that they now have a community to draw strength from. "You just have to ask Jesus Christ to save you, and you'll come back to life. I prayed to Jesus. I got down on my knees. He changed my life because I had a crooked walk."

Kairos #17 was the best one yet! The Instructional Reunion was the best one, too. Two weeks later we got back together in the Religious Center with more residents, I think, than have ever shown up at a reunion before.

We sang, we prayed, we listened, and we fellowshiped in the love of Jesus. Several members of the outside team gave talks based on the discussion points from the grouping cards. After the talks we grouped into table families and shared our own personal responses. What a blessing from God we received with our newfound brothers in Christ!

A light shines in the darkness!

—Roy Smith



## Monthly Reunions

### Meet at Front Entrance

(Must have badge)

July 13, 11:45 AM

August 10, 11:45 AM

September 14, 11:45 AM

**Kairos #18** — October 11-14

## Contacts

### Chairman

Scott Wilson

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### The Stones Cry Out! Newsletter

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### Chaplain

Fr. Mike Kirkness

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mkirkness@bop.gov

### Chaplain Coordinator for Kairos

Deacon John Burke

Pager (preferred): (805) 737-2783

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deacon.john@verizon.net

### Badge & Training Information

Diana Gellentine

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dvgellentine@bop.gov

## Kairos Letters

**W**hen you send letters to residents, all letters must be *unsealed*, addressed to the resident by full *name, number, and unit*, and placed into a larger envelope addressed to:

Chaplain John Burke

U.S.P. Lompoc

3901 Klein Blvd.

Lompoc, CA 93436

Never give your address or phone number to a resident. The "return address" for residents to reply to you is:

[Your Name]

Golden State Kairos

P.O. Box 1178

Goleta, CA 93160

# Kairos Team #18 Membership Application

United States Penitentiary, Lompoc • October 11–14, 2002

(Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Bus.): \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Drivers License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cursillo  Emmaus  Other Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of "Street" weekends worked: \_\_\_\_ Positions: \_\_\_\_\_

Kairos experience other than Lompoc: (Location, Number and Position) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list both Kairos and "street" talks that you have given on the reverse of this application.

Church Membership: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that by serving on a Kairos team I am obligated to attend monthly reunions with residents who have made a Kairos for a period of up to one year. I will make a reasonable effort to attend this crucial follow-up.

I will buy, read, and follow the Kairos manual upon my acceptance as a member of the Kairos outside team. I understand the importance of team formation, and I will make a reasonable effort to attend team building meetings preceding the weekend.

I will serve in whatever capacity appointed, but I believe that my best capabilities are in the following area(s):

Table Leader  Speaker  Agape  Server  Music  Coordinator  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

I will do my best to read and obey prison regulations pertaining to visitors and will submit the required forms and take the yearly training.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please send completed application to the Rector for the weekend:

David Masci  
434 Tuolumne Ave  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
(805) 496-1886  
daddi\_o@earthlink.net

Note: The estimated team cost for the weekend is \$70 / person. Please make checks payable to "Golden State Kairos."

Use the reverse side for any additional comments.

# Rector's Report

**K**airos #17 was held at UPS Lompoc over the weekend of May 25, and it was definitely God's special time. The theme for the weekend was taken from 1 Corinthians 13:13, "There remain then Faith, Hope, Love, these three; but the greatest of these is Love." Love truly abounded at USP Lompoc over this weekend, and miracles were the order of the day. Primary among these was the large number of candidates who acknowledged a change of heart. Some also said that they now know what it is to be loved. The reconciliation service was the major focal point of these changes; it was a very moving experience for all of us. And, of course, the cookies were a huge thing, too.

The major work, as usual, occurred in the table families, and at Kairos #17 it seemed that nearly all the candidates were ready and eager to engage in community building, almost from the very beginning. The table-family prayer chapels were particularly effective. They could have gone on and on, and much healing was in evidence.

Each Kairos is special, and #17 was no exception. Particularly special over this weekend was how residents met and got to know other residents whom they hadn't known before. Many men told us of this, and were especially thank-

**"Love truly abounded at USP Lompoc over this weekend."**

ful that Kairos was able to facilitate this community building.

The Instructed Reunion two weeks later also rates a rousing success. We figure that more new Kairos graduates attended this reunion than had been the case in previous reunions. Special effort was made to promote this reunion, and it seemed to have paid off. Most important, I think, was the way table families came together over the Kairos weekend, and that connection has carried over into the 4th day.

Thanks again for the extra-special effort of inside and outside teams, Chaplains Burke and Nelson, and Father Kirkness. And special thanks to all who joined in on the prayer vigil; your work is truly great.

Thank God for Kairos!

— Dave Matthews

#### COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a council meeting at Efren's (Don Pepe's) at 9am, prior to the July 13th reunion.

**Agenda:**

1. Kairos 17 and Kairos 18.
2. Rector status for 20 and 21.
3. Financial Report
4. Kairos Outside
5. Other items of interest, whether minimal or significant.



**GOLDEN STATE KAIROS**

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Santa Barbara, CA 93160

