



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

THE STONES CRY OUT!

U.S.P.
LOMPOC

Newsletter #22

GOLDEN STATE KAIROS • LOMPOC

March 2003

Join God in His Work.

It has been 5 months since God completed His work on Kairos 18. What a blessed weekend that was! I've been thinking...one of the most significant aspects of the Kairos ministry is its perpetuity. It is not a one-time event, a flash in the pan. Rather, it is constant and ongoing. Through each weekend, reunion day, and every letter exchanged with a resident, the work of God remains in continuous motion. It is a blessing and honor to have been chosen to be a part of God's work behind those gray walls.

Did you ever imagine that you would be called to prison ministry? When your old Aunt Martha pinched your cheek as a child and said "What are you going to be when you grow up?" did any of you answer, "A member of a Christian prison ministry group"? I don't think any of us could have envisioned our individual calls to minister to the criminal because, well, that's just not a natural human thing to do. Our human nature, and just about every commercial on television these days, calls us to be self-centered, to gratify the needs of the self. God, however, calls us to turn our energy outward to provide for the hungry, the sick, the naked, and the imprisoned. As he began his ministry, Jesus went to the seashore and called His disciples one by one to join Him, to be fishers of men. It is important to note that Jesus did not command them to follow Him. No, He made the call and they *chose* to accept it. I'm sure those twelve original followers must have had other plans for their own lives, their weekends, their free time. It was probably not convenient to become a follower of Jesus, and some material sacrifices would have been necessary. For some, following the Son of God meant leaving behind their family and friends. Can you see the parallels to your own personal call and involvement with Kairos

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Prison Ministry?

For those of us that have accepted the call and worked a weekend or two at USP Lompoc, we have been blessed beyond the description of mere words. We have witnessed miracles right before our very eyes. We have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit burning brightly in our hearts. We have laughed, cried, hugged, and most importantly *loved* God's children behind bars. Through this experience we have come to know and love God more deeply. Some of us have even experienced personal salvation through involvement in this ministry.

We all know the challenges that the Kairos commitment brings to our lives, but just as the original twelve apostles found out, the blessings of working for God are beyond measure. Soon there will be another opportunity to join God in His work as He leads us through a new Kairos weekend. I find myself humbled to tears to be serving Him as the rector for Kairos 19. When I look back at my life ten years ago I find it to be a miracle that God has brought me to the place I am at today. So it is with great expectation that I invite the members of the Kairos community to spend some time in prayer with God, asking Him to reveal His will for your life, specifically as it pertains to Kairos 19.

In closing, I want to leave you with an excerpt from a letter written by Michael Fay in January of 2000 (Clergymen, you will recognize this from my letter to you all a few weeks ago):

"...I will be leaving prison ministry for the time being to pursue other kinds of service. Serving in Kairos has led me to a new kind of closeness to Jesus that has irreversibly changed me. If you are reading this and have never served on a Kairos team – pray about it. I

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don't know of any other ministry that offers the intensity of experience or meets such a great need. It will not be easy. But it will be awesome. I have to smile as I reflect on the wisdom of Jesus in challenging me to visit the prisoner. Yes, he knows more about me than I do – so what else is new?"

It is a blessing to say that Michael Fay will be back, serving the Lord on Kairos 19. If you too feel called to participate in the Kairos 19 weekend, please consider the following dates:

- Team Meeting 1: Saturday, April 5, 8am-2pm
St. Mary's in Lompoc
- Team Meeting 2: Saturday, April 26, 8am-2pm
St. Mark in Santa Barbara
- Team Meeting 3: Saturday, May 10, 8am-2pm
St. Mary's in Lompoc
(badged members leave at 11:30 to attend reunion)
- Team Meeting 4: Saturday, May 17, 8am-2pm
St. Mark in Santa Barbara

Kairos 19: May 23-May 26, USP Lompoc

May God bless you and keep you always,

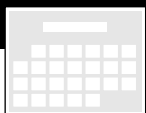
Rich Antles

Council Meeting

Scott Wilson has scheduled a Council meeting for 9:00am at Don Pepe's (Efren's restaurant) in Lompoc.

1. Agenda,
2. Advanced Training application, and
3. Contact with former participants memo.
4. Additions, editions, annotations, compilations, comments, questions, related cognitions invited.
5. Minutes from previous council will be provided under separate cover.

Monthly Reunions



Meet at Front Entrance

(Must have badge)
 March 8, 11:45 AM
 (after Council meeting at Don Pepe's)
 April 12, 11:45 AM
 May 10, 11:45 AM

Kairos #19 — May 23-26

Contacts

Chairman

Scott Wilson
 5990 Cuesta Verde, Goleta, CA 93117
 Home: (805) 964-8265
 scottw4cpa@aol.com

Registrar (add, drop, or change address)

Larry Santarossa
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 Larry.Santarossa@tenethealth.com

The Stones Cry Out! Newsletter

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 judyandroy1@cox.net

Chaplain

Fr. Mike Kirkness
 (805) 735-2771 x546 Fax: (805) 737-3168
 mkirkness@bop.gov

Chaplain Coordinator for Kairos

Deacon John Burke
 Pager (preferred): (805) 737-2783
 Ph: (805) 735-2771 x550
 deacon.john@verizon.net

Badge & Training Information

Diana Gellentine
 735-2771 ext. 238
 dxgellentine@bop.gov

Kairos Letters

When 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

Closura at Kairos #18

The Closing Ceremony for the Kairos #18 weekend at Lompoc had less to do with closing than with transition. The Inside Team was already nurturing and encouraging a strong sense of community. As usual, the candidates, the “first-timers,” had been asked three questions. Their responses were straightforward and honest:

1. In what spiritual condition did you arrive at Kairos?
 - “Skeptical.”
 - “It was either Kairos or a Saturday movie I’ve never seen.”
 - “Is there hope? I felt off-balance. Low self-esteem.”
 - “Detached.”
 - “I arrived feeling hopeful. I was looking, seeking answers.”
 - “I came because somebody told me to. I was challenged to.”
 - “When I got to Kairos I was confused and curious. I was lost.”
2. What did you find here?
 - “I found happiness, honesty, and newfound friendships.”
 - “We discovered a ‘handle to the door.’”
 - “Love. Family. The Spirit of God. Peace. Caring.”
 - “We found brotherhood. We found hope. We found balance.”
 - “Encouragement. Unity.”
 - “I found out it’s okay to be a friend of God.”
3. What are you taking away with you?
 - “Love. Respect. Letters. Thankfulness.”
 - “I learned how to forgive myself. And I got a certificate!”
 - “Now I know there are people out there, that we’ve never spoken with, who care ... from all over the world!”
 - “I’ve got new inspiration. New dedication to Christ. It opened our hearts.”
 - “Gratitude to the Lord that this many people care for us.”
 - “I’m taking away peace, comfort, hope, and understanding.”
 - “I’m taking Christ with me, and a determination to serve Jesus Christ.”

Comments at the open microphone revealed how the Holy Spirit is working on the hearts and minds of these men through the experience of the weekend:

“When I was living on the outside, I didn’t even know the names of my neighbors, but I know these men at my table closely.”

“We now have one more reason to succeed. I do not want it on my conscience that I let you down.”

“We’ve lost our pride, our family, our assets. It takes a lot to make it back. We know it’s not easy out there; and it’s not easy in here, either.”

“The outside team were great teachers. One taught me how to forgive myself. Another stood in the doorway Friday night so I couldn’t leave. Another told me how my words to the group helped him!”

“I’ve been Christian my whole life, but I’ve been mad at God. Now I’ve found Him in my heart. Thanks to the man who invited me to Kairos! I know I’ve got Christ in my life. I’ll never let Him go. I’ll share Him. I’ve never done that.”

“God showed my something in the Bible this morning: I

have much joy and love, for my heart has been encouraged by you, my brother.”

Gesturing toward the visiting members of the Kairos community, one man commented, “As I look at this side of the room it’s just like the jury! Since I came to Kairos I see that everybody’s the same. You’re the type of people I’d expect to cross the street to stay away from me. But the cookies changed my mind...”

“I see the sins of 40 years.”

“I thank the Lord for putting me here...”

“I have been blessed these past three days. I pray that God will give the outside community the strength to keep coming.”

“Tell the others out there that we *can* change. Ask the Christian community to get the sentencing laws changed.”

“As an individual from another country I feel forgotten by everybody. Thank God for touching the hearts of these volunteers! Jesus loves me! Someone cares! Alleluia!”

“That forgiveness that I couldn’t find in my heart – I found it! We *can* love each other the same way.”

“I’ve always had God in my life, but now it’s kinda new!”

“I don’t feel some of the things some of you inmates feel – I’ve got a short sentence. But I can’t think of a better place to be locked up. When I came to the ‘dungeon’ here I told the guards they’d made a mistake! I’m a businessman! But now I see that these inmates are my Christian brothers. I would be proud to be associated with these individuals. And they’re not ashamed of me!”

“To you on the outside: No human being without Christ in his heart would walk through that door voluntarily.”

“Pray for my brothers in here – they’re suffering.”

“Outside people, you wouldn’t believe the kind of man who comes to Kairos. I’ve got a life sentence. I didn’t cry when they handed down the verdict, but today, I cried! It’s been a long time. To the friend who invited me: If you hadn’t done that, I wouldn’t be here, feeling this way!”

“I don’t speak much, but everything is possible with Christ. My life was very hard. When you walk alone, you never see the hope. Some brothers told me about Kairos. I go to church. I accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. Now my life is different. I see the Lord in each face. I see God works in this place. No matter how many years behind these walls, the important thing is that my soul is free!”

“I thank the Lord for putting me here, to keep me encouraged...” [too choked up to continue...]

“My life has been a never-ending ride. I’ve been locked up since I was a teen. In nine or ten years at USP I’ve never picked up a Bible. I’ve been feeling real guilty because the last time I thought I found God, I was out six months and then re-offended. I gave up hope. Then I got 30 days in the hole, three in total dark. I’ve been going to church ever since a friend invited me. Before that I never felt that God touched people enough to take the time to love, show emotional support, make us realize there is a God. Showing me I can do it. There is hope! I love Him!”

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Kairos Team #19 Membership Application

United States Penitentiary, Lompoc • May 23-26, 2003

(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:

Rich Antles
2160 Vista Elegante
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 349-3943
richnnicole@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.

“Under these circumstances we really have to put our trust in God!”

“I was apprehensive at first, but I needed to be here. Everybody does negative things. But there’s a few of us who are glad to do positive things.”

“About two years ago I was in the prison in Phoenix, thinking about my daughters, sons, and grandkids.

I was afraid for them because I never get to talk to them. I sat on my bed, wondering what I’m doing. I felt a lump in my throat and a voice saying to ‘let go.’ I cried. That night I had a dream. Jesus said, ‘What are you waiting for? Stand up and start walking! Don’t worry about the law; I am the Supreme Law.’ The next morning the book cart went by and I took a Bible. I don’t like to read just any book, but this time I wanted it. I read a passage, and I had the same dream. I decided to follow Jesus. I have been down eleven years, and I have three to go. I’m so grateful to see life from another angle. I still have a family. We men in here can feel your love. You cannot explain the feeling in your heart. When you get the call from Jesus, take it!”

“When I walked through the gate here, my hair stood up. I decided nobody’s gonna hurt me. Then I was in the hole two months. It was 18 months before I got to see my family. Mom called to say Dad had a heart operation. I should have been there! Finally my folks drove all the way from El Paso to visit me. I went to the visiting room, but I didn’t see my parents, just two old people. I walked by them. The old man started crying. Then I realized it was my Dad! When I was in the hole, I got a cellmate for a short time. He asked if I’d received God. I was not ready. But I got lonely again. After I got out, I came to see this man, and we came to Kairos together.”

Bobby Moffet is a man who serves God. He is always doing something for somebody. Bobby has brought men to the Kairos weekend, and he leads men to Christ. He was chosen to give

“You come as you are, but you don’t leave as you were!”

the “Fourth Day” talk. Here are a few snippets from his talk:

“When I came to Kairos in 1999, I was in a ‘ground zero’ spiritual condition. I knew the life I was living was not what God intended. In 1984, at the age of 24, I professed to be a Christian. But I was living the life of everything else. But then God’s love overwhelmed me. If it wasn’t for God’s love, I would still be the same.

“I’m transferring, but you’re coming with me because God has put you in my heart. God is for real. He will deliver you. If I had come to Christ in the first place I wouldn’t be here at all!

“Pharaoh never thought he’d be without the Hebrews. Egypt was like the U.S. government, incarcerating people. When God decided to free the Hebrews, He raised up Moses.

“If you come to God, and you repent truly from your heart, sincerely...ain’t nothing can stop you! I had two life sentences. God delivered me from both. The life I’m doing now is for Him. It ain’t where you are physically, it’s where you’re at spiritually. Some people in the world are in a prison of the mind, which is even worse than this prison!

“You come as you are, but you don’t leave as you were!”

“You may have fear because you know the compound, but God will love you. He has already provided for you. I’m asking the inside team to walk around you candidates to show you their Christian support for you.

[Silence and smiles as the candidates are surrounded by the inside team.]

“I invite every candidate to the Religious Center, Room 2 tomorrow night, so the Inside Team can get acquainted with you. Kairos doesn’t end tonight. It continues through your life. I thank God!”

It was hard to say good-bye to our new friends. Members of the Outside Team returned after two weeks for an Instructional Reunion, which emphasized small group formation. The meeting Bobby mentioned in his talk had taken place, and was a great bonding event. The Inside Team understands the importance of Christian community, of meeting in small groups, and they continue to build and strengthen the family of God within those walls.



GOLDEN STATE KAIROS

P.O. Box 1178

Santa Barbara, CA 93160

Rich Antles rallies for Kairos #19 at USP Lompoc

“Did you ever imagine that you would be called to prison ministry?”

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