

Kairos of San Diego Newsletter

(God's Special Time)

2009, Vol 2

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have just completed another God-filled Weekend at R.J. Donovan (Mar. 26-29th). 72 inmates attended this event in Yards 1 and 3. We listen to talks, praised our Lord with music, enjoyed the fellowship of the body of Christ. It was an awe-inspiring weekend to watch the Holy Spirit work with these men. We are now looking forward to the 2-day retreat coming up 27th and 28th. We are still looking for a facilities co-coordinator (managing the storage facility and inventories) due to Dan's health.

Contact Info:

If you would like to serve on a team, please Contact one of the rectors:
Steve Babick (Yard one)
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For other inquiries, please contact
Charlie Morton (Kairos board chairman)
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Message from the Kairos Board Chairman

We are responsible to deepen our message. God is responsible to broaden our ministry.

We are prone to be concerned with the Gospel. But God is concerned that we bring those we reach to spiritual maturity.

That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. (Colossians 1:28) Those who become mature are then able to reproduce the life and character of Christ in others as well.

If we love Christ, we are to show it by keeping his commandments and feeding his sheep. John 14:15; John 21 : 15-17 Sheep reproduce sheep as the shepherd feeds them.

IHN
Charlie

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Leader's Comments : Richard Middlestead mmiddlestead@san.rr.com

At the Closing Ceremony, we asked each Family Table to summarize their KAIROS experience. The following represents some of the comments expressed:

Paul Family:

We arrived confused, isolated: doubtful: open-minded but guarded.

We found love, friends; how to forgive; answers and tools to life questions; cookies; brothers.

We will take away love, spiritual strength; hop; positive attitude; forgiveness of others.

Matthew Family:

We arrived as a spiritual train wreck; Stand-off-ish; spiritually low, confused & lost.

We found agape; fellowship; understanding; happiness; peace of mind; new opportunities
And friends; open minds and different views.

We found a feeling of lasting friendship; a commitment to spiritual betterment; tools for improvement.

Learned how to forgive; Understanding of the Christian walk; a better understanding of myself; commitment to know the Lord and walk with him.

Mark Family:

We arrived neglected; non-existing; confused; lonely, and isolated.

We found friendship; love, forgiveness; loyalty; comfort; tears; truth; cookies.

We will take away; love; understanding; relationships; joy; spirit; wisdom; zeal & perseverance; brotherhood; knowledge; closer walk with God; good feeling with the Lord.

Luke Family:

We arrived broken down: shot out; destitute; desolate.

We found hope; forgiveness; mercy; compassion; enlightenment; compelling individual stories and experiences.

We will take away life; increased faith; increased understanding; precious memories; hope; desire to live a God-filled life; devotion to the Bible; we are not alone.

John Family:

We arrived sad, nervous, wanted to leave; spiritually troubled and bankrupt; hoping to find ourselves.

We found hope; true belonging; peace; forgiveness; true salvation; friendship; and answers to life questions.

We are taking away hope; greater privileges, friendships; acceptance; new choices and life.

Peter Family:

We arrived spiritually dead; spiritually searching; spiritual curious- hopeful, prayerful, reflective.

We found fellowship; openness; different views; God's presence; caring people; joy & laughter; forgiveness.

We will take away discipleship; increased faith; friends; on-the-job training in Christianity; answers; encouragement; knowledge; wisdom; people's testimony; Jesus.

Leaders comments Jim Bechtold jsbechtold3@cox.net

Excellent – One candidate shared “ At one time I was a validated member of the “Nuestra Raza”. I spent sixty eight months in Ad-Seg (the hole) when I received a kill order to take out any “Skin Head”. I was later transferred to Donovan and now here I am in Kairos, weeping and praising God with my new brother Dustin (A former skinhead). He would have tried to kill me, but instead during Kairos he ran to embrace me as his brother. “Kairos is High power-God is Good!

Kairos 78 Praise Report

Can you say WOW (say it backwards) WOW! Kairos 78 is now history. First of all I want to give all praise and glory to Our great God and King, The Lord Jesus Christ. The eternal impact during the four days on the hearts of all those present, both candidates and volunteers was only possible by the grace and mercy of God.

I want to also thank you all who gave sacrificially with your time and resources. It was your genuine demonstration of the love of Christ in the form of prayers, cookies (6,000 dozen), and personal letters that The Holy Spirit used to open hardened and hurting hearts to His love and grace.

Predictably, the chapel was filled with excitement and expectancy as the thirty-six candidates and four alternates entered yard three chapel greeted by the thirty-seven volunteers and fifteen inside team (former Kairos candidates) members. They were given a name tag and one of the volunteers directed them to where the cookies and refreshments were. Once all of the candidates and alternates were present the program began.

Jim Bectold was the official leader for the weekend assisted by Art Deming who will be the leader for Kairos 80, scheduled for October 2009. They both did a fantastic job led by The Holy Spirit. The program soon moved to the introductions where all of us from the outside tell the candidates who we are, what we do, where we are from and why we are there. The candidates then share some information with us so that we can know something about each one of them. We asked them to give us their name, where they are from and why they have come to Kairos. Some of the common answers as to why they are there are: "I need a change," "I want to see what this Kairos is all about," "I came for the cookies." Whatever their reason for coming we know that God had brought each one for a special purpose.

Most of them were curious. Many of them were nervous and apprehensive. Some of them have never been to chapel. All of them have absolutely no idea that the next four days will be unlike anything they have ever experienced in their entire life.

Each of the four days were filled with inspirational talks, discussion, drawing posters and plenty of worship by our illustrious worship team, led by Brent Calhoun.

By the end of Thursday and the beginning of Friday, we began to see walls come down as the men began to open up. They began to relax and let their defenses down as they realized that we were not there to convert them or to force them to believe like us. They were overwhelmed by the unconditional love that flowed from Jesus through us to them. We served them home cooked meals of Chicken

Fajitas on Friday, Lasagna on Saturday, and steak fajitas on Sunday, with all the trimmings. The men were beside themselves. Several of the candidates remarked, "Man I haven't had Lasagna in over ten years." We all laughed, sang and cried together as the love of The Lord filled that place. On Saturday we dropped the 'atomic bomb' on them. It came in the form of "Personal Agape," a paper bag filled with approximately one hundred personalized hand written letters that many of you had written. As soon as the men began to read them the flood gates opened up. One guy named Joe shared, "When I was sentenced to life by the judge I laughed in his face. But when I opened my first letter from a two year old and read her simple words, I cried like a baby." Several of the men were overcome by emotion when they opened up the letter from Ann, a young mother. The letter was simple but profound. In the center of her letter was a footprint in red ink of her seven month old daughter Elena. Ann wrote how she wanted her daughter to learn about God and to grow to love Him. And then she said, "I want the same for you! " " It is my hope that this weekend will change how you see God and that you will be changed by His love."

One candidate shared. " At one time I was a validated member of the "Nuestra Raza." I spent sixty-eight months in Ad-Seg (the hole) when I received a kill order to take out any "Skin Head." "I was later transferred to Donovan and now here I am in Kairos weeping and praising God with my new brother Dustin (a former skinhead)." "He would have tried to kill me but instead during Kairos he ran to embrace me as his brother." Kairos is High-power—God is good!

Before the weekend was over five candidates opening received Christ as Savior, and two dozen or more re-dedicated their lives to Him. All were deeply touched by His love and grace. Seeds of hope were planted in every heart. Praise The Lord!

The stories go on and on, each one glorifying my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I invite you to join us again in October for Kairos 80. We will once again need your prayers, letters and of course cookies. If you are a man over eighteen years of age, pray about being a part of the outside team. It will change your life forever. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. 619.813.6188, or by email at thezigs2@cox.net.

In Christ love,

Roger Ziegler
Yard Pastor, RJ Donovan
Pastorstoprisoners.org