

Kairos of the Albemarle Newsletter

June 2015 Edition 2 Volume 1



God's Special Time, PCI 31



A Perspective from the Week-End Leader

Written By Thomas Phelps

I praise and give all glory to God for the great spiritual weekend of PCI 31. God surely did open the doors of heaven and pour out His blessings upon our meetings for training and the PCI weekend. I wish you all could have been there!!

PCI 31 was so blessed with a large number for the outside team and the extremely large number of inside volunteers. This Kairos Group was one of special personalities showing love, servanthood and humility.

I know our God was in charge of all for he brought forth a large group of souls from the back blocks and did not stop until they had been won over to take on Christianity. Their lives were changed by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. It was evident daily that all things can be accomplished with our God. To everyone that participated in this great ministry of PCI 31, I share Christian love with you. We are very blessed by God's Grace. May you walk with Jesus throughout your life.

Thomas Phelps

The Outside Team for PCI 31

Becky Phelps

Our Outside Team for PCI 31 was a great group of workers. Can you believe we had 16 people on our team? Our duties included heavy snacks for each meeting and an evening meal for our volunteers when they finished their day during the Kairos weekend. After eating prison food each day, most were hungry for "real food". Other tasks included putting together personal care kits and agape bags for each resident attending the weekend. We also used our artistic talents to make place mats and agape bags. We had a busy weekend, but lots of fun working together!

I would invite anyone who wants to do God's work and have fun doing it to join the Outside Team for PCI 32.



Perspectives from new Team Members!!

Written by Sammie Dance

Prison Ministry is a ministry that I have often thought about, a place where, if laborers would go into the fields of the prison, sowing **God's Love, Mercy and Grace**; our God **would save souls**. I have always believed, nothing was and is too **Hard** for our Amazing Creator. I had been previously asked by my brother-in-law a few years back, to come to a closing, I saw then, the awesomeness of God's power and was touched in my heart, yet at that time, I did not move out to join or be a part of Kairos. It was only when my brother-in-law inquired of me again this year, that I felt and knew in my spirit that God was saying, now is the time, and to confirm that the timing was right, He used my wife Naresa, to say she felt that God was saying "now is the time" to launch out into the deep and serve, so here we are together. We work as a team in some ministries and others alone, but with

one spirit. In the training for Kairos, I saw the awesome love of God being demonstrated from the Kairos Team and how they were truly committed to this ministry; how some took off work and used vacation time; for the cause of the work of the Lord. This reminds me of the Disciples, how some left their personal jobs and family to follow Christ and become servants for Him. Kairos PCI #31 truly made an impact in my life even the more, when I experience the Residents openness. This experience enlighten me and showed me that whether on the inside or outside, we **ALL** have a common core, we **ALL** need God; and that is what I saw, God working in such a manner inside PCI that it caused me to see just how much more I need to move in closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There was one morning when we got word that there was a lock down in a particular unit and some of the Residents were in that unit, Kairos brethren began to pray, by the time we were closing out the prayer, God had answered our prayer and the Residents who were in that unit, came walking in, (Again, that reminded me of when Peter was in jail, chained to the two guards, while prayer was being made at Rhoda's house on Peter's behalf), they that were praying, saw the mighty work of God. Indeed, we serve a powerful and mighty God. It was in that weekend that God, spoke personally to me, while the talks were being made. I experienced realness, men were open about their lives, nothing swept under the carpet, and my heart was convicted, which cause me to **seek forgiveness and repentance**. Let me put it this way, "I went to prison, to get straightened out", so I could see clearer, how to serve in God's **Vineyard**.

Naresa Dance Article:

Wow!!! What can I say, except may our great God, Father of the only begotten by the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ be glorified, worshipped and Praises forever. I will first begin by saying, it was an amazing time and experience at Kairos Weekend for myself and husband Sammie. We are still talking about it. We talk about how when my brother Charles Stallings, asked us about becoming a part of Kairos a few years back, which for us was not the right timing, at least that's what we said. But God open up another opportunity for us to come and share with the Kairos Team and serve as a member, to God we give Him thanks for the door being open once again. Oh, what a blessing it has been and we are certainly looking forward to many, many more. The love was indescribable and the oneness was awesome.

My experience with everyone will be a treasure that I will keep for a life time. The ladies were wonderful and the experience of creating placemats was truly amazing; knowing that what we think is something simple and take for granted, someone else treasure like gold. I am reminded of the residents Walter ("Wolfgang") they call him; how he gathered so many, just so he could have something to send to his son, my heart melt and I wept. Life is but a Vapor, what we take for granted.

Solomon, says, **ALL** is vanity of life.

Jesus is the greatest example of Love. He demonstrated it. As believer in Christ we are to become more and more like Him, first

lovers of Him, then lovers of one another; and that is what I saw and experienced.

As for the closing ceremony, we will never be the same again. The impact that it had on my life, caused me to examine myself closer. When the residents began to share it was very emotional, my heart became burdened for them **all**. I just could not stop weeping. As a wife, mother, sister, aunt and grandmother, I heard their pain, hurt and disappointment that they have had to experience in their life; by not having someone to show them love and guidance, my heart wanted to make everything alright, yet knowing the only thing I could do for them was to invest time in praying for them. With our amazing God foreknowing **ALL**, He predestined that PCI needed such a ministry like Kairos, He made it possible some years ago, so that the Residents would have a safe Haven, a place of refuge where they could meet **HIM**, and Kairos could help build them and show unconditional love, that there are people that truly love them. I would say, Kairos is fulfilling destiny in obeying, Matthew 25:36; "For I was in prison and ye came unto me". God is looking for a few **faithful men and women**, who will be faithful to the assignment, that He has given them to do. For only what we do as born again believers in Christ, is going to count.





Why Volunteer For Kairos? Read this article from the 4th day speaker of Kairos 31. T.N.

To my brothers and sisters in Christ, my friends and the family God promised me in the Kairos community; Hello!!! ☺ I pray everyone is wonderful, joyous, and blessed. I pray God is showering down an overwhelming abundance of blessing upon all of you. This last Kairos weekend (#31) was such a blessing; all that were able to be there and to the graduation ceremony can attest to that!!! Jesus showed all of us how alive and real He is in all our lives over the week-end. Jesus is our risen Lord, He's not dead, and He is Alive!! He showed that He was in our presence throughout the whole week-end and that God's hand was upon all of us. God's hand was upon all of us. He orchestrated everything and everything was done by His will alone. From Dave Taylor's opening statement to Thomas Phelps closing speech and all the amazing speeches by devout men of God in between you could feel the power of God working. The men receiving the letters at the tables and some breaking down and weeping to God because of the love all of you put into those letters. I know one guy who was extremely touched and became a broken vessel before the Lord because of a sheet of paper he had received that a small child put a couple of marks on for him. God is glorious, isn't He? From our long speeches to a simple mark by a child, God can use anything and anyone to break men down and bring them before His throne of mercy. Sunday morning when Satan tried his best to keep unit 3 from the graduation ceremony and Sunday activities, all the volunteers got in a big circle and

began to pray to God. God keeps all of His promises so as they prayed, the participants from unit 3 began to walk through the door. All of God's children began to praise the Lord! We knew God had answered all of our prayers. I was praying with a group of men myself. I get goose bumps and my heart swells with happiness and joy just by talking or writing about this. I know a man from unit 3 was changed that glorious day, the Lord Jesus Christ became his savior and his redeemer. Satan knew this young man was close to coming to the Lord however no one can thwart God's plans. What God plans WILL happen. That weekend, we saw how real and alive God is and how prayer truly works! During the graduation men testified, some were broken, some rallied around their new families for strength to speak, one spoke as a minister from above, one man said "I love all of you" and raced back to his seat and that's all that really needed to be said about that weekend. God is Love!! Then came my fourth day speech. ☺ I was nervous as the time approached and I kept praying to our Lord for Him to use me as His vessel and for Him to be glorified and for it to be Him who speaks, not me. Thank you everyone who prayed with me that day and had been praying for me up to that moment. When my name was called and I came forth and arrived at the podium, a perfect calm came over me. I knew God had to of taken the reins. I was so filled with the Holy Spirit that glorious day. I still feel like I'm on top of the mountain. When we went back to our dorms and even now, I feel different, like a constant filling of my vessel by God. Maybe this is close to what Moses felt like when he came down the mountain the second time with the stone tablets and his face was shining. I could feel Jesus in the visitation room that day during the graduation ceremony. He was in our midst. I also had to ask God for strength that afternoon, which He granted me, that I did not breakdown, like Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, during my speech so I could actually give the speech because I notice when I talk about my family, the family God promised me in Luke 18:29-30, all of you volunteers at Kairos who are my family and my heart tends to breakdown, cry, weep and open the floodgates like my brother's sing about in the choir. Only the volunteers and angels who went to the visitation room with me as the participants opened their letters in the gym, saw how I broke down into tears

because of the love I have for my family here at Kairos that God promised me. I love all of you more than words could ever express. Luke 18:29-30 is one of my favorite verses in the Bible now.

Remember God keeps His promises, all of them! I have seen several men come back to the dorms expressing what an amazing weekend it was and sharing the Gospel and I know of two men who did not attend the weekend on unit 4 that have given their lives to Christ. I believe a revival is happening right here behind these walls and it fills me with Joy. People from that weekend will end up going their different ways. Some will stay in touch with each other, some won't, some will grow closer to the Lord, some will have to be chastised by the Lord a few more times, Some will remember that special weekend like it was yesterday, others will store it in the back of their minds and let it become a vague memory. I, T. N., on the other hand will remember all the volunteers, participants, and everyone there as my true family and how that weekend was the best weekend of my life! 😊 P.S. There was also a guard that was at the graduation ceremony that was touched by everything and is even friendlier now. We never know who we are going to touch when we follow God's will for our lives and get "self" out of the way.

LOVE LOVE LISTEN LISTEN!!!!!!

Why it works!

More Testemonies:

"I have been in prison for 10 years, and in that decade of incarceration few things have informed my heart as much as the loving kindness we receive during the 4 day Kairos retreat. This kindness for me was a light shining in the darkness of despair." PCI Resident

"Kairos has extended my Christian family beyond any expectation I had entering prison. Monday Prayer and Share is like a visit from home." PCI Resident – L.H.

"Kairos always inspires me to forget the things in the past, and to reach forth to the things in the future." PCI Resident

Some Highlights form Kairos 31



What an Awesome Worship Team!!!



Lonnie we will miss you!! God Speed Brother



Come and join us as we sing praises to our Lord!!!

Into the Future



Notes for Women Volunteers!

Updates by Judy Atwell

Women's Prison at Eastern: Good news for women who have been wanting to do an Inside Weekend at a Women's prison, just as our men do at PCI.

Initial planning is under way to develop Kairos

Inside at Eastern Correctional in Maury, NC.

Maury is about half way between Greenville and Goldsboro. This is a doable distance for those of us here in Northeast North Carolina who have wanted to be a part of the Inside program at a Women's prison.

There was an initial organizing meeting on Monday, May 8, in Kinston to pick an Advisory Council for Eastern Women's Correctional. Once this group is formed, submission can be made to the National Board for approval and then then the real work of putting a weekend together may start. There were about 30 people at this meeting so the nucleus for the group is there.

Kairos Outside: Volunteers have been asking about a Kairos Outside program for this area. Kairos Outside for the entire eastern part of North Carolina is in re-organization. There have been discussions about developing a program here but nothing definitive has been decided. Again, we will keep everyone up to date on the progress of those discussions. Starting any new program does not happen overnight, so whatever is decided will take time to develop.



I was in Prison you came to me.

Words from the Leader of PCI 32-Dave Taylor

Why would anyone volunteer to serve as a weekend leader?

I retired from the Navy in 2002 and have served in many leadership positions in the community since then. I have for whatever reason experienced a significant change in how I respond to the responsibilities of leadership positions, where before I relished the challenge now I feel burdened and at times overwhelmed. It has taken me a while to recognize this change and when many people encourage you to fill leadership positions because they have confidence in your abilities you become very conflicted, if I have these abilities why do I struggle so much and not enjoy it?

Well I had declined several individuals request to consider being a weekend leader telling them that when I felt a calling from the Holy Spirit to lead a weekend I would.

I have a wonderful occupation growing blackberries grapes and figs. This winter as I was pruning grapes and meditating on God's word, I was pondering the Apostle Paul. What a servant. I was considering all he endured serving God, beatings, shipwrecks, prison, very difficult travel and living conditions, all because God called him. Then the Spirit spoke to my heart, I've given you the leadership ability and sometimes you are overwhelmed? At that point I asked God to forgive me for being selfish and then went and called Jack Atwell and volunteered to be a leader.

We can all find reasons to not serve on this or any other weekend and it might be entertaining sometime to make a list of why I can't serve. It is my prayer that each and every person who reads this will prayerfully consider this: "does God want me to serve in this ministry and on this weekend "and if he does would you join me as a good and faithful servant?"

And then I remember the Apostle Paul.

Your Brother in Christ
Dave

More on PCI 32 - Note your calendar for the following PCI 32 teaming dates:

October 2nd – Friday - Teaming Session 1 for PCI 32. Holy Family Catholic Church, 1453 N Road St, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 @ 6:30 PM.

October 9th – Friday - Teaming Session 2 for PCI 32. Holy Family Catholic Church, 1453 N Road St, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 @ 6:30 PM.

October 16th – Friday - Teaming Session 3 for PCI 32. Holy Family Catholic Church, 1453 N Road St, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 @ 6:30 PM.

October 23rd – Friday - Teaming Session 4 for PCI 32. Holy Family Catholic Church, 1453 N Road St, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 @ 6:30 PM.

October 30th – Friday - Teaming Session 5 for PCI 32. Holy Family Catholic Church, 1453 N Road St, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 @ 6:30 PM.

November 5th – Thursday - Teaming Session 6 for PCI 32. Holy Family Catholic Church, 1453 N Road St, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 @ 6:30 PM.

November 5th through November 8th - Thursday through Sunday **PCI 32** . @ 7:00 AM

November 8th – Sunday **PCI 32 Closing**. @ 2:00 PM @ PCI (Arrive at gate between 1:00- 1:15 PM)

More Kairos Updates

Kairos Volunteers and friends of Kairos

New website –The URL is <http://kairospcinc.org/> . .

Kairos Fellowship Breakfast Reminder -

KFB is back and we are praying for a strong turnout. Come for the fellowship and bring your spouse, friend, relative, neighbor, coworker, acquaintance and any other category you can think of. **Your guests eat free!**

Our breakfasts (KFB) will be at Golden Corral in EC @ 8 AM. We will be having a short introduction for men who would like to join us at a Kairos reunion on Monday nights. The following is a schedule of the next 2 Kairos Fellowship Breakfasts and associated Reunions at PCI:

1. KFB – Saturday August 15th @ 8 AM @ Golden Corral, EC Kairos Reunion – Monday August 17th @ 6:30 PM
2. KFB – Saturday September 12th @ 8 AM @ Golden Corral, EC ...Kairos Reunion – Monday September 21st @ 6:30 PM

A Note from the Editor

My prayers are that you the reader will be inspired by what you read and know that Our Heavenly Father is hard at work within our prison walls and that He needs your help. To my Kairos family, that you also would know that we are part of something so much greater than ourselves; we are God's hands and feet in reaching hurting people and lives are being changed. Part of being a servant of the Lord and a Kairos volunteer is to be vulnerable; thank you for sharing your heart and testimonies with us. I am looking forward to hearing from more of you in the future. Please share with me any upcoming events or special requests you would like published. This is your newsletter and a work in progress. I welcome any suggestions to improve future editions. My email is louannajean@msn.com.

God Bless you everyone,
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