

# Kairos of the Albemarle Newsletter

## Kairos PCI

June 2014 Edition 1 Volume 1

### God's Special Time, PCI 29

#### **A Perspective from the Week-End Leader**

Written By Jack Atwell

PCI 29 was actually three events taking place over a six month period. The first event was the semi-annual retreat where all Kairos graduates spend a day with the volunteers to continue their journey of faith. This retreat was delivered by Fred Ellinwood and C.D. White along with six volunteers giving testimonies related to the Book of Job. While the retreat is a standard part of the Kairos program, our format has been modified to provide content specifically requested by the residents through the Kairos Inside Council. The retreat usually takes place two to three months prior to the weekend. The Advisory Council meets with the Inside Council generally twice a year to get feedback on the program from the residents.

We then prepared the team for the weekend. In order to increase the number of teamers, Thomas Phelps (Recruiter) and several others reached out to Veteran teamers and encouraged 8 new volunteers to join us. In addition, we reduced the number of teaming meetings to five but increased the duration of the meetings. Each session's primary focus was on spirituality. To help family tables bind together from the beginning, table assignments, talks and Chapel presentations were made and distributed at the first teaming session.

However not everything went smoothly; Satan attempted to interfere and distract us. Yet God, in our weakness, took care of every situation Satan threw at us. For example, in the midst of the Forgiveness devotional, a tornado narrowly missed us at EMC and we lost power.

We gathered together, in darkness to complete our devotional and to pray for the safety of the team. God blessed our time and kept us all safe.

Satan also attempted to derail resident participation through a variety of prison situations that limited our opportunities to market the weekend to the residents. However, God worked through the Inside Council, Prayer & Share group and Chaplain Crumpler to bring the Kairos' message to the population that lead 42 residents to sign up for the weekend! God is God!!

The second and main event, PCI 29 week-end, started earlier than usual at around 2:00 pm on Thursday. We met and shared a meal with the residents at our family tables and proceeded with introductions and initial instructions. The rest of the weekend went as scripted with Dave Taylor stepping in on a moment's notice to do a talk because the original volunteer scheduled to do it was called away by his work to repair tornado damage, another instance of God putting people where they were most needed. The week-end concluded with 33 residents completing the program in a closing ceremony. During the closing, something extraordinary happened, ALL 33 PARTICIPANTS GOT UP TO THE MIC to share their testimony; a high-point of the week-end.

The third event was the Instructional Reunion the Saturday following the Weekend. Volunteers and former Kairos graduates discussed with the new graduates how to bring Kairos principles into the blocks using a variety of verses from the Book of Acts. The ultimate goal of Kairos is to build a community inside the prison when volunteers are not available to the residents. We thank God for His protection and wisdom in bringing the Word to the residents of PCI, and look forward to His continued blessings on the Kairos graduates

## PCI 29 Team



## The Outside Team for PCI 29

Judy Atwell

Since the elimination of food from the Kairos program at PCI there has been a perception that women are no longer an essential part of the Kairos teaming experience. How far from the truth! The Outside Team for PCI 29 was not only busy but served as a valuable support tool for the Inside Team. The majority of our work is done before that first Thursday session inside PCI.

Our first job started months before the weekend. We took the list of past volunteers from the Ezra program, broke it down into manageable segments and began making calls, emailing and writing letters to every name on the list. This accomplished two things: it encouraged some who hadn't volunteered for a while to join us and it served to clear names from the list who were no longer interested or available. Going forward the list should contain only viable names. This recruiting task is essential and begins to build the foundation for the weekend.

Although food is no longer sent in for the weekend, the volunteers still need to be fed at the teaming sessions. The Outside team is responsible for this, including the lunch on the first day of the weekend where we ask PCI administration personnel to join us. For PCI 29 we added another 'food event' – cookies for the Correctional Officers. The outside team stepped up and produced 400 dozen cookies which were given out the week before our Weekend as a good will gesture from Kairos to the Cos.

At each teaming session the Outside Team not only participated in the Spiritual Exercises, the Devotionals, the Talks and the Training, but worked on Placemats, Posters, Agape Bags and Fourth Day Packets. By the time the Weekend approached the team had all the necessary items needed on the Inside.

In addition, there was money to be collected and tabulated and photos to be taken.

We were a busy group and when the Weekend arrived we were ready to enjoy our time together and look forward to the wrap up meeting each night to hear about how God was moving in PCI!

## The Captain's Ladies



## Music Coordinator, PCI 29 Weekend

Joe Stuter

PCI 29 was a very special weekend as I watched God orchestrate His Special Time (Kairos) with the participants as well as the team members. It was a blessing to see the participants, reluctantly at first, begin to worship God through songs. They opened their hearts more and more as the weekend progressed.

Saturday is always a special day to me. Being one of the clergy, I am able to stay in the room while the participants open their letters of agape. I wish you could see their faces as they witness love being poured out on them, many for the first time in their lives. Also on Saturday we were able to have some fun as we sang songs like Pharaoh, Pharaoh and Jesus Is The Rock n' He Rolls My Blues Away. These, as well as a few other songs, enable the participants to have fun. Some of them as well as team members even danced before the Lord. In closing, I thank God once again for the opportunity to serve with Donnie Moss and Isaac House on the worship team "Jukebox"

## **.Outreach and Fund Raising Committee**

Thomas Phelps

There have been several Kairos members that have been given the opportunity to speak to church congregations on Sundays and other days during the week. The presentations were approximately 15 minutes. We have shown Kairos in action using a DVD and given personal testimonies of the life changing ministry of Kairos. These are the changes that we have noticed in the performance of the incarcerated individuals as well as the operations of the prison throughout. Also, the contact has been from Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, and Dare Counties. Thanks be to God for the support that has been given through charitable contributions and prayer that enables "God's Special Time."

We pray that all will continue to speak with each and every one about continuing God's work in the prison environment. There is always a need of Spiritual commitment and conversation throughout the community. It takes each and every one of us to speak and apply our talents, time and finances to support all things that are necessary for this outreach to enlarge God's Kingdom.

God's Special Time is one of those things: Kairos



### **Kairos Outside of Eastern North Carolina #18**

September 19-21, 2014

Camp Agape

Fuquay Varina, North Carolina

Leader: Genevieve Hamer

Teaming has started but there is still time to join the team or volunteer as an angel. Angels are a valuable part of the week-end and are not required to team. Angels are asked to give anywhere from 4-8 hours during the week-end. Guests do not pay for the week-end. To pay for the expenses of the week-end, KO depends on the loving prayers and financial support of others.

Please pray and consider sponsoring a guest for the week-end, a night or perhaps to provide a meal. For more information please call Louanna Stuter@ 331-1233. Thank you and God Bless

### **Mom and Pop of Kairos PCI**

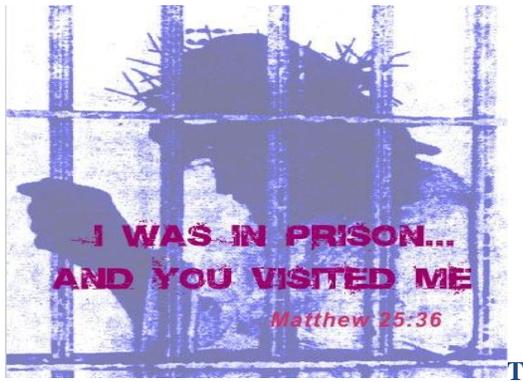
By Louanna Stuter

Phyllis and Gilbert Story are lovingly known as Mom Story and Pop Story to many of the residents (past and present), Kairos team members, and the staff of Pasquotank Correctional Institution. During the Annual Volunteer Banquet at PCI, Thursday March 20, 2014, surrounded by family and friends, they received the **Pasquotank Correctional Intuition's Volunteer of the Year Award**. They were also nominated and recognized at the Annual award lunch in Raleigh NC.

Phyllis stated Gilbert has never been so surprised! They were thankful and humbly accepted the award. However, they told me it's never about the award it's all about the men coming to know the Lord.

What does it take to be a volunteer that makes a difference? We learn from Phyllis and Gilbert that it takes dedication, in sixteen years of being with Kairos, they only missed one week-end and that was due to severe illness. They showed us the importance of having a humble heart that sees all people as God does "sinners in need of a savior"; of seeing each man as an individual but to treat all the residents the same. Lastly, to be dedicated, not only was Phyllis known for being the "cookie monster", she and Gilbert are known for being faithful in praying for the residents as well as writing letters and sending cards to them. Because of their love for God, they were able to put their love for the lost into action. Thank you mom and pop for teaching us by your example to be better servants. We love you!!

## Perspectives from new Team Members!!



### My First Kairos Weekend

Submitted by Tom Scism

Where do I begin my Kairos journey? Because of my being in a wheelchair I was informed that I might not be allowed in to the prison. However, Gary DeCastillia kept sharing with me about Prayer and Share and how God was changing lives on the inside. He encouraged me and shared about Bill Elliot and another man going in with a walker I guess what I'm trying to say is, "When God is calling you to do something, you better obey Him and move." Eventually, I became part of the PCI 29 Team.

Ask me if I was calm, cool and collected. You've got to be kidding. I drove Gary crazy with questions and claimed Prov. 3:5,6 NIV - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight. ALWAYS REMEMBER - God's in control - not us.

We received our assignments with our participants' names and which ones we would be hosting. All the team members welcomed the participants as they came in. When my resident came in he had this look on his face - what did I get myself into - turned to go back out - but couldn't. I met him with a smile, welcomed him, told him who I was and took him to our table - "THE FAMILY OF MARK". After all our family was seated our

Family Leader, Dave Berry, introduced the rest of the team - Jim Hulett, Clergy; Eric Shrewsbury, Family Asst Leader; Tom Scism, Asst Leader; and our Resident Servant. Then he had the participants introduce themselves. Dave shared with the guys what the weekend was going to be about. There would be talks, poster drawings, sharing around the tables, etc. Their answer - "Oh! No, I'm not doing that."

After the evening meal, the men had their first series of Chapel Talks: 1. Know Yourself, 2. Prodigal Son. We came back to our table and tried to encourage them to share what each talk spoke to them about.

I saw God start to work in my life that Thursday night. I saw them as men just the same as I am. They're a sinner saved by grace just same as I am saved by grace. God saved me and He can save them.

I wondered on Friday how many would return. We met them as they came in. Praise the Lord! They all returned.

They began to open up just a little after listening to each of the talks. I'm not going to list all the talks. Here's a few: Choices, You Are Not Alone, The Wall and Christian Action.

There are 4 L's in KAIROS:

Listen, Listen, Love, Love

We leaders listened as the men shared their thoughts. We let the Holy Spirit lead if we should share after everyone had shared. They also got into making posters sharing what they thought the talk meant.

Each day I was so blessed to see the growth and excitement in the guys after each talk, in the discussion time, poster making and telling what it meant to them.

I believe one of the most difficult talks was the one on forgiveness. It started in Friday Chapel Time - Accepting God's Forgiveness, Acceptance of Self, and continued in Saturday Chapel Time - Forgiveness of Others Part 1, Forgiveness of Others Part 2.

## **My First Kairos Week-end continued**

They passed out strips of special paper on Saturday where we wrote down the names of those we needed to forgive and the names of those we needed to ask for forgiveness, as well as to forgive ourselves and to forgive God.

We went in for Chapel Service.

- Each Family went forward and dropped their paper into a special aluminum bowl.
  - Chaplain used a BBQ lighter to light the contents.
  - Swish-Bowl Empty-No Ashes.
- Jesus-Sins Forgiven, Forgotten.

Our Resident Servant truly had a servant's heart.  
- a grad from the last PCI, sat off behind our table. He brought our drinks when we would like them. He also brought our lunch and supper meals. He also was my chauffeur. I didn't have to push myself the whole time I was there. He took me to chapel, sat with me, and brought me back. On Saturday, if the men invited him he could come and join us at the table, which he did.

This is the first time that the prayer chain has gone all the way around the gym twice. When Jack Atwell pointed that out the men were amazed. I know that sign-up sheets were passed around to make that happen. The Lord spoke to me - when the weekend is over doesn't mean we should stop praying. How many times do we go up Rt. 17, pass the prison and think nothing of it? How about when you go by do you pray for the residents, guards, employees and Chaplain Crumpler?

The biggest highlight was their surprise agape mail bags with agape love letters in them. This might be the first letter they have received in a year. My participant, said he was opening 2 a day to make them last. The participants also received a gift bag.

Just before we went in for the closing service my participant knelt down by my wheelchair, put his arm around my shoulder and told me how much he was blessed over the weekend, how much I meant to him and that he loved me. Then he hugged me.

I hope I have been a blessing to the residents, because I know I was blessed right out of my socks.

I made a commitment to the Lord and to my Family of Mark that I would see them at Prayer and Share on Monday nights.

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you (them) will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1.6 NIV

## **From a new point of view...**

**Paula FitzPatrick**

I recently learned about the ministry of Kairos from Judy Atwell. I was inspired by the opportunity to write letters to the prison residents who complete the Kairos Weekend Program. Little did I know that my interest would lead to a far more rewarding experience? In addition to writing letters, I was offered the opportunity to take photos during the weekend teaming. I discovered that my only requirement to be able to go into the prison for the photos was that I needed to attend the Kairos team training during the weeks before the actual program.

During teaming training, I learned about the ecumenical mission of bringing Jesus and God to the residents, how the teaming was developed, the support offered from the Kairos volunteers and the community wide hopes and prayers for a successful weekend. The dedication of those involved is unsurpassed. I made agape to decorate the walls and tables. I took the group photos for the graduation, wrote my letters for each participant and attended the graduation celebration. There, I witnessed the power of Kairos as each man spoke about the effect the weekend teachings had on him.

I was blessed to have the insights that Kairos offered. I can understand why volunteers return again and again in hopes of changing lives in more ways than one could ever imagine. Blessings to all involved.

## **Letter from Hank**

The Kairos weekend finished late Sunday afternoon and was a blessed, Spirit filled, awesome experience for every inmate and team member. Before telling you more, I want to thank you for praying so faithfully throughout the weekend for the inmates and the team. Knowing that hundreds of people from all across the country were praying for them had a powerful impact on the inmates. Your name was on a link in a paper chain (one link for each of the four days) - and that chain was so long that it went completely around the prison gym walls twice! I walked that off and calculated that the distance around the four walls of the gym was about 300 feet - so the prayer chain stretched the length of two football fields. Thanks!

Your prayers I asked you for on Thursday night were powerfully answered. Out of the 37 who had signed up and had come on Thursday, only one dropped out and one other could not continue because he was offered a much desired prison job in the kitchen starting Friday morning (and will likely come to the next weekend in November). And the 35 stayed through to the end - and a beautiful end it was.

Along with the 35 inmate participants there were another 16 angels - inmates who have gone through the Kairos weekend in the past and asked the Chaplain to participate as helpers. These are awesome Christian men who contribute tremendously to the weekend. They work as table servants and do such tasks as putting the prayer chain together. One of the angels gave his testimony at the closing yesterday afternoon - a beautiful, powerful expression of how his faith in Jesus Christ has given him total peace and joy. He told us he is in his mid-50s and has now spent 34

years of his life sentence in the prison. As you can imagine, angels like him are a tremendous inspiration.

Throughout the weekend there are many talks given by the team and some chapel time followed by discussion at each of our tables (I was with the table of Matthew). The talks are on subjects like choices, friendship with God, Christian living, walls we build around us - all leading to very powerful talks on forgiveness. As the weekend went on the change in the men was remarkable - some coming ready to change and some strongly resisting. In every case, the Saturday night experience of writing down the names of people they needed to forgive and then giving that up to God broke down that last resistance. The hardest thing for many of them was to put down their own names.

## **A Note from the Editor**

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](mailto:louannajean@msn.com).

God Bless you everyone,  
YSIC louanna stuter

