



KAIROS SAN QUENTIN

SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

From the Chair

Greetings to you all. I hope this newsletter finds you in a relatively good space and that you all are reaping the blessings of the Lord. These days, Kairos at San Quentin seems to be sailing in calmer waters.

Problems are being worked out thanks to the diligence of the Council and the grace of the Lord. Our last two weekends—#30 & #31—went off without a hitch. Positive responses from both candidates and team members were sure indicators of Christ-filled weekends. I especially want to express gratitude for the involvement of both the Catholic and Protestant Chapels. Their support is invaluable and appreciated.

The Council has been operating at full capacity and I must say that the current members are a quality Spirit-filled group. We have been through a lot and have persevered. Praise God. On a personal note, I have been doing double duty as SQAC Chair and as Vice-Chair of the State Board (Golden State Kairos.) I find it very educational and inspirational to be able to share and receive gifts with other members of our Kairos family.

We have started preparation for Kairos 32 with Tom Witt as the Navigator and Jesus Christ as the Captain. I strongly feel

that this Council has come a long way in the past year or so and I feel excited about the future. We held a retreat weekend for the Board on June 14, 2008. I recommend this to other Boards and fourth day groups as a way to deepen spiritual connections. It was a

beautiful experience and it certainly brought us closer together as a family of God.

I wish each of you God's grace and peace.

Yours in Christ
Anthony Irving, Chair
SQAC

San Quentin Advisory Council

POSITION	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
Chairman	Anthony Irving	(C) 650.238.4717
Vice Chair	Tom Witt	(H) 415.389.6658
Spiritual Director	Rev. Jim Ward	(H) 415.381.8568
SQ Inside Liaison	Chuck Pappalardo	(C) 650.208.4000
Secretary	Ron Lew	(C) 925.550.4166
Financial Secretary	Rev. Cliff Haggenjos	(H) 707.226.3917
Treasurer	Marcus Jackl	(C): 925.998.2070
Goldern State Rep	Larry Fitch	(H) 925.432.6319
Publicity & Newsletter	Tom Witt	(H) 415.389.6658
Database & Website	Chris Bailey	(C) 707.703.7009
Ultreya Planning	Tom Witt	(H) 415.389.6658
Community Outreach	Dolan Beaird	(H) 707.778.6896
Fund Raising	Chris Bailey	(C) 707.703.7009
Agape	Tom Montgomery	(H) 925.432-0726
Nominating Committee	Chuck Pappalardo	(C) 650.208.4000
SQ Applications	Dolan Beaird	(H) 707.778.6896
Personnel Training	Anthony Irving	(C) 650.238.4717
Facilities	Tommy Sullivan	(C) 707.849.4536
Prayer Angel Cook Liaison	Kim MacDonald	(H) 925.325.0293

Kairos 31

“One bread, one body”

There is nothing I've done in Kairos or Emmaus that prepared me to be Lay Leader on a Kairos weekend. Just as there is nothing in life that prepares a man to be a candidate on a Kairos weekend. I have worked my share of Kairos weekends. I knew what was going to happen. I knew the beginning, the middle, and the end. Yet, there was a surprise for me, too. The total awe I felt when I realized I had been a part of a miracle. When I knew it happened, I looked around at the faces on the team, they were joyous.—but focused on the transformation happening at their table. I then looked at the faces of the candidates. They knew something was happening but clearly they didn't feel any miracle. Yet. Then I realized that this is what it feels like to be fully present to the meditation “Footprints”. Like the guy in the meditation, I have spent an entire life never recognizing God was carrying me through life's trials. Never understanding what it really meant to “let go and let God.”

It happens when you least expect it. I suspect because we have the weekend all figured out. We fret over each detail and the contingency plans in case something goes wrong. When it becomes clear, you realize, as capable as I think I am, I

could not have done this. I could not have known that the outside team who said “yes” to Kairos 31 were each the perfect person, at the perfect time, to meet the candidates God had chosen.

Once I actually saw the miracle -- that it was God all along who had been carrying me and the work in team preparation -- I knew in that moment my life would change. I realized that, just like the candidates, I had gone through a new experience during Kairos 31. And I didn't see it coming either. Had anyone told me I would experience anything this profound prior to the weekend, I would have thought they were crazy. I thought I had experienced everything one could in Kairos. However, God had another lesson and gift for me. He was going to show me in the most vivid terms what it means to trust Him in everything I do. I now know why all of the past Lay Leaders on the Kairos 31 team were smiling so much. They could see I too had been surprised by God's awesome love, just as they had been during the weekend they lead.

In brief, God was present at Kairos 31, despite my efforts. Grateful,
Chuck Pappalardo

From the kitchen of Kairos XXXI

Every weekend comes down to the closing on Monday evening. When you see the faces of the graduates with tears in their eyes

and love in their hearts, we know that “God is an awesome God!”. The graduates, so full of God's love, want to hug everyone in sight and tell them how much the weekend meant to them and how much they love us. They want to thank everyone, especially their brothers in blue who recommended that they make the weekend.

When the love of God is within all of us, we take home that feeling of a job well done with praises for God and love for all. For we have been His hands extended to those men who are God's special treasures and are locked up in prison cells, He has called an army to go into the prisons to activate the gifts and callings that lie dormant in these lives that were given before the foundation of the earth. And we are proud to be called into that army. What a privilege it was to serve and to be prayer angles and cooks and sisters to the men on the team.

What we enjoyed most was experiencing how deeply men can share themselves through their talks and team building. We truly felt blessed to work with men who were being true servants for Christ. As always, another “God is Great” weekend. Lois, Margaret, Dianna, Winnie, Mimi & Kim

A friendship restored

I'm positively assured that it was in God's Holy plans that I was selected to participate in one of the most meaningful weekends in my life. See, there was a certain brother whom I had befriended. We had a similar sense of humor and shared many laughs together, which is invaluable in this setting. But as we all know, the enemy's goal is to kill, steal and destroy and unfortunately

he succeeded in destroying a well-bonded friendship. Months went by without either of us saying as much as hello to one another. When the opportunity to participate in Kairos presented itself, I jumped at the invitation. But one can only imagine the discomfort I felt seeing this good friend turned enemy at the initial orientation. I spent the entire weekend intent on avoiding a confrontation. Even eye contact. But the most high God would not be denied. At the end of our second day of our journey, we were given a bag of cookies and challenged to give a cookie to each and every person that we had issues with. Well, as the day came to a close and everyone was exiting the Chapel, I noticed my ex-friend waiting near the entrance. I immediately sensed that something was up. The moment I dreaded had arrived. I thought "maybe if I hold my head down, I can slip by him unnoticed."

It was at that every moment that I found out that I'm just not fast enough to outrun God. My ex-friend cut me off and with out-stretched cookie in hand, offered to "bury the hatchet", to forgive and forget. We shared a cookie and an embrace by the duck pond that day and my ex-friend is now my friend again.

As the scripture says: "All things work together for good, for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

—Darnell

"My walls came down"

When I walked into the chapel on the first day of my Kairos, I no-

ted a line of free people standing along a wall. One of them walked up to me and introduced himself. In my mind, I wondered what he wanted. He then took me to a table where I was given a name tag and a cup of coffee. Little did I know, that was the start of the best four days I have had in 18 years of prison life.

For the next three days, we listened and talked about a variety of topics given by free people. Each of them spoke how the topic affected some time in their life. You could tell that what they said came from the heart.

As each day past, my walls came down. The free people made me feel welcomed and cared for and I could tell it was no act. They really cared about me and us.

The day before the last day, we each were given a piece of birthday cake. I saw that as my first birthday to my new life as a better person. They also gave us a small sack. In it were 36 cards and letters from people I didn't even know, saying they cared for me, that God loves me. It was so powerful that I could not open my letters. I felt love in my heart again and that made the end of the weekend even harder to face. Near the end of the last day, we were told there was one more surprise to come. Of course, I thought of more donuts and cookies. But we were told we would have to move to the other chapel. As the door opened, I could see people standing in line. I was walking between two lines of past Kairos graduates, all clapping hands with smiles on their faces and kind words for us. The feeling I felt was

the same as when I graduated from Junior High. Like I was important among all these people. And you know what? I was! People do care about us insiders and these free Kairos people showed it to us each and every opportunity they could.

The first day of my Kairos, I said to myself "four more days!" On the fourth day, I wished it would not end. If you are thinking of going to Kairos on the outside, stop thinking and do it. You will love it you will feel happy that you went.

Thank you all and if God only blesses you half of how you have blessed me, your days will be perfect.

- Pete

The blessing of service

Working Kairos 31 as Head Servers was an honor, privilege and a blessing. On any Kairos, candidates never know what to expect. The saying "if I tell you, I'll have to kill you" means just that. Because telling anything about Kairos would kill the experience.

In Romans 12:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:17, Paul says we are all partakers of that One Bread, The Body of Christ and it is our duty to show love to those around us. Especially to those who claim to be hard. As Servers, we saw a change in many hearts. Honestly, something inside changes for both the served and the servers. There's nothing like going through Kairos, other than being born again. Serving God and others is what life is all about.

Herman & Stephen, Head Servers

KAIROS SAN QUENTIN
www.kairossanquentin.org
PO BOX 6003
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

OUTREACH/FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We continue to meet the budget needs of the program, yet as weekend cost rise, the struggle continues. The housing cost for the last few weekends have been three to four times the normal cost due to staying at a local motel.

Our primary method of fundraising is team membership fees and the generous donations from both team members and supporter alike. We are very grateful to those who have chosen to support the ministry financially.

The fundraising and outreach arm of the Council is trying to engage speaking op-

portunities in the community. We would like to come to your church, 4th Day group, or civic organization to share the message of "God's Special Time".

The primary needs of the program are:

- Prayers
- Poster Coloring
- Team Membership
- Sponsorship

We will come with all the required materials and a presentation about San Quentin and Kairos Prison Ministry. Thank you for your support and assistance in this endeavor.

- Dolan Beaird & Chris Bailey
SQAC@kairossanquentin.org

WEBSITE

The Council's official method of communicating with the Kairos community is the website:

www.kairossanquentin.org

You will be able to see the latest update concerning teams and weekend needs. There is a link for prayer charts, weekend posters, and team applications.

If you have not already sent an e-mail to the Council, please do so. You will be added to the latest e-mail list.

SQAC@kairossanquentin.org