



KAIROS SAN QUENTIN

July 2009 NEWSLETTER

From The Chair

I feel honored and humbled to be the new Chairman of the SQAC. I think about all those who came before me, all those I respect and admire who have lead this organization to where we are today. I am in awe of the 20 years and 33 weekends we have held at San Quentin. As so many of you know, working a Kairos weekend truly is a special time with fellow Christians and God's Special Time inside San Quentin.

Many exciting things are happening in the Kairos community. Kairos 33 was held over the Memorial Day weekend under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of Larry Fitch. All those involved did an excellent job and witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit. Leading up to the weekend, the institution was on lock down due to concerns over the swine flu. But by God's grace, the lockdown was lifted just in time and Kairos 33 went off without a hitch. I am always amazed and humbled by the Closing Ceremony. I feel the power and presence of Christ and witness the heart-felt joy of our brothers in blue.

Team formation for Kairos 34 begins in August. Please keep Tom Egan and his team in your prayers.

I hope everyone has their calendar marked for July 25, 2009. Kairos will celebrate our

20th anniversary at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cotati. The address is on the flyer enclosed with this newsletter. We invite you to support the program and join our celebration. There will be a potluck and silent auction. Bring the whole family and celebrate our growing

community.

Thank you all for your support, love and prayers. You are valued.

Grace and Peace,
Chris Bailey
SQAC Chairman

San Quentin Advisory Council

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WHAT A FRIEND

The journey, the trip, the experience. What an experience! Jesus was and is Lord. We saw Jesus in every part of the weekend. The 34 men in blue that met with us on Friday night were chosen by the Spirit. The weekend began, table talk started during the greeting and I was already amazed that the Jesus' Spirit was present.

The Angels were great; we were prayed for and taken care of with honor. They are always the servants of Kairos and this was no exception. The love of Jesus flowed.

The Agape was great, and a new poster type was tried. Our first challenge was possibly no string. Agape made the pages into 4'x 10' posters of agape prayers. It was very impressive when brought in as such big pieces and hung on the walls.

The song "Have You Seen Jesus My Lord" was in my mind. The next line is "He is here in plain view". It was evident from the back of the room that Jesus' reflection was on all faces. It was great to be able to have a different view of the weekend. I felt as if everyone else was working and I just got to enjoy God. It was refreshing to see Jesus' hands, feet and mouth being used with the faces of ones I know.

What a friend. The joy of leading a Kairos is that Jesus takes care of you; Jesus covers you with His grace. Jesus takes on the form of others. Jesus helps to increase His Body. We are the Church. It becomes so evident as friendships within His Church grows. The ecumenical part of

Kairos is so impressive; the agreement to work together is the goal. It was great to enjoy and be a part.

Thanks to prayer support, agape support, angels, palanca, team members, core and past leaders, the blessing was great for me. I backed into grace, your grace through Jesus. I pray that our God will bless you all and keep on giving to you and your families. Secondly, that the men in blue will never lose the love and joy that they received. Pray for them, as Satan will try to take their joy. God bless, keep and give you all that I wish I could, joy, peace and love.

Your XXXIII servant leader,
Larry Fitch

Prayer Angel Reflects

This was my first time serving on a Kairos team, although I have served on Kairos Outside teams previously. The experience was wonderful - working with the lovely women in our kitchen was great..

Cooking, serving and praying for our team was a blessing also.

I have to say that the most profound experience I had was when we went to church in San Quentin. I went to the service in the Protestant church. The service was astonishing in itself. The worship leaders and musicians were so talented! They ought to be making their own Christian CD's!

What really surprised me was how I felt while I was there. You need a little of my history to understand this. My first marriage ended with my husband in San Quentin for a year and later he went back again. We had two small daughters at the time and I was very angry at him for abandoning us by making poor choices. I would not

go see him and did not let the girls go very often either. Going into San Quentin stirred up all of these old resentments in me.

Once I was in the chapel and the beautiful service began, I felt compelled to talk to Jesus about my feelings from the past. I began to ask Him to forgive me for being so selfish and I prayed and cried and prayed. I felt so comfortable there. In this chapel in the middle of San Quentin, I found peace and forgiveness for the past. I felt that I was truly resting in the arms of God.

Funny how I started out trying to give something to the men in blue and it was there that I received the best gift.

- Diane Kennedy

A Kairos Experience

At the beginning of the Kairos weekend, I was told to have an open mind and be willing to share myself. Prior to the weekend I began to gain fear and anxiety not knowing what to expect. Upon the experience I began to feel a combination of feelings and an understanding of what being a Christian really is and what Jesus really was all about.

It was explained to me that Kairos means God's Time. Being a prisoner in prison, the experience I felt in Kairos allowed me to see for the first time that I am truly not alone. I am not alone on the earth and I am not alone in my heart. The battle is in my head with the choices of right and wrong. I have a much better perspective on myself, others, and God's love and forgiveness.

The testimonies I have heard over the weekend were powerful. The witness of the men on the outside is not much different than the ones I

hear at San Quentin. The difference is what they have done after God called them and how they listened. The hope I have inside, just confirmed the awesome healing power of God and how He can transform a person. I can honestly say that God's family is real and now I know I do belong in the right place for a reason.

Thank you God and God bless all of you.

– Jason Martinez

Indescribable

I experienced a spiritual awakening I never believe possible. I know all things are possible through Christ, but there are some things I never thought I would witness in this life. This past Memorial Day weekend God allowed me a blessing. I was given the opportunity to attend a Kairos retreat here at San Quentin. During the three and half day retreat I experienced the true essence of God's love. Men from every walk of life came together to not only teach, but also extend to us (the men of San Quentin) through their actions, the true meaning of God's word. Supported by the tireless efforts of the "Prayer Angels" (a group of amazing women), and countless prayers from around the world we embarked on a journey of enlightenment. Over the course of the retreat we were given an unobstructed view of what it means to be a true Christian. We were shown the steps we should take to have a closer fellowship with God and others. We were taught, as well as allowed to experience, the true meaning of Agape love.

Leading up to the start of Kairos curiosity would often get the best of me. I would seek out others that had already taken part in Kairos to find out what I could expect. The practice of all previous "candidates" of Kairos was to say "You have to experience it for yourself." The reason no one will describe Kairos is because it is indescribable. Words cannot give a person a true understanding of Kairos. The only way to truly understand it is to experience it.

I will simply say that with an open heart and mind I experienced how God's love, mercy, and grace enhanced my life. I also experienced how it feels to be truly lead by the Holy Spirit. During Kairos my faith was strengthened, and my desire to serve God was renewed. As Christians we all know that the everyday realities of the world can have a draining effect on our spirits, but what I took away from Kairos was a feeling of God breathing new life into my soul.

Lastly, I couldn't help but be a little saddened as my Kairos was nearing its end. That's until I found out we would still meet once a month. Not only did God bless me with a reignited spirit to serve Him, but He made sure the feeling of Kairos would continue by way of monthly fellowship. I will close by saying that my time at Kairos was full of wonderful and rewarding experiences. It is my opinion, desire, and more importantly my prayer that every individual experience this amazing time, God' Special Time, Kairos!

God Bless

-Derrick Edgerly

A Server's Thoughts

Kairos 8 happened a long time ago for me. That time was so impacted that I served with the inside Kairos team for three years. Experiencing life changing moments with other men and making friends along the way. After being relocated I lost contact with my Kairos community. When I arrived here I only wanted to participate in the closing. During my absence I forgot what Kairos meant to me. A time of hope, love unforgettable, and freedom overwhelming. Most importantly a time with God.

My primary goal was to make sure that every person experienced that moment. It is easy to serve and get lost in the hodgepodge of things and forget about intimacy you once experienced.

Kairos 33 brought to light the importance of sharing one's life with others. I saw the boundaries of incarceration leave from the faces of men, and the light of joy filling their ever frowning faces. Enlightened with the sense of love where no hope lies, where love dies daily and freedom comes rarely. All men holding hands and singing songs of joy. My place, your place, their place, wherever that place was we were in one accord. Doing what God commanded us to do along time ago. Love one another.

I don't ever want to forget about the inside server's team. Twelve men in all, most I knew, some I just met. The time Kairos afforded allowed us moments of sharing, caring, and embracing. This would not have happened if it was not for Kairos 33. An experience I'm sure we are all very grateful for.

-Bobby Brown
Head Server

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KAIROS SAN QUENTIN IS GOING ALL ELECTRONIC

In an opportunity to keep our costs down of both publication and mailing of the newsletter, this will be the last mass mailed newsletter from Kairos San Quentin.

In the future the newsletter will be e-mailed to all members on the council e-mail list. If you have been receiving e-mails from the SQAC you are on the e-mail list. If you would like to receive the electronic version of the newsletter send an e-mail to:

SQAC@kairossanquentin.org

If you wish to receive the mailed version of the newsletter, you must write to the SQAC at the council's PO box

and opt in for the mailing.
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We do not want anyone interested in or supporting Kairos San Quentin to be left out of the news and happening. If you wish to have the newsletter mailed you must write and request to receive the newsletter.

For the e-mailed version and the latest updates from the SQAC insure that you are on the e-mail list. Please send your e-mail right away.

Thank you for your support of the program at San Quentin.

WEBSITE

The Council's official method of communicating with the Kairos community is through our 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