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Additional Chatter Matters Article January 2011

Dear Justin,

This article was written and submitted well before time. To Mr. Jack Coderre and the Kairos community, please accept my deepest apologies for accidentally leaving it out of the January 2011 Chatter Matters. It is, in fact, beautifully written. I hope you will open your hearts to what Mr. Coderre has to say below.

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

In the Greek language the word Kairos is defined as the right time or the opportune time. The Kairos Prison Ministry weekends are God's special time ...His opportune time...to reach incarcerated men. The mission of Kairos is to bring Christ's unconditional love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work in the institutions, and to assist in the transition of becoming productive citizens.

The Savannah chapter of the Kairos Prison Ministry has hosted twenty- three Kairos weekends at Rogers State Prison in Reidsville over the past twelve years. The three-day weekends are structured very much like the Walk to Emmaus weekends. There are eleven specially designed talks followed by family table discussions and posters. Various types of agape, lots of Christian music, great food, and a sprinkling of surprise activities add to the fellowship enjoyed during the weekend.

Time after time the Lord provides amazing results during these weekends. They are truly mountaintop experiences for both participants and team members. Christ has saved many

inmates through these weekends and restored many more to Christian lives that have been dormant for years. God's mercy, forgiveness and love fill the hearts of these men and the transformation is a wonder to behold.

The best way to summarize the results of these weekends is to review the answers the participating inmates gave to three questions asked of them during a recent closing ceremony:

In what spiritual condition did you arrive on Thursday?

"Lacking faith...lonely...forgotten...a halfhearted Christian...broken...bitter...ashamed...hungry for fellowship and love...damaged...lost...searching...confused...rebellious towards God...etc."

What did you find here?

"Unbelievable and unconditional love...peace...joy...strength...Jesus...encouragement...grace from God...hope...unity...fellowship...acceptance...a living faith...Christian friends...how to let go and let God...etc."

What are you taking away?

"A new life...love...joy...Christian fellowship...God's love...brotherhood...spiritual food...God's grace...an unforgettable experience...salvation...etc."

Through an outpouring of prayers and volunteers willing to share His love, God has truly blessed this ministry.

The Kairos weekend team consists of 35-45 volunteers, including seven clergy (one for each table). Ages of volunteers range from the 20's to the 80's, and come from all denominations and all walks of life, working and retired. The only qualifications are to be a Christian, to pass state security requirements, and to be at least 21 years old. The primary qualification is a willingness to share God's unconditional love

with men thirsting for such love.

The Savannah chapter of Kairos has recently added Coastal State Prison to our ministry, doubling our need for volunteers. Given its proximity to our Savannah volunteers, many of our Rogers team members are migrating to serve on the Coastal Kairos team. As a result we need to strengthen our team at Rogers State Prison. We are especially looking for men in the Reidsville and surrounding areas that have experienced their own Walk to Emmaus weekend.

Our next Kairos weekend at Rogers State prison will be March 24-27, with team meetings scheduled to begin January 15th. If you want to volunteer to serve with this team, or want to hear more about the Kairos Prison Ministry, please contact Jack Coderre at (912) 598-3987 or coderrej@bellsouth.net. You will be blessed with an experience you will not soon forget.

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