**YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

**CLERGY TALK**

***20 minutes including introduction, prayer, presentation of agape, etc****.*

**Note to Speaker:**

*The objective of this Talk is to convey to the community that God created us to live in community and that God gave us free will which sometimes is in conflict with the community. To point out that we need not only the presence of God in our lives, which is promised to us in the scriptures, but we need the help of others. To demonstrate that others do, in fact, exist, and are earnestly working on our behalf whether we choose to respond or not.*

*NOTE:* ***10 Minutes of this talk should be devoted to the talk itself and the other 10 minutes to explanation and reading of General Agape including introduction of the prayer vigil/wheel showing dates, times and the names of persons who have committed to pray for this Kairos.***

PRAYER: Kairos Community Prayer, pg.11, Freedom Guide

***Speaker introduces self, telling name, whether lay or clergy person and giving name of talk.*** *This information should also be displayed on a poster board, flip chart sheet, or be written on chalk board.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

In the last talk, we looked at some of the choices we have made in life. Those choices were our own, that is, we made them ourselves.

If we look in the Bible at the very earliest story of man, in the story of creation, the first thing God notes about the man He has just made we read, Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for the man to be alone." This theme is repeated several times in the Bible.

*Read Ecclesiastes 4:7‑12 from marked Bible*

So, what I am, what I have become, and what I will become, all depend not just on the free choices and decisions I make and the goals I set for myself, but they also depend on who I run with, who runs with me...

I. Sometimes our free choices and our community are in conflict.

A. Sometimes our goals and choices are to head in a given direction, but the people we run with can steer us away from our goals.

*Relate an experience when the speaker was low and there was no one there to help.*

B. Good things can happen when our goals and choices and the people we are running with are all headed in the same direction.

*Relate an experience when the Christian community came to the aid of the speaker while he/she was low.*

II. In the Old Testament, God promises us He will be with us.

*The following are examples: use one or two only!!*

A. His promise to Abraham and Sarah‑ Gen. 17:1‑8, 18:19; 21:1‑2; 22:15‑18; 26:1‑5.

B. His promise to Moses to lead his people to the promised land‑Gen. 50:22‑25; Exod. 3:15‑17, 12:25.

C. Jer. 31:31‑34, 32:36‑44.

III. In the New Testament, God promises to be with us and to help us. *The following are examples: use one or two only!*

A. You will do greater things than I ‑ John 14:12‑13.

B. Without me you can do nothing ‑ John 15:5.

C. I can do all things in Him who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13.

D. But, we must use our free will and make a choice to be open to the Spirit of God.

E. To Mary in Luke 1:26-38

F. Luke 24:49

G. John 14:26-27

IV. God's promise to be present to us becomes real to us through the Church. One of the ways in which the Church offers its presence to us is by its activity of affirming (lifting up) people that they might become open to God's embrace.

A. How does one believe in something one does not understand? Can not see?

B. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to believe.

C. How do we know that what we want to believe is a reality?

1. We do it by action.

a. We do it by stepping out, by trusting that God is there and is going to do what we hear him saying He is going to do.

b. We step forth on the journey to which He calls us and then, after we've walked that journey a bit, we look behind ourselves where we've walked. When we do that, we find that the landscape we've covered is littered with evidence of God's presence with us on our journey.

2. We can not do it alone. God sends his Holy Spirit to us and together we can do all things.

D. That act of stepping out in trust, when you don't know, is FAITH.

E. Discovering that you are accompanied by God as you begin to walk is GRACE.

1. ***(At this time the speaker (or an assistant) holds up the Prayer Vigil Chain or Wheel poster)***

ALL OVER THE WORLD THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AND ARE NOW PRAYING FOR US; FOR WE ARE CHOSEN PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP THE COMMUNITY GOD HAS CALLED TO BE KAIROS NUMBER \_\_\_ IN . THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY PRAYING FOR YOU BUT THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE PRAYING FOR YOU, THAT IN THEIR PRAYER FOR YOU THEIR ARMS ARE OPEN TO DRAW YOU INTO THE EMBRACE OF A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. TO CONVEY THIS LOVE TO YOU THEY OFFER WRITTEN EXPRESSIONS OF THIS LOVE AND PRAYER.

A. There is a special word we use to describe such written expressions: **Agape**. It refers to personal and group prayer, and personal sacrifice on behalf of others, that they might become more open to God's loving embrace.

B. These people who are praying for us are Christians, empowered by the Holy Spirit of God.

1. They are people who believe in the power of prayer, who believe that God is alive and active in our lives, and that, though He will not violate our free will, He does love us and is calling us to live in friendship with Him.

2. They are from various denominations, just as we are.

3. *(Following the first Weekend in the institution, say:* There are people in this institution who have been praying for months for God's will to be done during this Kairos Weekend.

C. These praying people, these Christ‑bearers, are the Church and the Church wants each and every one of us to be a part of it.

D. Some of them have sent written expressions of their prayers on our behalf.

*(The speaker should take care in presenting these expressions to seek the heart of Christ's message of love in each piece presented and not just read the name of the sender which can be an empty experience. Expressions should be presented beginning with that coming from nearby, then from locations progressively distant.)*

1. Local.

2. State.

3. Nearby states.

4. Other parts of nation.

5. North and South America.

6. Elsewhere around the world.

*NOTE TO SPEAKER: As you finish with each banner, poster or letter, a Table Servant should be waiting to take it from you and pass several pieces to each Family Table. After several minutes, collect all and post on the walls. Remind the community to view all the agape at the next break.*

VI. CONCLUSION.

WE ARE LOVED. FOR THE REST OF THIS WEEKEND, WE WILL BE RECEIVING MORE OF AGAPE AND WE WILL BE PLACING ON THE WALLS FOR YOU TO SEE. Gentlemen/ladies, GOD IS AT WORK ON OUR BEHALF, PREPARING US TO

BECOME A SUPPORTING COMMUNITY.

Please bow your heads for two minutes of silent meditation. *(Speaker walks away)*