**HANG IN THERE**

Weekend Leader’s talk

20 minutes plus 10 minutes for grouping

**Note to Speaker:**

*(The objective is to convey to the Residents that what they have experienced here is only the beginning, that from this point on, every day of their lives can be renewed and filled with the love and joy of God; that this can also be the beginning for a new kind of life for the entire compound if they will be faithful to the love of Christ, support each other in that love, and share that love throughout the compound.)*

Prayer: Kairos Community Prayer, Page 11, FG

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

What we have experienced this Weekend is only the beginning of a life-long journey with God which will continually open new dimensions for our lives and will become more and more rewarding with each passing year.

On Thursday night, I asked four things of you:

1. Don’t judge the Weekend until you’ve experienced it
2. Your enthusiasm
3. Have an open heart and an open mind
4. To get involved

From what I’ve seen, you’ve honored every one of those requests. I see a new joy in this room, yes? I see men/women who have been included in a new Family, yes? *(Wait for response)* And I see a new hope, yes? *(Wait for response)*  Who is the church? *(Wait for* *response)*

This can also be a beginning for a new kind of life for the whole compound. This Kairos Weekend was not prepared by the team just so we could have a great Weekend and eat a lot of cookies. As we step out in faith, trusting God’s love, and knowing that Christ will be active in our lives, we need to support each other. Earlier we said that everyone in this room is a sinner, all of us. But look at the team; they truly care for each other, pray for each other, and support each other. If we didn’t, we couldn’t and wouldn’t be here because of our human nature. Now take that concept to another level: share what you’ve found this Weekend, this caring, and share it with others in the compound. We team members cannot go out into the compound, we cannot be where they work or play; but each one of you can!

I. Being Christian means entering a Christian community of God’s people

1. Make a commitment to want the best for them

1. They will do the same for you
2. **There are no Lone Rangers in Christianity**

II. The chaplain is the chief shepherd of this community.

1. He/she works to help create unity and understanding of all the members

1. He/she will search for ways to help each one of you to find your place and to share your gifts.
2. He/she needs your encouragement and support just as much as you. We all need to pull together.

III. But I should tell you that there are two dangers to avoid in the days ahead:

* **Believing we are something**: Can you see how easy it would be for any of us to become a Pious Pete or a Holy Joe? We are and can be effective instruments in this compound only through God’s power, not our own.
* **Believing we are nothing**: Because the world behind this chapel door is largely an un-Christian world and a very threatening and dangerous place, how easy would it be to slip off into our own little corner of the compound to protect ourselves because we think we’re nothing?
* A life in Christ calls for courage, a courage that we can certainly pray for. Don’t forget that we can do all things with God’s help. Christ and you are an overwhelming majority.

IV. With all of that said, what are some additional tools we can give you?

A. **The Instructional Reunion:** some members of this team will be here

*(give time and date)* to present a one-day workshop on how to form prayer-and- share groups. Everyone here will be on a call-out sheet for this event. These prayer-and-share groups are the basic unit of the Kairos ministry and are your best guarantee of being able to hang on to what you’ve found this Weekend. You will be taught how to come together in a 4-6 man/woman group, all who have had the same experience. Between now and then, you will need to seek those with whom you are compatible.

**B. Weekly Prayer-and-Share Grouping**

* 1. Once you are in a group, you can meet every week with that group.
  2. You can either do this under the organized guidance of the chaplain in one large gathering place like this chapel or the gym.
  3. You can also share Christian fellowship in the chow hall, in the canteen, in the weight room, on the track, or in your dorm or wing.
  4. A positive feature of this Weekly Christian fellowship is that it is your group and your time.
* There will not be any free-world volunteers involved
* You will share your spiritual needs and prayer requests with the others; they will share with you
* All of you will pray for each other, those who are absent, and for all Christ-bearers in the compound.

**C. The Kairos Monthly Reunion:**

The Kairos team will be coming back each month as your guests here at

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while you and any previous Kairos Resident attendees will be our

hosts. Consider this a “grouping of groups” of all Kairos members in the

compound. There will be a defined schedule which all of you, under the direction

of the chaplain, will follow. We’ll be here to assist all of the Kairos graduates with

their prayer-and-share groups to bond with each other, and not us. Your inside

community, with help from the chaplain, will be responsible for the planning and

organizing of these reunions.

1. **The 2-Day (or in case: 1-Day) Residents’ Retreat:** These Retreats are open to all Residents in the institution who have attended a 3 ½-day Weekend and are cleared to attend. They are held 3 months after each Weekend, and while similar to a Weekend, our talks are shorter and there are no summaries or posters. There will be lots of prayer-and-share time. Now to help you with the concept of prayer-and-share grouping, we want you to participate in a short demonstration of what it involves.

*(Have the* *Family* *Table servants pass out grouping cards to everyone)*

Notice on the card that there is the Kairos Community Prayer that we used before every talk this Weekend and a list of 7 items for you to cover on the next page. Today we will concentrate only on one item, number 2. Your Family Table Leader will give you instructions on how to proceed. Please begin.

*( The Family Table workers will oversee the Participant Pairs in the grouping demonstration. At the end of ten minutes, have all return their chairs to their original position so this talk can be finished)*

*Resume the talk after the grouping demonstration:*

A major ingredient in forming prayer-and-share groups is the ability to pray for each other. This may be the first time you’ve ever prayed for another brother/sister, and you may be somewhat nervous about it. Just follow the instructions of your Family Table Leader and I promise that this may be one of the most rewarding times for you this Weekend. Please begin.

*Note: This ends the Talk.*