

KAIROS NECX INSIDE NEWSLETTER



Northeast Correctional Complex (NECX)
Mountain City, Tennessee



Two Kairos Christmas Parties at NECX

By George Fulwider

For the first time, Kairos was able to have two Christmas Parties for the Kairos graduates at NECX.

One was held on the main compound for more than 200 men, and a week later, we were in the Annex for 22 men.

We were blessed with a gift from a church in Kingsport to be able to provide a sub sandwich meal with vegetable sides and a Christmas Cupcake.

Continued on page 2, Christmas Party



Thoughts of Christmas

By Scott Stodola

I would like to begin by saying, Merry Christmas to you and your families.

For those that know me, and for those that do not, I spent 28 years in prison. I have been home now for 2 1/2 years, and Christmas has always been my favorite holiday.

For most people who are incarcerated, and I know this from first hand experience, the holidays are a very depressing time for obvious reasons.

Continued on page 2, Thoughts



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Kairos Makes The Difference3
- A Look Back on Leading A Kairos Weekend.....4

Christmas Party continued

There were 19 volunteers who greeted each graduate with warm smiles, handshakes, and a hug.

After the meal was served, there was Christmas music sung by all and a scripture reading of Luke 2 telling the story of Jesus' birth.

It was so nice to see some of the residents who we haven't seen for a while.

The second party in the Annex was much smaller but just as warm and welcoming with music and scripture.

We are hopeful the parties were encouraging for the residents as they work through the difficulty of separation from their families during the holiday season.



Thoughts continued

During this time of year, the separation from family is truly felt. Some do not have family to call and talk to, and it is truly harder for them. For those who do have family that continues to support them through this time of incarceration, it is hard, but at the same time, much easier to do "time".

In some institutions there will be "special" menus created just for the holidays. This meal will be as close to a holiday meal as is feasible. In some, its just another day on the calendar.

Often times, churches will have special services either on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. I have actually been in both. In one we actually had a Christmas Eve candlelight service that was actually later in the evening.

There are many things that you may be thinking about in the coming days. I ask you to think about, and pray for those men and women who can not be with family at this time.

For 28 years while I was in prison, my family was there for me and I tried to make the best that I could, not only for me, but those around me.

There were two Christmas Programs that I never

missed, It's A Wonderful Life, and Charlie Brown Christmas.



You see, I often thought about what life would've been like if I were not here. I related to George Bailey, of course different circumstances, but same thinking. Now, I used to watch this movie before allowing my addictions to get the best of me and going to prison. But it really made sense after being in prison. I got it. I saw the big picture. I had a guardian angel like Clarence to show me my life.

I would like to share the story of the Birth of Christ just as Linus did so many years ago.

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



Continued page 3, Thoughts

Thoughts continued

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.’ That’s what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.”

It was that simple all those years ago, and that is the message of not only Christmas, but the message every single day. Christ came to this earth. God came to this earth. God lived among us then, and He lives among us now.

Please join me in praying for our brothers and sisters.

Father, we pray for those men and women whom society looks down upon. Father, we pray that your Holy Spirit moves about freely upon these men and women who are cut off from their families as we celebrate the birth of Your Son Jesus Christ. May You bless each of your sons and daughters behind bars with a peace that transcends all understanding, a strength to endure what they must, the courage to make a difference not only in their lives and their families lives, but in the lives around them. We also pray Father for the families of all that have a loved one incarcerated. May you bless them in a most abundant way that would move mountains in each of their lives as well. We ask for nothing but Your best upon each of their lives. It is in Your Sons name, Jesus Christ, in which we pray, +AMEN



Kairos Makes The Difference
By Jim Hawley

Can you imagine that God would have a revival break out in prisons? Can you also imagine that Kairos is one of God’s Pet Projects? Well, I believe both of these statements are true. If Christ was born in a dirty old stable, it seems highly possible that revival can break out in prisons.

Revival is defined as the restoration of spiritual vigor. It refers to the reawakening to the path of God’s love from a state of stagnancy. Through this revival, the believer will redevelop a love for God, start appreciating His Holiness, have a passion for His Word, develop respect towards the Church, be aware of their sins, ingrain humility, and have the desire to repent for the sin. Through this, the believer will grow to become righteous.

Can you believe that all of these things happen on

each and every Kairos Weekend and especially to show the Love and Forgiveness of Jesus Christ? The weekend is a Spiritual High that the likes are seldom seen on the outside. For me, the Holy Spirit is more apparent during Kairos events that any other time in the free world.



What a privilege to have these kinds of experiences! Kairos offers not only blessings to the residents, it also offers blessings to the volunteers. The Bible says it is our mission to “Spread the Good News?” to everyone we come in contact with. Kairos “Lights the Fire” in so many people, even in one of the darkest places you can imagine.

Revival has already happened at the darkest prison in the country. Angola in Louisiana had the worst reputation of any prison, yet through programs like “Experiencing God” and Kairos, it has turned around and is now a prison turning out Christian Leaders.

Continued page 4, The Difference

The Difference continued

In fact, Billy Graham visited Angola and ordered his casket from the woodshop at the prison. It was made by “Cricket”, one of their gifted cabinet-makers. Now that is Making the Difference. We are anxious to bring that “Angola Experience” to NECX sometime in the future.

Perhaps this message will reach potential new volunteers. If it does, I pray they will have their “Socks Blown Off”. Perhaps this message will inspire other existing volunteers to join in Prayer and Share on Tuesday nights and develop/continue relationships that “Put a Smile on God’s Face”.



A Look Back on Leading a Kairos Weekend By Brad Wilson

Listen - Listen to the Holy Spirit. If God is telling you to ask a person on your team to do a specific thing, maybe you should consider doing so. Don't be discouraged if it doesn't work out, maybe God had something else in mind for that person.

Listen - Listen to your team. You have a support system for a reason, this isn't your weekend it is God's. Listen to your mentors and people who have been doing this longer than you. God might be using these people to help you and you may not know it.

Love - Love the talents given to your team by God's good grace. Use the plan given to you in the Kairos Silver Manual. Use EZRA, and love keeping it up to date as you go. Love the fact your efforts will pay off.

Love - Love the fact that God has chosen your community to do things in His name. Love the people you'll be



presented with before you even meet them. Love your team and let them serve God as well. Love the fact that God is in control, and you aren't.

Pray - Pray for your team before you even begin selecting them, pray that every person on the team has an encounter with Christ as much as the participants will. Pray you get out of the way of what God wants to do with His team.

Pray - Pray for the safety of all those involved with the Kairos weekend, including the team, the support team, the participants, and the staff at your facility. Pray that God is glorified with the efforts and the Holy Spirit will continue the work started as you come down from the mountain.

Leading a Kairos weekend can be a bittersweet endeavor, it takes a lot of planning and sacrifices, and when it is over, you will feel a sense of relief and accomplishment. Encourage others to take the challenge, but also offer your help to future leadership teams.