

Reactions and Responses from Kairos 40 Participants:

“Never in my life had I experienced the love that brothers had like that. They showed me something very special.”

This walk has made me realize that (1) we have an eternal thirst, (2) we have eternal value, and (3) nothing but the eternal God can truly satisfy us. During Kairos I learned that patience grants us control and perseverance grants us the ability to go through what seems to be impossible.

It's great to get re-energized with God's love from so many people. I left the event with a cleansed soul, and a brighter outlook on life. And definitely closer to the Lord!

When I came to Kairos I only expected to be fed some good food but what I received was, how I've been suffering from all the bad choices I've made, were because of me. I've learned how to forgive myself and how to ask God to forgive me and know that I can let it go. I was fed some AGAPE love and how to forgive others and love them truly. I was fed friendship, I was fed how to submit to God and not be afraid of God's love and to take that leap of faith. I've learned how choices work in my life and how they affect others.

When I came to Kairos I felt despair, loneliness, and guilt. I felt I had been abandoned. I was alone, vulnerable, afraid, and depraved spiritually. I felt that I was unworthy of love. Through my Kairos experience I have learned to tear down the walls I have built around myself. I have also learned to take a leap of faith, trusting in the Lord. Thank you so much for this opportunity and the donations you give to help make this possible.

I want to thank everybody in Kairos inside and outside for all the food they gave us. It was very good and thank you all ladies that did the cooking; it was delicious so keep up your good work in the Name of Jesus Christ.

You do not really understand the impact this has had on us and how it has enriched our lives to be shown unmerited kindness. Being incarcerated over time can cause us to become calloused, bitter, and unapproachable due to the environment we live in and the experiences we endure over long periods of time. But being exposed to real agape love that is not judgmental, hypocritical or insensitive to our feelings. Everything about those four days I felt and saw how God uses those who are willing to engage hurt, broken, and rejected men to show that we still matter. That the prodigal son can still return home and be loved and celebrated. I was accepted and I belonged here. It revived and strengthened my spirit.

I would like to take the time to thank you for your help in making Kairos #40 happen at the Wainwright Unit. It's wonderful to know there are people who have God's love flowing through them.

Thank you for supporting us in this experience. We could not have felt this love without your support.

This was the most spiritual time I have ever spent in prison. Men in here ask me how was it? All I could say was I have never cried so much in my life and I felt the hand of God touch my heart. As I sat in the prayer circle I felt God talk to my heart and tell me it's time to let it go, stop holding on to your past, give it to Me and I will set you free. And I did. I felt weights of shame, guilt, loneliness, pain, hurts, regret, unforgiveness leave my whole body. The heaviness of sin gone just like God said it would.

My name is Justin and I am 37 years old – serving 2-20 year sentences. About to be done with the first. I did not believe in God in the world. So coming to Kairos has been a big change in my life. Understanding that what I needed came not from other people but from filling a void in me with the love of God. I needed more than anything to learn to let go. I have been holding on to so much pain that it showed as an evil person on the outside of me. But when we wrote those names (of people to forgive), I wrote mine the biggest. He lit them on fire and I felt this heaviness lift. I cried for the first time in years. Thank you so much for helping not just me, but my son, my daughter, my sisters, my brothers, and my father. Because now I can be the man they need me to be. I can be the vessel to show and give God's love.

Kairos gives people meaning and reminds them of their purpose. It gives us hope and encourages us to press forward toward a relationship with God. The food was great but we all got filled up on fellowship and spiritual growth. Even the ones who wanted nothing to do with Christ couldn't help but feel the love the volunteers brought inside a place where no hope was supposed to exist.

All that we experienced this weekend reminded us all how much people still care for us. The feeling of normality was such a blessing all on its own.

I'll admit that I was only expecting to eat some good food and listen to people preach about God like they do on Sundays. But it was so much more personal than what I thought. I haven't seen or felt that much love in the last 23 years of my incarceration or even perhaps in my life, if truth be told. I got a better understanding of the relationship that I have been missing with God. I came away from this weekend with a new family. If I hadn't experienced this weekend, I wouldn't have requested to be baptized. I wouldn't be seeking classes to learn more about God and how I may better serve Him. Nor would I be actually trying to get to know the people I live around. Listening to see how I may be able to help. I thank God for the feeling of purpose that He has placed in my heart.