

Dear Brethren in Colors,

Hi, how are you? I do hope that you are fine and feeling well, and I also hope this letter will find you and your loved ones all to be in good health and in a joyful spirit, and enjoying all of the wonderful blessings our Heavenly Father has to bestow upon you!

I am writing this letter in hopes that I can impress upon your minds and hearts the importance that must be placed upon the necessity of keeping the Kairos community strong within the prison system.

I cannot tell you emphatically enough the massive impact Kairos has made on the prison environment and in the lives of Kairos members, (even non-members), who live behind these walls in another world that the 'free-world' doesn't know a whole lot about, -other than the Hollywood hype you see on television that comes nowhere near the truth of what prison life is actually like, (in most ways people tend to imagine.)

Yes, prison life can be harsh, and yes, there are some tough & rough characters who reside here. But those types are (usually) segregated away from the general population. No, prison is not a country-club and no, prisoners do not have an abundance of luxuries to help make their time 'easy'.

Here let me make one noteworthy exception. Namely, the 'Kairos program'. In prison it is special to the brothers in white, and even to the officers who wear grey, and other administrative officials as well as education and medical staff members.

Kairos is noteworthy in that it has transformed the atmosphere of prisons so that the prisoners are now safer than before, thereby making it easier for prisoners to serve their sentences and return home to their families safely.

It is now a safer work environment for officers and other administrative officials, and much more hospitable and welcoming to outside visitors who are the real reason Kairos is able to work so well on the inside.

Most offenders serving time in prison come from broken homes that were filled with abuse and/or neglect. They come from drug infested and gang infested neighborhoods where they are taught to be cold, hard and indifferent for the sake of their own survival.

One can only imagine the immense God-sized void in their lives. I can imagine it because I myself come from just such a background and I know firsthand the harsh reality of all that I have just described.

When I first came to prison, nearly 30 years ago, life was nothing for me but pain, fear, anger, loneliness, depression, confusion and lack of clear purpose, low self-esteem, the list can go on...

I tried to fit in where I could get in so that I could maintain some sense of control of what all was going on around me. I wanted to be accepted and not rejected because society had already made it's rejection of me plain and clear.

I had lost my freedoms but I had not lost my pride, and when pride is all you have to work with life really begins to take turns for the worse because everything becomes a challenge between egos or one man's pride versus anothers. Arguments and violence ensues everytime. This creates no-win situations, one after another and another until it almost makes you want to break within, or, to keep from doing that, break something or someone away from yourself. There is really no positive way to ventilate pent-up emotions inside of prison.

There were so many pressures and pains in my life from so many different directions that I was completely at the end of my rope and hanging by a mere thread. I don't know what would have happened had that thread have broken but I do know that God saved me in that crucial moment in time. And for that I am very thankful.

I think you have a general idea of what my spiritual condition was like leading up to my first experience with the Kairos program.

When I first became involved with Kairos ██████████ I couldn't believe what was then happening to me and to the other men around me. God had reached down from His throne in Heaven and touched our heart's with the tip of His finger, and with a touch He began a great healing within us. We would never be the same again afterwards. Or at least I knew the 'I' wouldn't!

I was filled with emotions I didn't know I was capable of feeling. I felt different. I saw things different. And even though it was all so strange, it was strange in a very good way. All I know was that after experiencing all the things I did, I definitely did want more of it!

I began to take Kairos very seriously. I have to admit that I am able to take Kairos seriously because of the brothers and sisters on the outside who took it seriously first themselves. If they had not taken it seriously and brought it to us brothers in white behind these walls we never would have had those experiences to begin with and we would still be stuck in our prisons within this prison.

I cannot thank the outside brothers and sisters enough for the care and concern they have shown and the time and the effort they have put into making freedom on the inside possible.

I make it a point to never miss a single Kairos meeting. I've grown tremendously in the Lord since I've been a member and so have the other brothers in white. Many, many lives have been changed for the better because of the difference Kairos has made in the lives of so many people not only on the inside but also in the lives of so many people on the outside, as brothers make parole and return to their families and use what they have acquired from Kairos to mend those broken homes and relationships into something functional. It is common ██████ for many convicts to win their family members and friends to the Lord that they may come to know and love the Lord also and be saved.

It is my fervent prayer and desire that more people on the outside will become involved in this great work that is taking place within these prison walls.

Kairos is changing hearts and minds, attitudes and outlooks. Everyones best interest is at stake. Whether it be the prisoner's best interest, or the gaurds, or families, or society in general. Everyone stands to benefit.

I implore you to keep in mind the words of the Bible that tell us that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." That "there is none righteous, no not one." That "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" for all who would accept Him. That His grace is sufficient for all repentant sinners. And that we are to take the Gospel to every part of the world, especially to the darkest places (such as prison) so that God's light can shine as a city on a hill.

Would you consider being a part of this great work that is taking place by participating in or just showing your support? Your participation and support will bring down blessings upon your heads if you will just trust in the Lord who challenges us to see if He will not open the windows of the storehouse of heaven and rain down blessings upon us that we will not even have room to store it.

May God bless you and keep you. keep you safe in His loving embrace. That is my prayer and blessing for you in the mighty name of Jesus! Thank you for considering my words.

Sincerely & Respectfully,
Your brother in white,

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