

*ALTAVISTA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



THE LINK

JULY 1, 2019

OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

My Kairos Prison Ministry

Day 3 and 4

This month I am completing my Kairos experience during or spring walk in April. Please forgive me for not finishing this article last month, no excuse I just missed the deadline to submit my article. The article in May covered the 1st and 2nd days. The 3rd day begins at 5:00 am for me with Prayer and Devotionals and a special prayer for the men and team members at my table. At 7:00am The Kairos Team meets at the church in Chatham about a mile from the prison to pray over the team leader and the speakers for today. The church is a Methodist church that has been letting us use their facility for over 15 years and their pastor is a team member. After Prayer we head to the prison to go through clearance so we can begin at 8:00 AM. We will have coffee and cookies ready once they come through the door.

Thursday is a day of seeking, questioning. It is a day of charity, a day of personal challenge and it is a day we will talk to everyone about Jesus Christ being present everywhere, noting the power of His presence when two or more are gathered together in prayer, and we will be called the apostles. By this day the

team should know everyone at the tables on either side of them and by Friday we should know all 42 participants. Each Family will start making Chapel visits today. To refresh your memory each table is designated as a table with the name of an apostle my table name is James. We also encourage the participants to have counseling session with designated clergy this is usually the time when they make a commitment to Christ.

It is 8:00 AM and the men start coming in with smiles on their faces their host are greeting them and checking with them to make sure everything is alright and whether they are having any problems. The men we host are not usually in our family table. All 42 return for the 3rd day after about 15 minutes of socializing we head to the chapel as a family they are asked to take their freedom guide (a small book with different prayers) and their song books. 1st talk is a Clergy meditation "WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? And FORGIVENESS OF OTHERS". During the Forgiveness meditation each person is given a small piece of rice paper and told to put the name of everybody they need to forgive and at a ceremony at the end of the day they will put the rice paper in some water and it will dissolve and they will forgive all those names forgiveness is a major step to gaining salvation. At the end of chapel, we head back to the large room for coffee and cookies and we only have two Talks for today "Discovery through Study" and "Christian Action". We spend more time at the tables during a lot of one on one talks trying to get a feel for their state of mind. We spend time singing Christian songs as a group, we have a song leader and musicians. We sing Blessing and have lunch for about 45 mins. After lunch we head back to the chapel for Clergy Meditations, the topics are PRAYER FOR ACCEPTANCE OF OTHERS. During the evening posters are made by each table and we have a poster party where each table has to present a poster about one of the talks and explain with the drawing on the poster what the talk meant to their table. It is a lot of fund and the men really have a good time and you can see the change in them from the 1st day they came through the door. Dinner is served and it isn't tasting any better. After dinner we have open mic and each participant can get up and have two minutes to tell what these few days have meant to them usually about half will get up and say something, it is very hard for some to get up to speak and several don't speak English. Later we have the forgiveness ceremony and while that is going on round 7 pm some of the team members are in the four main buildings passing out cookies and cards to the 1200 residents at GreenRock, we drop them at their cell door and after we leave the doors are opened for them to pick them up. As the team members get back to the forgiveness ceremony there is a very quiet like feeling in the building and as the ceremony ends there is no talking they leave quietly to meditate on what they did. This has been a longest day of the week and you get the feeling that a lot has changed for these men they seem happy and looking forward to Friday the last

day with mixed emotions majority of them have never had anybody to treat them the way the team has shown love and concern for them and some don't know how to process what they are feeling. The definition of "Kairos" is "God's Special Time" and tonight that is exactly what it is. This article for day 3 has run longer than expected so the day 4 the final day will have to be next month and I promise not to miss the deadline.

Ron

HAPPENING THIS SUMMER!

Bible Study — On Summer Break

Bible Study, which normally meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, will be on hold during the summer. Expect courses to resume on August 6th.

Prayer Fellowship

Prayer Fellowship meets on the **Second, Fourth, and Fifth Wednesdays** in the Pastor's Study at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to join us in prayers for our church, community, nation, and the world. If you have any prayer requests for the Fellowship, please contact the main office.

Pastor Ed is on Family Leave through July 7th. Expect it to resume on July 10th.

Youth Group — On Summer Break

Youth Group, which normally meets on the Second and Third Sundays 5:00 PM, will be on hold during the summer. Expect meetings to resume on August 11th.

Have a happy and safe summer!

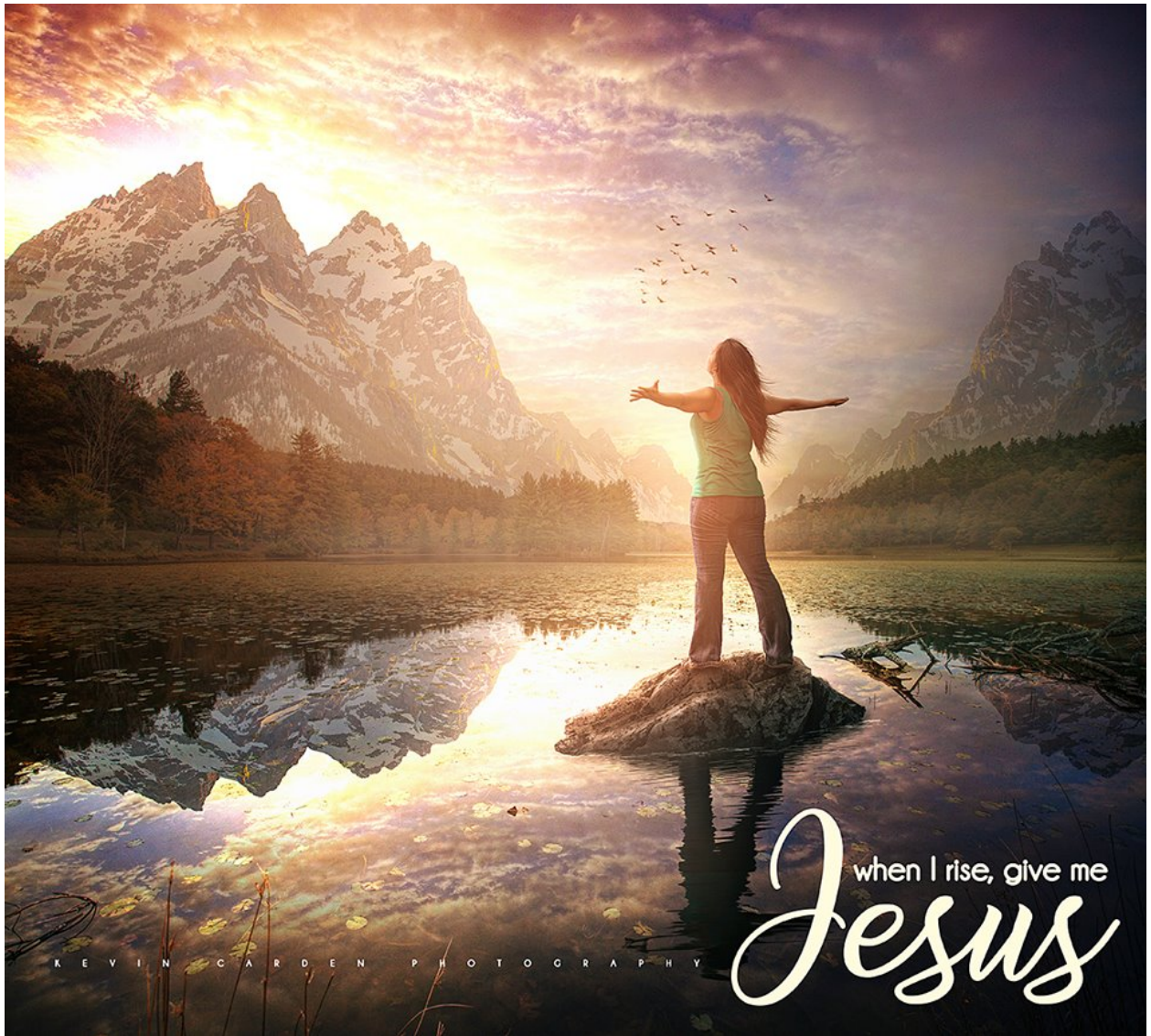
JULY

Birthdays		Anniversaries
1	Rob Gilliam	
10	Cynthia Erb, Roger Giles	Roger & Linda Giles
18		Ed & Betsy Soto
19	Anne Mabry	
26	Essie Moore	
27	Dolores Drumheller, Beverly Eubank	
30	Gary Andrews	



MONTH of JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 12 Noon -Men's Lunch – Hibachi Grill, Lynchburg	3 No Second Helping Lunch	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5	6
7 10 AM Worship Children's Church Skip Wodke Preaching Montreat Youth Conference 7 th -13 th	8 9 AM- 3 PM Camp Peaks 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	9 9 AM- 3 PM Camp Peaks 5:30 PM C.E Mtg.	10 9 AM- 3 PM Camp Peaks 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	11 9 AM- 3 PM Camp Peaks 5:50 PM Camp Peaks Family Picnic	12 9 AM- 3 PM Camp Peaks	13
14 10 AM Worship Communion Children's Church	15 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	16 12 Noon -Men's Lunch – Applebee's	17 9:30 AM APC Serves Lunch @ Lynchburg Daily Bread 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch 5:30 PM Property Mtg. in Adult SS Room	18	19	20
21 10 AM –Worship Children's Church Session Meeting after Worship	22 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	23	24 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	25 8 AM Life Line Screening -FH	26	27
28 10 AM Worship Children's Church	29 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH August Link Deadline	30	31 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch			



K E V I N C A R D E N P H O T O G R A P H Y

when I rise, give me
Jesus

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