

BE A PART OF THIS MINISTRY: WRITE A LETTER

KAIROS is a Christian prison ministry whose goal is to Christianize the prison environment. You can help this ministry by writing short personal letters to the inmates. This is a form of what Kairos refers to as “AGAPE”. Agape is the offering of unconditional love to another person with no expectation of receiving anything in return. It is wanting the very best for another person and being willing to be used by God to move them toward that “best” without regard to personal sacrifice. Written agape provides encouragement, support, and expresses God's love to the resident attending the weekend. These letters provide examples of God's overflowing love for His children and the presence of that love in Christian people everywhere. It is a love seldom encountered in the everyday lives of these inmates. Your loving words provide a long lasting reminder of God's love for the inmate, in spite of their deeds and present surroundings.

CONTENT

Keep it **short** and **personal**. Express God's love for the resident and encourage him to explore a closer relationship with God.

DO NOT include the writer's address. Letters written by children MUST NOT include the child's last name. (Just first name and age only)

Pictures drawn by children ARE wonderful and especially touching to men in an adult prison.

ENVELOPES

Envelopes are to be plain (white preferred).

No stickers, decorative stamps, logos, or designs are to be added to the envelope.

KAIROS WRITTEN AGAPE SAMPLE LETTERS

SAMPLE #1

Dear Brother in White,

I pray that you may be filled with God's grace all throughout this weekend. God has chosen you from among many to experience what it can be like to be in a genuine Christian Community. I want you to know that God loves you very much and wants the best for you. Please let God come into your life anew and know that when life is difficult, God is there to meet you. Let God use you to be a light to others in your unit. Be the Apostle that He calls us all to be. His grace is sufficient for us all!!

I also pray that you will be a faithful member of a Prayer and Share group, so that your experience of Kairos may continue to grow daily. May the peace of Jesus our Lord be always with you. Amen!

SAMPLE #2

Dear Brother in Christ,

“Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so” This simple song assures us of the Forgiving Father that we all have. The story of the prodigal Son is yet another story that is our story. We all sin, but God forgives if we accept the gift of His love. May this special time of your Kairos lead you to accept anew God’s call to you to be his disciple. I am praying for you as I write this note and I thank God for you in Jesus name, Amen!

SAMPLE #3

Dear Brother in White,

I want to let you know that God loves you. I also want you to know that there are people in our church and in many others that are praying for you right now. We pray that you may find and be found by God. Please accept the offer that Jesus makes to all of us: the offer of a personal relationship with Him. He is waiting with His grace, His peace, and His love. Amen!

42 Agape Letters

On Saturday during the Weekend, all 42 participants will receive a bag full of letters. EVERY team member is expected to write a brief personal note to ALL 42 participants. That sounds like a lot... and it is IF you try to do it all at one time. But if you spread it out over several weeks prior to the Weekend, you can do it easily. Some team members choose to write more lengthy letters using standard 8 1/2" by 11" notebook or printer paper. Others prefer to use smaller writing pads. The choice is yours.

As you begin to write your letters, you most likely will NOT have the names of the participants. Although YOU may not know who the letter will go to, GOD KNOWS. So write with confidence knowing that HE will see to it that your words get to the right person. When addressing the letters, rather than using a general salutation such as

“Dear Brother in Christ”, many team members prefer to write their letters in advance with NO GREETING and then wait until the last minute to fill in the names. HOWEVER, IF YOU DO THIS, BE SURE TO BRING AND USE THE SAME PEN YOU WROTE THE NOTE WITH!! Otherwise there may be two different shades of ink.

If you are serving at a table, you may choose to only write 36 letters prior to the weekend and then write the last 6 on Friday evening to the 6 participants at your table (after you get to know them better). The letters can be a little more personal. HOWEVER, BE SURE NOT TO RUN OUT OF TIME. Writing 6 letters at the last minute on Friday night after a long day may be tough.

In writing your letter, you may choose to share a scripture or some positive words of encouragement. Be sure to urge the participant to join a Prayer and Share Group and to also stay active in the Kairos community by coming to the Monthly Reunions. Here is a couple of examples:

Dear Robert,
I hope you are feeling surrounded by love – the love of the Lord and the love of the community. Remember, God’s love can accomplish mighty things. He is always here for us. We just need to ask. May you always feel the presence of Christ throughout your weekly prayer and share grouping.
In Jesus’ love, John Smith

Dear Dwayne,
As your Kairos weekend continues, please know that many, many of us in the Christian community are praying that you are feeling the presence of the Lord in your life. He truly loves us and seeks a relationship with each of us. You are a unique individual; He has created no one else just like you and our Lord loves you for you. I will continue to pray for you throughout this weekend and the days to come. I urge you to join your new Kairos

*brothers in the Christian community. Please come
to the Monthly Reunions so we can stay in touch.
Yours in Christ, John Doe*