Kairos Ministries

Can You See Jesus? By Elizabeth Valdez

This past Easter, as we were sitting in church, the pastor was going over the account of Jesus' Resurrection, or "The Easter Story", as told in John, Chapter 20. I have been in church since I was born, and have heard this same story every Easter, plus probably several times in between each Easter, so needless to say, in my 36 years of life, I've heard it enough times that I could tell it from memory. However, as often happens with Scripture, it doesn't matter how often you read the same passage, it can speak something different and powerful to you each and every time. This time, I was struck by a part of this story that involved Mary Magdalene talking to Jesus in the garden outside of his empty tomb. In verses 14 and 15 it reads, "*She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?*" While listening to the pastor, the words, "*. . . She didn't recognize him"* resonated in my mind. How did she NOT recognize Jesus? This was her Lord and Savior? One of her closest friends. He was someone she "did life with" and someone who knew her personally. They broke bread together, yet she couldn't recognize Him standing right in front of her. Why? How was that possible?

As I was pondering over the "why" and "how" and the deep theological answer that could exist, I realized, quite simply, that we are often as "guilty" as Mary was of not being able to see Jesus, even in the times when He is standing right in front of us. How often in life do we get so busy with what we are doing, we don't see the every day miracles that He is performing in our life? How often do we get so self-absorbed with our own problems, that we feel isolated and alone? How many times do we see a news story of some tragedy or see pictures of children with distended bellies as they suffer from extreme hunger, and we ask, "Where is God in this? Where is He? Why doesn't he stop this? Why doesn't He change that? Does Jesus see this? Does He care? "

In Kairos Ministries, these questions, or doubts of God's presence, could come easy for some as they see tiny, innocent children suffering from such horrific and painful cancers and illnesses. It would be easy to say, "Where was Jesus?" when we think about the long list of names of little one's who have died over the past 10 years from their battles with cancer. No one would think twice if someone asked, "Where is the justice? Why won't Jesus help?" when you visit the many villages nestled in the mountainsides and see the conditions that families live in without room for much improvement.

There is suffering. There is pain. There is death. But, there in the midst of all of that, is Jesus. We can see Jesus in the Hope that is evident in the smiles and laughter of the children, both in the Kairos House and in the mountains. We can see Jesus in the Peace that a mother has as she kisses her baby goodbye for the last time as he takes his last breath. We see Jesus when the impossible becomes possible and needs are met in mysterious and wonderful ways. And those we serve through Kairos can see Jesus when Priscila sits and cries with them or when Francisco sits and listens to their stories or when Gustavo leads different groups into villages and they can see and experience the love of Jesus through the smiles and hearts of many volunteers who give up their time and financial resources to spend a few days being the hands and feet of Christ.

So stop looking. Lift up your heads. Open your eyes. Behold the King who stands before you. It is our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. He is with us. Amen.

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ 2nd Annual 5k
- ☺ Summer 2013—groups
- ☺ Update on Christmas with Kairos

Inside this issue:

Note from Priscila	2
Navidad	2
2nd annual 5k	3
Sponsors Needed	3
5k Registration Form	4

A Note From Priscila . . .

The beginning of this year has been a special one. We have seen many children returning, that visit Kairos House regularly, but are doing very well. Many of them are winning the battle against cancer, praise God! Some children we haven't seen in a couple of months as they are coming every 3 to 6 months now just for checkups. This pleases us, in some ways, when the visits become less frequent, as it reminds us of the hope that exists in even the hardest situations that some of these families go through.

Today I would like to share with you, very briefly, the story of Neyda. She is a shy, 15 year old girl, who was diagnosed 3 years ago with childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Her family lives in the northern part of Guatemala. It is a 10 hour bus ride every time they come to the city! Her first time in treatment was 8 days in a row at the hospital and the longest time they spent at the hospital was 4 months. Her dad's name is Andres. He is the one who came with her every single time because his wife was also sick, and could not travel with them. A month ago we saw them again and they had good news: Neyda is doing very well, to the point that she no longer needs chemotherapy! She and her amazing dad will start coming every 2 months now.



We thank you for your support and prayers because without them, families like this would have an even more difficult experience with every trip they have to take to the city. This story is just one of the many we see every day. There are many hopeful stories and there are many more that don't seem to have that much hope. But where there is God, there is Hope and that is what we strive to show to the people in Kairos, through acts of love and kindness. Again, thank you very much for your support through your finances and prayers.

On behalf of everybody in Kairos,

Priscila Valdez

"Where there is God, there is Hope and that is what we strive to show to the people in Kairos, through acts of love and kindness."



Children and parents lining up to participate in the distribution of Christmas Gifts in Tierra Blanca, Chiquimula. Many smiles and a lot of laughter were shared there.

Navidad with Kairos

Thanks to the generosity of a few individuals, several hundred children and their families were able to have a little extra something to smile about this Christmas. Kairos Ministries was able to travel East to be with our friends in the community of Tierra Blanca and spend an afternoon helping them celebrate the birth of Jesus. The festivities included a warm meal, gifts for each child, a basket filled with necessities for the women, and what Latin celebration would be complete without a piñata (or two!). We were also able to do something special with our guests in the Kairos House for Christmas and New Years. Bonuses for the Kairos House Caretaker and for Francisco and Ingrid were also made possible. Gracias Gracias Gracias!



Francisco ("Paqui"), Any and Priscila serving lunch. Over 200 meals were served thanks to your gifts.

2nd Annual 5k Event

Last June, we had over 50 people show up at the Rapho Township Community Park to support Kairos in our first ever large scale fundraiser event. Our 1st annual 5k grossed close to $4,000! The funds raised went directly towards efforts to purchase a NEW Kairos House (we are still raising funds). This year, we are hoping to DOUBLE our turnout! Registration is now open for our 2nd Annual "Where Love Can Go" Family Friendly 5k Run/Walk Event which will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2013. The course will wind through the grounds of the Rapho Township Community Park, taking a slightly different route than last year's route. Kids under 12 are free with a registering adult. Prizes will be awarded for different categories and those who register before May 1st will be guaranteed a T-Shirt (afterwards it will be while supplies last.) You can download THIS FORM (need Adobe). Or you can visit Pretzel City's site where an online registration option is set up. You can click here ONLINE REGISTRATION or go to https://www.pretzelcitysports.com/onlineform1.php?id=378

An EVENT SPONSOR and SPONSORS are still needed. See article below for more information on this opportunity for individuals and businesses.





Come get your run on! Get out with the family and enjoy a beautiful morning!

OPPORTUNITY FOR SPONSORS

Though we need participants for the 5k Event, the event is not even possible without the support of sponsors. If you know of someone or a business that may be interested in sponsoring this year's 5k Event, or if you yourself or your business would like to participate as a sponsor, please let us know. You can contact us at kairosministries-guatemala@yahoo.com or you can print out an EVENT SPONSOR FORM and mail it to the address listed at the bottom of the form. There are different levels of sponsorship available, each with it's own benefits. We are still in need of ONE EVENT SPONSOR ($750). In addition to the items listed for the other three levels, the Event Sponsor will be listed in larger font with their large logo on the banner and T-Shirts. Opportunity to have signs posted along the walk route, if desired, along with other benefits, come with being THE EVENT SPONSOR. For more information, please contact Gustavo and Elizabeth Valdez or one of our event coordinators, Susan Zeamer.

Www.kairosguatemala.com



If you would like more information about Kairos, or would like to find out how to support the ministry, please contact us at kairosministriesguatemala@yahoo.com



View from the Biotope in Coban, Guatemala

How Can You Pray for Us

We are so appreciative of your prayers for us and for the ministry. Without them, none of us who are involved in the ministry on a daily basis could do what it is that we do. We know that there is a group of you who are dedicated to praying for us on a daily or very regular basis. Thank you! We would love to know who you are so we can send you more frequent prayer requests and updates. Would you do us the favor of emailing us at PRAYER TEAM.

Currently, we could use prayer in the following areas:

Kairos House

- Pray for each house guest who walks through the door; pray that they will be blessed by their stay in Kairos House and that they will feel the love and comfort of the Lord and that they will see Jesus in the love and care provided by the Kairos staff.
- Pray for the daily needs of the house (food, electricity, water, etc.). We praise God that we have never been late with any payments or have had to have guests go hungry for lack of food.
- Funds to be able to purchase a new house that would be more structurally sound and would accommodate more house guests.

Summer Groups

- pray for the three teams that are preparing to come and serve alongside of us in the villages in Chiquimula. Pray for team cohesiveness, safety in their travels, good health and energy and hearts that are malleable to the will of God during their time there. (Lewisburg –medical; LCBC—youth project focused; LCBC—medical).
- Pray for the teams that have already started preparing for 2014—bless them and their hearts to serve God

Missionaries

Pray for the Valdez Family as a whole and their individual roles within the ministry. Ask God to give focus and purpose in their work and the endurance to proceed. May God be glorified through their deeds.