Kairos Ministries

Answering "The Call" By Elizabeth Valdez

Often, you will hear individuals talk about their "calling in life" - often referring to their career path. Some feel a "calling" into medicine or education, while others feel raising their family is their special calling. Many times, you hear people who work in faith based programs or ministries discuss when they felt "called into" that line of work or service. I remember when I first heard someone use this expression.; specifically, that they were called by God into the ministry. I was in elementary school and I remember thinking, "Did God actually call him on the phone? How did he know how to answer? What if he wasn't home when God called?" (This was pre-voicemail days). I later came to understand that God calls each of us in different ways and to do different tasks. If you have made the choice to answer Christ's first call -to fully follow Him—then discerning His voice is slightly easier than it may be for others who have yet to make that choice. Regardless, if God is calling you to do something in life, will you know how to answer? In I Samuel, we read about young Samuel who is in the care of the priest Eli. In the middle of the night, Samuel hears his name being called and assumes it is his earthly master, Eli, and runs to him, asking him what he wants from Samuel. Eli tells him he did not call the young boy and sends him back to bed. This happens two more times before Eli realizes that it is the Lord calling Samuel and gives specific instructions as to how Samuel should answer if he hears the call again. Samuel returns to his bed and the Lord again calls out, "Samuel, Samuel!" This time, Samuel is ready and answers, "Speak. Your servant is listening" (I Samuel 3:10, NLV). As we see here, even Eli did not recognize right away that it was God who was calling Samuel. This may be true in our lives. As we seek counsel to help us discern God's voice, we may meet obstacles that sway us from truly knowing if it is God or something/someone else calling. Discernment is step one. Agreeing to listen, as Samuel did with a willing and servant's heart is second. What comes next after listening to God's call in your life is action. Will you say, "yes God, I'll do as you say and follow where you lead; despite my fears; despite my family's objections; despite the criticism of naysayers", or will you respond, "no thanks, God. I have my own plan. Maybe I'll try your offer later". Saying "yes" to God, though rich in it's rewards, does not guarantee an easy life nor does it have an impact on just you. Often, we forget the "others" in our life who are called along with us, in silence and often not by choice; especially in the mission field. There are the family and friends that get "left behind" when a missionary enters the mission field, be it for short term or long term missions. There are the financial supporters who give sacrificially on a regular basis causing their families to "do with less" or make other sacrifices. Then there is the unwelcomed visitor (Satan) who pokes his nasty head in from time to time to create tension and stress in family and ministry teams to divert attention and energy away from God's purpose and tasks. Saying "no" often seems safer; more comfortable. However, this choice will cause you to miss out on some of the greatest joys imaginable on this side of Heaven along with the awesome opportunity to be involved with God in some of the great things He is doing for His people. Do you know God's voice? Are you listening to His call? What is He asking of you? A change in career? Support of a worthy cause? A leap of faith? Or just an unshakeable, unwavering complete trust in Him? Regardless of what He is calling you to do or where He is calling you to go, I encourage you to answer Him with great confidence and trust, as you say, "Speak. Your servant is listening". Then Go. Trust that He will provide you with everything you need. He will not abandon you and you will never regret following Him.

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ 2nd Annual 5k
- ☺ Summer 2013—groups
- ☺ Meet our summer intern

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A Note From Priscila . . .

Our prayers and blessings are always with you all; I hope with all my heart that you are each doing well.

During the month of June, as we celebrated Fathers, I wanted to share with each of you a story of deep love and sacrifice of one father in the Kairos House. Nine years ago (when we recently opened the doors to the Kairos House), Don Gaspar Peneleu arrived on our door step, with his son Emanuel (14 years old) and his brother in law, Lupe, because his son and brother in law both had cancer. He had to leave behind the rest of his family in Chicacao, Mazate (in the southern part of the country, about four hours from the Capital). They were in the house for two years when in the end, our dear Emanuel lost the battle against cancer and died at age 16. Six months later, Don Lupe also passed away. Through this entire time, Don Gaspar feared for the life of his loved ones while suffering for the rest of his family, who sometimes did not have enough food in the house. It was a very painful time for him, but he continued fighting up until the very last day of life for his son and brother in law.

Several years passed until a year and a half ago, Don Gaspar was diagnosed himself with stomach cancer. He showed up at Kairos House alone this time. His situation as you can imagine is very painful – especially since he has not been able to work for the past six months and there are many needs in his home, as he still has three children who are dependent on him.

I was talking with him a few weeks ago and he told me, "Sister, I want to thank you for everything that Kairos has done for me; now I plea for my family. My time is ending; I am fine. I know I am going to be much better than now because now I will not have so much pain, but my family will need you all. Please, I entrust them to you". With a knot in my throat I let him keep talking, besides, what could I say to him? After a while, when I said goodbye, he said to me, "Please let all your angles know in some way. Thank you".

With June just behind us I'd like to give a special tribute to all the father's in Kairos House and to everyone who reads this letter. Without you, none of this would be possible. After 9 years and 6 months of operation, the Kairos House could not function without your support through your prayers and financial gifts.

On behalf of everyone in Kairos, please receive our most profound gratitude.

For Kairos Ministries,

Priscila Valdez



Summer Groups

"We are so appreciative of you all. Every year, you think to come back to us—even though you are outsiders. You care about us and want to help us." - mother visiting the clinic

This summer, Kairos will be welcoming three groups to work alongside of the ministry team. The first (which joined us during the week of July 1st) was a medical team from 1st Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg (PA). The second group, coming in mid-July is an all youth team from LCBC church, which has several campuses throughout central and eastern PA. They will be painting one of the school's in the mountains of Camotan, Chiquimula. Our last group will be another medical team, also from LCBC church. Our first team from Lewisburg was a smaller team than usual, with only one doctor. Many of us were a bit nervous about this fact, trying to determine how we would manage to see all the families in the two villages. However, as always, God knew *why* he only permitted one doctor to come along. When we arrived for day one of clinic, we discovered the first school was under heavy construction as they were adding on two new classrooms and using the one classroom for storage—where would more doctors have gone? Regardless, God took the seemingly "impossible" and enabled the doctor and our very own Luis "Chino" Perdomo (EMT) to see about 460 patients in only 4 days! The members of the community were excited to see familiar faces as all but one member of the group were returning for a 2nd (or 8th!) time. Stay tuned for information about our two remaining groups and please keep them in your prayers.



The TOP picture shows the twin boys we wrote to you about a year ago who were gifted 8 months worth of formula from two of the medical teams last year. The bottom picture is from last week. Praise God they are healthy 14 month old boys! Our clinics are making a difference!

2nd Annual 5k Event –Success!!

This year's event took place on May 18, 2013—a beautiful, mild weathered morning in Lancaster County. We had close to 75 participants, increasing our numbers from last year. Thanks to our generous sponsors and those who participated, we netted a little over $3,000 to go towards the savings for the purchase of a NEW Kairos House. To see pictures of the event or the race results, click on the following links: 5k Photos Race Results



We'd like to give a BIG thank you to all of our event sponsors. Below you can see the logos of some of the businesses. If you frequent their venues, please let them know you appreciate their sponsorship also! Some other businesses that assisted with the event via donation, gift certificates or gifts are: Bob Swayne Real Estate (Manheim, PA) Weis (Manheim, PA), Giant (Mt Joy, PA), Pub Donegal (Mt Joy, PA), Turkey Hill, Advanced Auto (Manheim, PA), Doe Run Furniture (Manheim, PA), A&M Pizza (Manheim, PA), Graziano's Pizza (Manheim, PA), Horton's Chiropractor (Manheim, PA), Devign Consign (Manheim, PA) and Subway (Manheim, PA).

2nd Annual 5k Event
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A big thank you, too, to all our volunteers who helped with planning, coordinating and running the event. We could not have had the success we did without each of you.

We are already planning for next year's race and pray that God will continue to bless these type of efforts. For more information about how to help with Kairos Ministries or for future events, please contact us via our email address: kairosministriesguatemala@yahoo.com

" I enjoyed the course—great race for a good cause! I'll definitely mark it on my calendar for next year!"

-quote from participant



Our 2013 Volunteers: (listed from L-R) Jordan and Katie Buckwalter, Ryan Goss, Dennis College (back), Carrie Hess, Toni College (back), Susan Zeamor, Sara Shaneor (front), Stephanie Fisher, Corin Dietrich, Wayne Conrad, Elizabeth and Gustavo Valdez (Kairos Representatives). Not pictured: Barbara 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

This summer, Kairos welcomed their 2nd long-term intern by accepting Sara Shaneor's request to serve for a month with Kairos in Guatemala. Sara felt a calling into missions 5 years ago, though admits she first tried to deny this. However, after her first mission's trip (with Kairos), Sarah says, "that experience changed and moved me to the point that I wanted to continue doing [missions]. When asked "why" she wanted to spend an extended amount of time with Kairos, she answered, "having experienced serving with Kairos in the past, I really believe in what the goal of Kairos is—putting faith into action more than just talking about it." Sara shared it is also helping her to see, first hand, the true needs of the Kairos House and the ministry team. It is one thing to hear about holes in walls, but when you see first hand the crumbling stucco and the dead cockroaches from frequent fumigations, it is clear to see how necessary a new house is for Kairos. While in Guatemala, Sara has been doing a variety of tasks from participating with the groups as part of their "teams" and doing some of the "messy and undesirable" but MUCH needed work at the Kairos House (think cleaning, organizing, finding dead cockroaches). When asked what she thought about her experience so far, Sara shared, "this trip has been hard, and tiring, but even in the hard stuff I've pretty much enjoyed every minute I've been here. I think every-time I come to Guatemala, I see or learn something new. It is kind of enlightening and heart breaking all in one shot—you see the needs of the ministry and I better understand them now. "



Sara Shaneor (Lancaster,PA) joins Kairos Ministries for one month.

Quick facts about Sara:

*Pennsylvania native *Avid soccer player

*Graduate of Elizabethtown College-BA in Psych

*Loves movies, reading and working with kids

*Immediate Goal: Learn More Spanish!!

Everyone in Kairos is grateful for Sara's sacrifice of time and energy in coming to serve God alongside with us.

Prayers and Praise

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. Please join us in prayer in praise in the following areas:

FAMILY One of the biggest praises in the Valdez Family was being able to help Paco and Priscila celebrate 40 Years of Marriage on June 23, 2013. Their children surprised them with an intimate luncheon of close friends and family where everyone had a chance to share a special story about the young couple. Paco and Priscila were legitimately surprised and were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and affection show by all who were able to attend. For the most part, everyone is healthy and well.

KAIROS HOUSE A few weeks ago, the house was at the fullest it has been in a while with over 50 people in the house for several nights. However, despite being well over capacity, God continues to be faithful in allowing us to provide for all who enter the Kairos House—this is in large part for your many prayers and financial gifts. THANKS! Antoniette is a 10 year old little girl who was recently sent home on morphine. Comfort and peace is needed for her and her family.



Valdez Family: From L-R: Elizabeth, Julianna (1y), Gustavo, Paco, Priscila, Any, Josë Emilio (2 1/2y), Chino, Ingrid, Francisco (Front Row, L-R) Annalucia (8y), Gabriella (4 y), Regina (4y) Felipe (6y), Sarah (10)