Volume 10 Issue 3 November 2013

Kairos Ministries



No – I'm not ready yet

"*It's not about you*".
This is the first line in the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" written by Rick Warren. A powerful, challenging way to start a book, yet this simple four worded sentence begs the question, "If life isn't about me . . . then who IS it about?" Fair question – *it's my life and no one else's . . . right*?
When we look back on our life, even if only within the past year, it's funny how our mind often categorizes things. We sometimes recall specific events or conversations in the form of "snap shots". Some of these events, we want to put into proverbial frames: on display for everyone to see and know about – birthdays; weddings; new babies; trips; new puppies; the "good stuff". Then, there are those "snap shots" that flash through our head that we want to destroy any and all possible digital footprint of or pretend as if they never happened: that argument with our best friend; the unethical decisions made at work; the time we pretended we didn't see that person on the street asking for change and walked by clutching tightly to our leather purse; usually not our proudest moments.
When I personally think back on the past twelve months, there are snap shots that flip through my mind that I am both very proud of and those that were definitely not my most shining moment. In the midst of all of these different events, I also recall those moments where I was reminded that this life onto which I am clutching tightly is fleeting and could end without a moment's notice. Not too many weeks passed this year without the news that someone we knew had passed away or was in a life threatening situation – several of those individuals being children. When you hear stories on the news or read in a newsletter of someone dying, it is easy to pause for a moment of silence and offer a prayer of comfort, but more often than not, in a few days, if not sooner, we get up and move on with our life in the same routine. However, sometimes it hits a little closer to home and this causes our perspective or routine of life to be drastically shifted. It could be a hospital admittance where the doctor's don't know what's going on right away or the lab results that show a need for drastic lifestyle changes – or else. As our mind spirals and plays those "what if" games, the question, "who or what is life about", becomes a little more pressing.
When we are WITHIN these moments, it is often where our relationship with God becomes a priority as we call out to Him for help and healing or barter with Him: our obedience for complete recovery. It can also be a time where we are still self-centered asking, "what will they (my family, my job, my church, etc.) do without me?"; "I'm not ready to go yet". It isn't until we come to peace with our situation or until we come out of these situations, when we are ready to say, "Thank you God" and be in a place where we are willing to listen to His direction – at least for a while.
The truth is, it's <u>not</u> about me. It's about Him. From the beginning, it's always been about Him. The same God who created the universe and gave us all life is the same God who decides when that life is finished here on Earth. He created us to be in relationship, with Him and with others. We were never designed with the idea that we would be consumed with our smart phones and other electronic devices and live within a virtual world that gives us a false sense of connection

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Funds raised for purchase of new house through music
- Help needed to provide fun-times at Christmas—see page four

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Inside Story	2
Merry Christmas from the Valdez Family	4
Christmas with Kairos	4

I'm Not Ready—continued from page 1

and fellowship with others. God didn't create an episode of "The Amazing Race" when he placed Adam and Eve in Eden and sit back and say "good luck figuring it out by yourself!" God poured so much love into each person and gifted each of us each with different talents that were meant to complement one another and not meant to be self-serving or go unused.

So, knowing that this life is not meant to be our own and that we are not guaranteed any certain amount of days on Earth, the question becomes, "what are we going to DO with the TIME we've been given?" The greatest teacher to ever walk the Earth, Jesus, gave us two simple directions by which to live our lives, when he told us in Matthew 22:37-39, *"'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind'.* [e] 38 *This is the first and greatest commandment.* 39 *A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

But what does this look like "in practice"? The apostle Paul gives us several directions throughout the New Testament on how to live out these two commands. One we find in 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15 (NLT), " 14 . . . *Christ's love controls us.* [a] *Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.* [b] 15 *He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them."* "Living for Christ", means we are putting our wants aside and seeking His will. Seeing our resources as what they are, gifts from Him to be used to do good for others while glorifying Him; loving our neighbors as ourselves. Paul writes again in 1 Timothy chapter 6 that we are to, "17 teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. 19 By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life."

So as the year 2013 comes to an end and the holiday season comes before us with opportunities to make more "snap shot" moments for us to look back on, may we all be so encouraged by Paul as to go and "do good" and "be generous", to everyone who comes across our paths and our thresholds, not just with our financial gifts, but with our time and our hearts.



Three of LCBC Church's Teens lending a hand painting a school in Camotan

> "They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others."

Pray, Pray and Pray Some More

Kairos Ministries has been operating on sweat and faith for the past 20+ years and has been sustained by the fervent prayers of many like you. This past year, we hosted four groups and had several trips to the region of Chiquimula. We already have five groups planed for 2014! The Kairos House remained open, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and continues to be frequently over capacity with house guests. Despite being "under budget" on paper in receipts of funds, we've not missed a payment for the rent of the current Kairos House nor were we late with any utility bills or responsibilities. We've lost over a dozen dear loved ones but have had the gift of strength to carry on as we strive to provide an environment filled with love and dignity to those who call Kairos House "home" while they rest their heads under our roof. So, thank you for your prayers and PLEASE . .. KEEP PRAYING!



Residents of Kairos House enjoy the ministry of Fabrica de Sonrisas

Praising God in Song



Abi Dougherty offers her voice as an offering as she sings praises to God at the benefit concert

A quick search on any Bible search engine site can produce over 100 different references in the Old and New Testaments about songs and singing. On top of these, there are many more references to the musicians in different stories and the instruments that were played. From this, I think it is safe to say that God loves music. The Psalmist in 116:17 even offered his voice to God has a sacred offering, "I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD" (NLT). The pulpit commentary states that this form of simple thanksgiving, from a sincere heart, is the best sacrifice we can offer to God. To put it lightly, music rocks! - Pardon the pun.

How fitting then for us to have our first annual Acoustic Benefit Concert for Kairos Ministries where the voices of six talented musicians were presented as a love offering to God, singing of His love and goodness. The goal of this concert was two-fold. First, it was our hope to generate funds to go towards the purchase of a new "Kairos House" to facilitate the work that God is doing in Guatemala City through the ministry. Second, we hoped to raise awareness about the ministry while proclaiming God's righteousness and sharing personal accounts of His mighty works which are being done every day, specifically through Kairos Ministries. We give Him all the glory and praise when we share that both of these goals were met and surpassed! God's name was lifted and glorified and over $5,000 was raised to go towards the purchase of a new Kairos House!! Hallelujah!

The afternoon was an answer to much prayer as the weather presented clear and crisp and synonymous with all that "autumn" conjectures in ones mind. Over 100 individuals showed up throughout the day, many who were unaware of what Kairos Ministries was all about. Despite some "chilly" breezes, the audience was not disappointed with the array of talent that was presented by Jordan Buckwalter, Daniel College, Abi Dougherty, Kim Goss, Lisa Lewis and Jim Rule. Fun events were available for the "young of heart" with a bouncy house, face painting and the Cider Press Alpacas. No one could complain of being hungry either with several tables filled with both savory and sweet morsels for sell; all of which were provided by wonderful volunteers!

Our deep gratitude is extended to everyone who came out to support the event and to all the volunteers and musicians, without whom the event would not have been possible. We are especially grateful to Jordan and Katie Buckwalter who hosted the event on their property and to Katie who coordinated everything.

Psalm 147:1 "Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!"







The other wonderful artists from the days event, counter-clockwise from top-left: Daniel College; Lisa Lewis; Jim Rule; Kim Goss; and Jordan Buckwalter





FELIZ NAVIDAD



2013

Christmas with Kairos

For the past several years, Kairos Ministries has delighted in being able to partner with several of you in being able to bring some festivities and merriment to the residents of Tierra Blanca as well as those staying at Kairos House over the Christmas holiday. This year, we would like to continue that tradition but cannot do so without some assistance. Below you can review the budget that will cover the costs of the two celebrations. After reviewing , if you feel moved to help cover any of the costs, please Donate Here or visit our *web site* http://www.cmmhost.com/kairosguatemala/home/christmas-2013/ and click on our pay pal link or mail a check to Kairos Ministries c/o 152 S. Charlotte Street, Manheim, PA 17545 with *Christmas Celebrations* noted in the memo line. 100% of donations that are earmarked for these celebrations will go directly to cover the costs and are tax deductible. Any questions, email us at kairosministriesguatemala@yahoo.com

CAMOTAN: - $2,373.62

250 presents Q30 each = Q7500 = $ 967.75
15 typical baskets Q200 each = Q3000 = $ 387.00
Food, drinks, plates, napkins, et al for 250 people Q 5000.00 = $645.17
2 piñatas and candies Q600.00 $77.20
2 Pickups Q1300.00 = $167.75
Gasoline Q1000.00 = $ 129.00

Casa Kairos: $1,206.47

Year end bonuses for care-taker (Batres family) and
house manager (Francisco Valdez)= $967.75
Dinner for 25 people Q1250 = $161.30
Presents for the Batres (caretaker) family= Q600.00 $ 77.42



Young boy showing excitement while receiving a present for Christmas