

Pastor's Corner

March 2010

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I will begin by saying “Thank You!” Thank you for your incredible support for the Kairos ministry—prayers, money and cookies. Let me share a story about one of the men who sat at my table during the week. The young man has been at the Alexander facility since 2006. Shortly after he arrived, Kairos came to the prison. As usual, they went around and handed out cookies to the men in their cells. This young man said he took the cookies and threw them in the trash, reasoning that no one ever gave them anything that was good, so he was afraid to eat them. Not long after, he heard the other men talking about the cookies and thanking the men who gave the cookies to them. So he asked about the cookies, and they told him that these men came into the prison for 4 days and shared cookies with the prisoners and talked to them. It happened again in 2007, 2008, and 2009. This young man made a profession of faith in 2008, and asked to participate in the program, which he was able to do this past weekend. And all because someone baked a batch of cookies to share with the men in prison!

With the money you gave, we provided 29 meals @ \$20.00 a meal. You do the math. Let me share a story about the meals. Word gets around prison pretty quickly about the great meals. Prison food is not what you think. In fact, most of the men said that they actually bought their own food rather than eat what the system provided. Naturally, several of the men said that they came for the food, but when given an opportunity to speak, one of them shared that he had never experienced the kind of love that was shown to him that weekend. He could not understand why people would take their time to cook the meals, or why others in the prison would take their time to serve them. What he took from the weekend, he said, “is that there are people who care and that God cares.”

And thank you for the placemats! The men cherished them and held on to them. In fact, they wouldn't eat on them; instead, they carefully put them away. They said that they intended to send them home or have them held for them (they aren't allowed to keep them in their unit).

It has been a long time since I cried, laughed, and shared so many emotions. I know that all of the men were not changed, but some were and, hopefully, seeds were planted.

Thank you for caring enough to allow Jimmy Stone, Todd Rhodes, and your pastor to serve. And thank you for caring enough to give.

God Bless!

Rev. Eric Lane

