



Matthew 25:36 clearly shows us that we are to visit those in prison with the good news of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus explains that when we have done so, we have visited Him. He also has said in scripture that He would leave the ninety and nine found to search for the one that

is lost or strayed. Thank God that we have such a loving and caring shepherd who will always come to us in our times of need. Our shepherd went the distance to save His lost sheep. As disciples and followers of Christ we are also called to walk in His footsteps. By becoming His voice in the wilderness of incarceration we can call out to those for whom He searches. Our hands also are to become His hands as we minister to His flock.

Currently the State of Ohio houses a prison population numbering more than 50,000 men, women, and children. The Kairos Prison Ministry International serves many of Ohio's prisons including several in the Shawnee Valley District UMC. The prison ministry opportunities presented to United Methodists residing in the SV District are many. Kairos provides the arena and community for this service to Christ. No stone is to be left unturned in the act of kingdom building. Construct is ongoing. We have a great building overseer in Jesus who promises to bless and anoint our efforts.

The mission of the Kairos Ministry is to establish, promote, and enable the growth of Christian communities within the prison system. Men, women, and children are introduced to a relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing in community with one another. They meet weekly for prayer and to share their experiences and feelings about the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The community roots that are established through the Holy Spirit provides a sanctuary for those seeking a permanent relationship with Christ. Many lives are transformed by this spiritual rebirth.

This past week (Oct 16-19) witnessed a great Christian event held at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution in Ross County. Kairos CCI #3 was held for thirteen of the 132 condemned men residing on Ohio's death row. Participants heard the following talks: Choices, You Are Not Alone, Friendship With God, Acceptance of Self, The Church, Opening the Door, Accepting God's Forgiveness, Who is Jesus, Forgiveness of Others, Discovery Through Study, Christian Action, and The Wall. In addition to these talks participants were served home cooked meals prepared by the Kairos volunteers. During constant fellowship and round table discussion of the talks, participants were supplied with a never ending amount of home made cookies that represented the love of Christ. As a result of this weekend all thirteen inmates accepted Christ and His cross stating that "I am Counting on Christ" and accepting a personal bible. Thirteen lambs of God were saved and now refer to their prison home as "LIFE ROW." All Praise to God