

Pastors to Prisoners Newsletter

2021



Hi <<First Name>>.

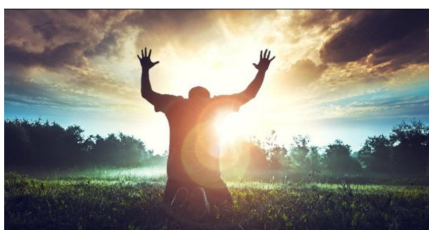
Welcome to my first prison ministry update for 2021. I pray this email finds you and your family safe, well, and hopeful for all that this coming year has to offer. In this newsletter you will see some of our celebrations from 2020, as well as some of our focus points for 2021. There is much to share, so let's get to it!

Ministry Praise Reports

- **Kairos Chairman:** At the end of 2020 I was voted to become the Chairman of [Kairos of San Diego](#) (the local chapter of an international prison ministry organization). This position, and the Kairos ministry in general, has been a major focus of my ministry efforts for the past six months and probably will continue to be so for the entirety of 2021. Time will tell. 😊
- **Abide Video Series:** Last year I worked with a team of men to produce three 30 minute videos for the prison. Since we were unable to go into the prison due to covid, we made these videos as an encouragement. If you have not seen these videos, you can check them out on our [YouTube Channel](#). Through this project, I have been able to develop a relationship with the Community Resource Manager of the CDCR. As of last week, he informed me that our videos have been shown multiple times in **33 of the 35** correctional facilities in California! 🙌 What a praise report!
- **Christmas & Valentine's Videos:** The Christian community came together to make a fun Christmas video, which was received with great joy and appreciation by all the inmates. Due to the Christmas success, we have visions for a Valentine's Day video (with potentially more to follow). Hopefully I'll be able to share some of these videos with you soon. Projects like this draw the child out of us all. 😊
- **Newsletters:** For several years, it has been on my heart to find ways to keep the volunteer pool of about 400 people engaged and informed with what is going on within the prison and its various programs. Last year I finally established two newsletters; this one, and the Kairos Newsletter. If you would like to receive the Kairos Newsletter, which is sent out on a Monthly basis, please let me know. It is similar, but different. 😊 The main difference being, this newsletter contains personal information, while the Kairos newsletter has more of an institutional and program spin.

Ministry Prayer Requests

- **Kairos Chairman:** That the Lord would give me wisdom and courage in leading this wonderful organization which has such a profound impact on the lives of incarcerated men.
- **Abide Video Series:** That God would continue to use these videos to bless and change lives, and that we would be given favor to show these videos nationwide. We are currently working with Kairos International to achieve a national distribution.
- **Prayer Focus Points:** Last month I worked with my friend (Father Larry) to discern the seven Kairos of San Diego Prayer Focus Points for 2021. Please join us in prayer as we rally behind these seven points for our community (Prayer Points Attached).



Personal Update

- **Word From God:** It has been said, "one word from God can change everything." As 2020 fades in the dawn of 2021, I reflect back on the theme God gave me for 2020. When people were talking about the year of "clear vision" (ironically no one saw COVID coming! 😊), the Lord impressed on my heart the words of Ps 42:1 (As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs for you). At the time I was uncertain how this word would impact my year, but upon hindsight and reflection, through a tremendous and unprecedented slowing and pruning, He has cultivated within me a renewed fire and passion for my morning devotional routine and time of prayer. Where once I was reading 4 pages of my Bible every morning, now I only read a simple passage, maybe 10 verses, but dive deep and marinate. In this process my eyes have been opened to the greater interconnectedness of God's Word, which has been amazing. Looking forward to 2021 this year the Lord gave me the word:

Foundation



When building a structure, you first need to clear a space before the foundation can be laid. 2020 cleared the space...now my eyes are open to see what foundations the Lord wishes to build and refortify in my life in 2021. When it comes to leading the Kairos ministry, He's already given me three goals which I'm excited to accomplish. When it comes to my personal life, I sense He's going to do mighty via my journal and prayer life.

- **Personal Change:** When I was over at my friend's house the other day, the Holy Spirit ministered to me in a powerful way. While being prayed for, I realized I was mad at God with regard to the situation between me and my dad. My complaint was so, "God, look at how many godly men and women I have praying for him...and we've been praying for years and nothing's changed!" (At least there's been no apparent change from my perspective.) Then the Lord's conviction fell on me like a ton of bricks, "Oh no! If nothing's changed, then I haven't changed." Thus, my prayer life for my father has morphed into the following, "Lord, bring the change within ME that will best foster and usher forth a change in my father's heart. He is such a hateful and angry man and my endurance is beginning to wane. Show me how to minister and tend to his hurts, wounds, and pains, both emotional and spiritual." As of this morning, I came across a timely passage of Scripture which is going to be a great help and a banner for this task ([Ps 18:25-32](#)). Please continue to keep him and I in your prayers, for he is by far the most difficult person I've ever been tasked to shepherd.
- **Stewardship and Giftedness:** On a final note, as I was seeking the Lord's will for my life this year, He reminded me of stewardship and giftedness. As I reflected on my gifts, two rose to the surface: writing & music. Desiring to be a man who uses the gifts God has given me well, this year I plan to write more to my family, friends, and [Blog](#), as well as play more concerts for my neighbors. What are your gifts & how are you using them?

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for your support. While prayer is the biggest need, know that any financial assistance you may be led to give goes a long way.

Support Aaron

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope in 2021!

In Service of The King, With Love,

Aaron



Attachment 1

KAIROS OF SAN DIEGO 2021 PRAYER FOCUS

May we pray for the following as often as the Spirit convicts and brings to memory.

1. That we would put God first, allowing him to fill our hearts, to manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...[for] the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law..." (Gal 5:16-26)

2. That we would be Awake and Responsive to the still small voice of God.

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" (Mark 13:35-37)

3. That a culture of Listen, Listen, Love, Love would be fostered between Inmates & Custody, and within our communities; cultivating deep & meaningful relationships.

"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ" (Col. 2:2)

4. That the Lord would become Real to the Inmates, driving a passion to their faith.

"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'" (Luke 24:32)

5. That God would Bless the Administration, Staff, and Custody of R.J. Donovan.

"...let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you..." (Nehemiah 1:4-11)

6. That we would be F.A.T. for Christ (Faithful, Available, & Teachable).

"Everything is possible for one who believes" (Mark 9:23); "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me'" (Isa. 6:8); "Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O Lord, and whom You teach out of Your law" (Ps. 94:12)

7. That while On The Way, God would reveal to us how to Share Kairos with others.

"Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, 'Who do people say I am?'" (Mark 8:27)

Attachment 2

(Two excerpts from my most recent letter to the inmates)

To those at RJD whose hope is in the Lord: I pray you all enjoyed the little Christmas video we made for you. Word on the street is there may be a Valentine's Day rendition coming your way soon! I apologize for the great delay between my last correspondence. For three months I was asked by the admin. to not write, and then I've been absorbed with some well needed self-care (your boy is getting fit). Much has changed since you've last heard

from me, so let's get into it!

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How are you doing? What has God been saying to you? How are you maintaining your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health? Do you ride the same waves of depression as I? Do you drink afresh His mercies each and every morning as I? What does growth look like for you in this season? Do you see His invitation? Are you Awake and Responsive to His still small voice? Who are the ones stepping up and who are the ones fading away? Where are the evangelists? Who are the generous and the patient? Which saints are the ones who are long suffering in doing what is right, in doing what is good? Who are the light bearers in this dark age? Oh, how I long to know the answers to these questions. God bless you, and remember, our struggle is not physical, but spiritual.

Enduring, Shining, & Praying With You

Aaron

p.s. Here are a few letters from members I've solicited within the community. Enjoy! :)
(These letters are not being shared for the sake of privacy.)



Pastors To Prisoners



Aaron's Blog



Kairos of San Diego

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