



Nature of God's Love-I

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some of you are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another, all the more...

Hebrews 10:24, 25a

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I show love to my teammates?

Prayer Focus: Those who no longer are part of a prayer & share group.

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-II

Endless Love

The very nature of God is love, don't you think? Love – what a marvelous creation. I mean, God had to create this thing we call love. Can you imagine life if God had never given us love? Can you imagine a life without love?

For many of the residents, they have lived life with very little love in it. They don't understand love. Agape love, God's love is not even a concept with them. And then, they meet you – the Kairos Team. The Love Team.

They see the very love of Christ in the eyes of the family workers. They hear the love of Christ coming through the speakers. They experience the love of Christ through the unselfish servanthood of the Support Team. They are overwhelmed with the love of the Body of Christ through agape gifts.



Where is this love coming from? You know. It's from God. Yes, you know. But, the residents may not know. They will see it as you! Help them see that it is not you - but God, acting through His family. Help them recognize that the feelings of appreciation they have should not be aimed at you – but to God. Let "Praise God" be on your heart and on your lips.

Oh, thank you Lord Jesus. Thank you.



Nature of God's Love-2

You have received without paying, so give without being paid..

Matthew 10:8b

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have I given freely?

Prayer Focus: Those who give sacrificially

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-2

Giving – As I Have Received

As a Kairos Team Member, you are asked to give a lot. You give of your time. You give financial support. You give your prayers. Give, give, give – that's the life of a Team Member.

Do you ever feel used? Do you ever feel unappreciated? Do you ever feel taken advantage of out of your willingness to be kind? That's a natural thing to happen.

We start off wanting to give because of what we have received. Then, as we give, it seems that the need for giving goes up. The demands for giving increase. Then we begin to feel that our giving has become expected – rather than appreciated! And, we pull back. Not so sure if we're going to give any more. We pull back.

We pull back from what? From the very thing that got us started in the first place! God put it on our heart to give and we did joyfully, and we found blessings in that joy! It was wonderful. Then, we started feeling used and unappreciated. Satan – he's there. A little twist here, a little discontent there and before you know it, the joy's gone. Where's the joy? Stolen.

See – it is so easy. Don't let Satan steal joy that God pours out on us when we live with our hands open so God can take and use whatever He wants of us. Give – give as freely as we have received.



Nature of God's Love-3

When the dew evaporated, there was something thin and flaky on the surface of the desert. It was as delicate as frost. When the Israelites saw it, they didn't know what it was and asked each other, "What is it?"

Exodus 16:14 -15

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have you had to trust God?

Prayer Focus: That Kairos cookies carry God's love

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-3

Manna From Heaven

Only God could have come up with manna! I mean, if you were writing a script for a movie, no one would have ever suggested such a crazy story. No one would believe it. No way!

And yet, God gave manna. Total dependence on Him. Can't store it up. Can't trade it in. It's there, free for the taking – but it comes from God, not man.

Kairos cookies are like that! They are really from God. Oh, I know they are not our provision like manna was. But they are from God. They come freely given out of the love of God. They come from God and not from man.

Those cookies carry a miracle in them, too. God uses them to open closed eyes! Yep. It's true. At first they are just a wonderful dessert. The participants gobble them up at first. It's sort of like they think they won't last so get as many as you can. But they keep coming and coming and coming.

Then, a question starts to form in the heart (not the mind) of the participant. "Where are these coming from?" And, "why?" The answer? They come from God, because He loves you. Yes, the family of God baked them, counted them, bagged them, and transported them. But they also prayed over them. Prayers to the Creator Himself that He would use this manna to sustain a new creation – to nourish a new heart.

Is Kairos a cookie ministry? No – Kairos is a ministry of love. Humble vessels filled with the love of Christ spilling His love all over the residents. And we call that "cookies."



Nature of God's Love-4

To conclude: you must all have the same attitude and the same feelings; love one another as brothers, and be kind and humble with one another.

1 Peter 3:8

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I love someone who is unlovable?

Prayer Focus: Those who will serve in the Table Family

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-4

Building Christ's Family

I remember my first Kairos. On the way into that prison, I couldn't understand how it is that God can transform those hardened hearts. I was to sit in a Table Family – face to face with these “hardened criminals”, and I didn't have a clue how to help God build a new family. I was lost. I couldn't do this. Looking back on that feeling now, I realize that in my weakness, in my helplessness, in my lack of being in control that I again was forced to be totally reliant on God. Yep, right where He wanted me!

So, how does Christ build a new family? He starts with you! You and a humble, loving heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to wash away those things in you that impede the flow of the spirit through you. Wash away pride. Wash away control. Wash away feelings of racism. Wash away hatred. Wash away old injuries. Wash away jealousy. Wash them all away so it is not you that the family sees, but Christ through you.



*I found a
new family
here*



Nature of God's Love-5

I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind.

Philippians 2:2

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I share my love for Christ in my letters to the residents?

Prayer Focus: Those who share their love for Jesus

My prayers go out for...

Nature of God's Love-5

Hope In Your Hands

Handwritten letters are special things, aren't they? Almost a lost tradition. Telephones, word processors and email have taken over. But it seems to me that something gets left out when the high tech replaces the low tech letter. Don't you treasure that handwritten letter from a loved one? It's like it's straight from the heart when it is handwritten. The high tech is more like straight from the mind. Oh, how we treasure those "special" letters.

Just think of the impact a handwritten letter has on an inmate. Talk about a shock! Many haven't received even a single letter from family or friend in months – maybe even years. And then they are flooded with handwritten letters. Special letters. Letters unlike any they probably have ever received. Letters expressing encouragement. They don't get much encouragement, you know.

*Letters expressing hope.
There's not a lot of hope
in their lives.*

*Letters expressing love.
Love. Love from God –
delivered by His people.*

*That's what happens as the
residents read those letters
of love. They slowly begin
to realize that these are love
letters - from God.*

Team Member Letter Writing Guidelines

Be joyful and hopeful

Express Christian love

If you are at a Table, write table family letters after getting to know the brothers/sisters

Don't use stickers (drugs can be transported in the glue)

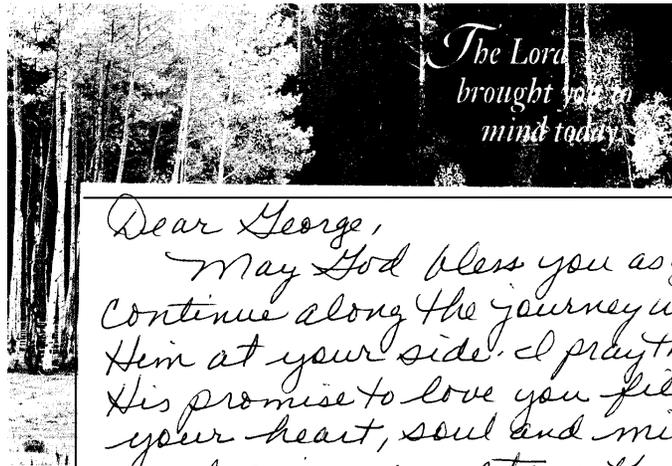
Write the letters in advance (not enough time to write 42 letters)

Nature of God's Love-5

God Himself wrote those letters the old-fashioned way - on the hearts of His family. And the family hand scribed them just the way God wanted. And the Holy Spirit made sure they got to where they belonged - in the heart of the participant.

Yes, handwritten letters are special. They are special in Kairos because they are God's letters. Love letters. Thank you for being God's scribe. And be sure to thank all those folks in the family for also being God's scribes. They'll want to know how God's letter was received!

What is it that God wants to say in His letter to the residents?

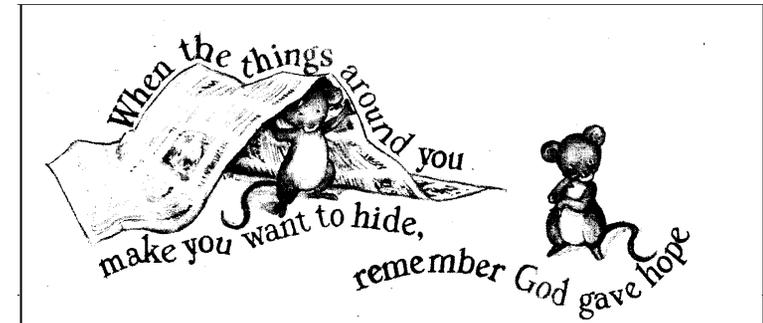


Dear George,
May God bless you as you continue along the journey with Him at your side. I pray that His promise to love you fills your heart, soul and mind, and gives you strength.
Grace and Peace!

Your Sister in Christ, Beverly

Nature of God's Love-5

These are just examples of the wide variety of forms that people have used to communicate God's message.



Dear Jose,
I Am So Happy That God Chose You To Be Here This Weekend! I've Prayed That You Would Find Renewed Life With Christ And A New Family In Christ. Dear Brother, Never Forget That God, The Creator Of The Universe, Loves you Very Much.
Mike