

September 2018

Kairos—God's Time

08/18/18 ... just a date on the calendar ... a Saturday, a couple of weeks back ... a point in time ... now a part of history ... come and gone ... barely remembered by most of us ... BUT WAIT.

Let me give a bit of perspective. A group of eight people- four couples affectionately referring to themselves as the “gang of eight”- were drawn together by a mutual desire to love and serve God. For months they met in one of their houses to study the Bible and pray for God to speak to them. They had a heart to gather up other Portuguese-speaking residents living in and around Henrico. Invitations to be part of this gathering soon grew into a vital community, a “house church” as it is often called. Week after week, they worshipped, prayed, fellowshiped over meals, formed one another in faith and went into the community to meet human need as the Spirit of God led them.

One day, as the original “gang of eight” was seeking to hear from God in prayer and meditation, they were given the date “8/18/18” as a day when God would do or reveal something big in their small community of believers. In God’s time, Kairos time, a vision took shape that on that date they would be blessed with a larger space in which to worship and form faith and ministry ...

Kairos time- God’s timing ... God’s order and scheme of things ... significant and holy moments pregnant with possibility, when remarkable things happen or are revealed. Kairos times have to be intentionally enter into, but they are not measured by a wristwatch or the calendar. Kairos times cannot be consumed or eaten up by the ticking of the clock. They cannot be lost or stolen, or subverted or adversely altered by the circumstances of the world.

When we enter worship -in whatever form that takes, as individuals or a group, formally or informally, engaging in prayer, listening in silent meditation, reading and studying God’s word, singing, celebrating the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, acts of humble service, etc., - we enter into the presence of the eternal God who cannot be contained, defined or limited by “chronos” (time measured by seconds, minutes, hours or days). We may set a chronological time to begin, but once we have intentionally entered this time with God, we must trust God to signal the appropriate pause or end.

We have a “learned” impatience that we must choose to “unlearn” if we are to connect with God in these ways. We often lament not hearing from God, not experiencing His awesome presence, but then we set aside precious little time

(chronos) to tune in ... five minutes here, an hour or two there.

I'm calling on each of you to join me in being much more intentional about entering Kairos time with God. Show up for worship! Heed the calls to prayer! Determine to read and study the Bible both to be informed and to be transformed! Why? Because knowing and loving God is life!

We live in a world that is hungry for the gospel revealed and brought to us by Jesus. People need to know they are loved, forgiven, healed, and called by God. If you know this, you have got to share it. If you are hungering for it, then come and get it!

Now, back to "8/18/18" – God used us here at Skipwith United Methodist Church to confirm His promise to the four couples or the "gang of eight." In Kairos time, God revealed to these eight people that on Saturday, August 18, 2018, something big would happen for them. And it did! ***The Adventist Brazilian Church, a gathering of Portuguese-speaking Americans launched their first worship service and teaching and fellowship time in our facilities.***

What a joy and honor it is to be such an integral part of God's promise being fulfilled. We humbly welcome Mark & Lucy Silva and the members of IABR. May God bless our partnership to His glory and our mutual good!

PASTOR TODD