



**I was in prison and
you visited me...**

Matthew 25:36

Called by Name

Travels have kept me away from attending Prayer and Share sessions at the unit. These weekly sessions are an important part of Kairos Prison Ministry. "*Kairos*," comes from a Greek word meaning, "*In God's time*," and reminds us that faith journeys don't always happen on our schedule.

This week, I met two men for the first time.

Armando is a bit of a savant in the unit- he knows everyone's name. He addresses everyone by name and, as a result, seems to be liked by all. He says, "*Some people think I just show off, but I do it because I love them.*"

Armando has been inside the walls for seventeen years. He is unique in that he began serving time at the age of fifty-eight. He told us, "*When I got sent to prison, I was really scared. I was afraid of prison and I asked God to protect me.*" Although he was a believer before prison, he still thanks God because it was in prison where he found true peace.

Leon, on the other hand, began serving time at the age of seventeen years- in 1958. Except for two short trips outside the walls, most of his adult life has been inside the walls. Leon came to faith in 2009.

We were talking about family life and Leon started tearing up as he talked about his mother, a mean prostitute. Leon described a difficult childhood, yet, once he forgave his mother, her transgressions were washed away, and what remained was also true peace. Through faith, he received freedom from a bitter grudge that imprisoned him as much as prison.

These two men, one 75 and other 77, directed their remarks to the two young men who were in our circle. The older men peacefully accepted their remaining days will be spent in prison. It was a gift to witness them not just giving advice and encouragement to their younger brothers in Christ, but to be so invested in their second chance.

Kairos strives to help form Christian communities inside the walls. It is a blessing to bear witness to them caring for each other. The older men wanted the younger men to succeed on the outside, but also to find the peace that comes from being men of God.

Armando is right, they do it not to show off, but because they love each other.