

Kairos Home-baked Table Cookie Ministry

Cookies become a tangible expression of Christian love and an indication of God's concern for a group of people who seldom have either in the course of their daily lives. A Kairos weekend supplies 3,500 dozen bakery bought cookies (all the same) which are distributed to ALL inmates, correction officers, and staff. At least 300 dozen "home-baked" table cookies are needed for those involved in the special Kairos weekend. May God bless you for the gift of baking as your spirit of generosity and outreach are shown to those who are lost and lonely. These cookies represent 3 truths:

1. God's unending grace. Cookies are everywhere in the prison this weekend. They are a physical symbol of God's grace.
2. The power of Christian community. Kairos cookies demonstrate that real people on the outside can see the inmates in need of Christian fellowship.
3. Availability of forgiveness. You can imagine that God's forgiveness and self-forgiveness are difficult to accept in prison. One evening of the weekend, each Kairos participant is asked to take a bag of home-baked cookies to whomever in that institution he needs to ask for or grant forgiveness.

Cookie Guidelines for Safety and Security

Preparing the Cookies: Commonly made - Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Ginger, Snickerdoodle and Sugar, although you can be creative... Lemon, Red Velvet, Chocolate Chunk with Marshmallows, Coconut, Pumpkin, etc... Home-baked cookies are a special treat and preferred, but store bought can be a back-up substitute. Cookies are generally between 2 and 2½ inches in diameter and not more than ½ inch thick, but sizing is not as critical. DO NOT use any kind of fruit (no raisins), nuts, candy (no M&M's), icing, sprinkles or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookie. All the cookies have to go through security prior to entrance into the prison system.

The Key Ingredient - Prayer: Pray individually and/or as a family over the ingredients before and during mixing/preparation. Pray over the cookies as you drop them onto the cookie sheets and bake them. Ask God to use your cookies as a source of His love to shine on the prisoners and staff for the Kairos weekend. Pray that each cookie brings the inmate, officer, staff, and/or warden who eats it closer to God. We want every person to become part of the family of God.

Packing the Cookies: There are 2 restrictions from the prison that affect the packing of cookies. Do NOT attach any type of label to the bag. Also, use only storage bags grip-n-seal style without slider tabs. Bags with slider tabs will NOT be allowed inside the prison. If not using within 3 days, place in freezer bags. Bag thoroughly-COOLED cookies (or they stick) 12 per zip-lock bag. We prefer packages of a dozen so it is easier for us to know the total amount as all inventory has to be accounted for. With a sharpie, label the ziplock bag including the amount and type of cookie. Also, just for feedback to share with you as some recipes crumble, please consider writing your information to insert in/on the box or container they are in, but NOT on the ziplock bags that go into the unit. For feedback, you can share what type(s) of cookies, approximately how many, your name, and church/person your connected to. If possible, transport single layers in a box with card board in between to reduce crumbling.

Getting the Cookies to the Prison: Deliver the bagged cookies to a Kairos member before the planned weekend. Thank you for your loving sacrifice of providing this "bread" that will shine the light of God's grace into the darkest corners of the Polunsky Unit in Livingston.

Questions? Contact _____ Number _____ Email _____