

## CHAPLAIN SERVICE PRISON MINISTRY OF VIRGINIA, INC.

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August 15, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my whole-hearted endorsement for and support of Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. and its various programs. Words cannot adequately express the positive impact that Kairos has had on the lives of men and women incarcerated in Virginia's state prison system.

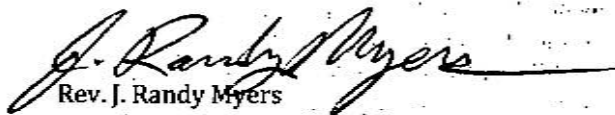
Our ministry (Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc.) is contracted with the Virginia Department of Corrections and is the official provider of chaplains to the state prisons. We have been providing chaplains for 93 years now. We currently have 30 chaplains serving in 30 state prisons across the Commonwealth of Virginia, ministering to nearly 30,000 inmates.

As part of their ministry, the chaplains work with the many religious volunteers that come into the prisons from local churches and local, regional and national ministries. They are responsible for helping to recruit volunteers, get their background checks done, do their orientation training, and then for scheduling and overseeing their various religious services and programs. The LARGEST ministry group that we work with is also the BEST ministry group in our humble estimation, and that is Kairos. Kairos started out in just a few prisons in Virginia many years, and this has grown to the point where they are now serving in approximately a third of our major prison facilities.

The Kairos model is ingenious. They bake literally tens of thousands of cookies and bring them into the prisons. They then invite some of the "worst of the worst" inmates (prison gang leaders, etc.) to come to their intensive 4-day spiritual events. The events are open to inmates of any/all faiths (or of no faith at all). These men and women may initially come for the cookies, but what they experience is the unconditional love of God in Christ through the large number of trained Kairos volunteers that are paired with them and that serve on the event "team." There are a series of talks given by both laity and clergy team members, and there are also activities and sharing times at the tables. By the end of each Kairos event, many of these formerly hardened men and women give testimonies at the closing ceremony about how they have experienced Jesus Christ and the love of God in a way they had never known or dreamed of (often with tears of joy and gratitude streaming down their faces). There is seldom a dry eye in the place. There are shouts and songs of praise for what God has done. And after that, the Kairos volunteers return over and over again for "reunions" in which they continue to minister to these men and women.

I have had so many chaplains and prison administrators (including Wardens) tell me over the years that after a Kairos event takes place, it changes the whole prison. Attitudes are better and infractions decline. The prison becomes a safer place. For this reason, nearly every Warden and correctional administrator that I know LOVES the Kairos program! Our chaplains believe in Kairos so much that they will often work numerous *unpaid* overtime hours just to be present for the whole 4-day event - so they can experience what God is doing. I have never seen a more committed, prepared and faithful group of volunteers than Kairos volunteers. For these reasons I strongly recommend Kairos to any prison, state prison system, administrator, etc. that is considering it. Believe me, you will NOT regret bringing Kairos Prison Ministry into your facility! Hearts and lives will be changed, and your facility or facilities will be changed. You will also help create safer communities.

Sincerely,

  
Rev. J. Randy Myers  
President

