



Kairos Prison Ministry
International

Volunteering With Kairos

A common misconception is that in order to volunteer with Kairos, one must enter a prison. For those who feel a calling but are not able to assist in that capacity, there are *many* other options that are just as rewarding. Here are just a few:

Be a prayer partner

All Kairos Ministry activities are covered with prayer. You can volunteer to be a prayer partner every Tuesday at 1:30 pm EST. We also create prayer chains for our Weekends to show Participants and Guests how much they are loved by people all over the world.

Be a Support Volunteer

Each Kairos Weekend has opportunities for outside volunteer support, such as preparing meals or helping with fundraising events.

Create Agape

Agape takes many forms, one of which is artwork posted on walls of the community room for the participants to read throughout the Weekend. Signed placemats for meals and posters made by children (first name and age only) are also especially treasured by prisoners.

Be a Cookie Baker

Some Weekends require thousands of cookies, at least a dozen for every inmate and staff. We're talking 20,000 cookies! May God bless you for the gift of baking!

Be a Ministry Financial Donor

All Kairos activities are funded by donations. If you would like to support this ministry, make your check payable (any amount is appreciated!) to Kairos Prison Ministry International and send it to our office address, or make a donation online at www.kairosprisonministry.org

Be a Team Member

Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers come from all walks and strata of life. They all share a desire to follow Christ's admonition of Matthew 25:36, "*I was in prison and you visited me.*"

Kairos, is a Greek word meaning in God's Special Time or in the Fullness of Time, indicating an opportunity for our participants and guests to re-consider their life choices. As hearts are changed, inmates begin to take responsibility for their actions - **it's like a front row seat at a miracle.**

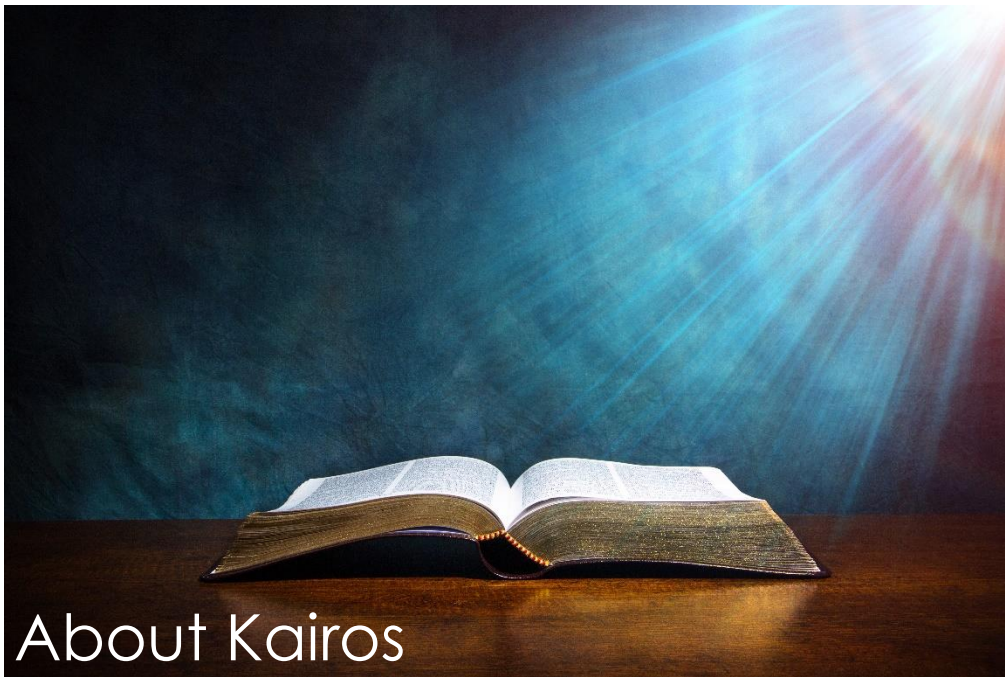


Christine Money, Former Warden at Marion Correctional Institution

"I was assigned to be the Warden at the Marion Correctional Institution. It was a dark place and Kairos brought the light of love and hope. Over the next ten years, the miracles mounted, peace replaced violence, hope replaced despair, broken relationships were restored and incarcerated men lived their faith unapologetically. The culture of the prison changed dramatically."

Kairos Torch Youth Participant (Poem Excerpt)

"You may say I'm headed downhill and call me a nasty punk; but I may just surprise you 'cause God ain't made no junk... Though I'm not all that I want to be, I'm a long ways from where I was. See God made me and that is understood, I know I am somebody and I know I am some good."



About Kairos

Kairos is a volunteer, lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry, started in 1976, which consists of three programs: Kairos Inside (Men/Women), Kairos Outside (for families of the incarcerated), and Kairos Torch (to reach incarcerated youth). Kairos Weekends are much like the Walk to Emmaus 3 day retreat weekend, but focused on the special needs of those affected by incarceration.

Kairos has more than 30,000 volunteers who serve in 500+ prisons and communities in 37 states and 9 foreign countries. Kairos sprang from the Cursillo movement and is supported by volunteers from 4th Day ministries such as Cursillo, Via de Cristo, Walk To Emmaus, and Tres Dias as well as volunteers from Christian churches. Kairos embraces a diverse group of volunteers working together to fulfill Christ's call to action in Matthew 25:36.

By sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Kairos hopes to change hearts and transform lives. Studies have shown that Kairos helps reduce recidivism, improve the prison environment, make communities safer, reunite and heal family and relatives, and create positive and productive members of society.

KAIROS INSIDE PARTICIPANT

"Kairos gave me a reason to live. I believe that, had I not come to know God's love, I probably would not be here today. How else could a person with two life sentences survive the horrors of prison life? All things are possible with God.

Without Him, many of us don't make it. It was because of Kairos that I got to know God, and ultimately, I was given the chance to live."



It has been said that Kairos is the one ministry where volunteers work together as the body of Christ and set aside denominational differences to serve together and to embody the true meaning of church.

ONE MINISTRY, THREE PROGRAMS

Kairos Inside

Kairos Inside brings together inmates for a 3 ½ day Weekend led by same gender Kairos volunteers. The Weekend is based on a series of talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and prayer. The concept is to build the Christian community inside the institution where the inmates pray and fellowship together weekly.

In addition, volunteers return for a monthly "Reunion" of the Kairos community. Without our follow up support, the efforts of the Weekend would quickly be lost to the prison environment.

Kairos Outside

Relatives of those in prison often "do time" right along with their loved ones. Kairos Outside lets them know they are not alone.

The Weekend is a 2 ½ day supportive, non-judging retreat designed to address the pain of separation and the judgment of others. The program is interspersed with music, prayer, and fun activities. Continuing ministry afterwards helps the women on their individual journeys as they grow in faith.

Any woman whose life has been impacted by incarceration, or who was unable to attend Kairos Inside while in prison, is eligible to attend Kairos Outside.

Kairos Torch

Kairos Torch mentors youth in prison so they can begin to make better life choices. The program begins with a Weekend retreat for those 25 and under. The mission is to engage their reasoning skills in seeking balance for their lives and create a safe place for the offender to realize their God-given potential through the mentoring of a mature, Christian volunteer.

It encourages the stripping away of the masks they hide behind. Torch team volunteers commit to a weekly mentoring process for six months after the Weekend which includes discussions, goal setting, and Reunions.