

## **Kairos E-News #20 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers - 5/1/13**

**Kairos Prison Ministry International – A well respected ministry** (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director)

In April, I attended a collaboration meeting for Prison ministries. There were about 62 people present representing 32 prison ministries. These ministries ranged from small organizations to large ministries such as Prison Fellowship, CRU (Campus Crusade), and Navigators. In addition the focus of the ministries were varied from music, family, children, incarcerated, evangelism, and almost anything else one could imagine. This was the first time Kairos has attended this collaborative meeting and this began in 1991.

As I introduced myself and shared I was with Kairos Prison Ministry, I was not expecting the greeting I received over the next day of meeting. I had several ask to meet with me about collaboration opportunities or share their ideas of how they wanted to work with Kairos. Mostly I heard things like ‘Oh Kairos, what you are doing is wonderful and really works’, or ‘Kairos – when I am trying to get in an institution and I hear Kairos is in I don’t even try to compete for that weekend’, or ‘if I know Kairos is in an institution I always ask for the next weekend because my ministry explodes when I follow Kairos’, and on and on it went.

I share this to not applaud ourselves or promote what we are doing as people but to say God is at work using Kairos Prison Ministry and others are noticing! May it be an encouragement for us to strive to reach more people incarcerated and their families with the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

**Spring 2013 Newsletter** - The latest Kairos Prison Ministry Newsletter is posted on the website at <http://www.mykairos.org/news.html>

**Power of Prayer:** Maybe remind Kairos Volunteers that Staff prays for the upcoming Weekends every Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 PM (EST). All volunteers are welcome to pray with us at this time.

**2013 Summer Conference** (Ann Kreller, KPMI Exec Administrative Assistant) - Mark your calendars: Kairos Prison Ministry International 2013 Summer Conference will be held in Norman, Oklahoma, July 30 - August 3, 2013 at the NCED Conference Center and Hotel: <http://cc.nced.com/>. The tentative schedule and registration form is now available at [http://www.mykairos.org/conference\\_registration.html](http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html)

**Report from Costa Rica** (Carlos Cuningham, Costa Rica Executive Director) - On April 13 we had elections of the Board of Directors. The new President is Mr. Santiago Solano Sancho and I am the new volunteer Executive Director to carry on the decisions of the Board and do the leadership training. In Costa Rica Kairos has a presence in a Men’s prison (San Sebastián), a Women’s prison (Buen Pastor) and a KO Community. We are having Monthly Reunions in each of these communities and Prayer and Share Groups in the prisons. We have a lot of support from the department of Corrections and the staff in the prisons. The Holy Spirit is really doing great things in these three communities. We have open doors to do Kairos in 17 more prisons and there is one in particular that has been waiting for two years already for us to do it.

We had planned two Weekends this year in each of three communities mentioned above. Unfortunately we are having great funding difficulty. Our team members are very poor and the costs in Costa Rica are the highest in the region (Each Weekend costs approximately \$6,500 being very frugal). We have held so far this year a KO and a KI Women and we owe \$842 from the women’s Weekend and \$1,200 for KO that some members put on their personal credit cards to be able to have

the Weekends. However, we have had to cancel the April Weekend in the Men's prison so as not to add more to the debt. Instead we held a Two Day Retreat for 63 Residents there. We have Weekends approved for July 1-4 for the women's prison and September for the men's prison. A KO Weekend is planned for November. We are hoping not to have to cancel those as well. The fundraising that we do here in Costa Rica is not enough to cover the costs. We have help from a church in Alabama for one Weekend a year in San Sebastián (September) and also for a KO Weekend. If we do not get additional help it will be very difficult for us to cover the costs in the other Weekends and they will need to be cancelled as well.

I ask for your prayers that we may be directed by the Holy Spirit to bring the love and forgiveness of God to the incarcerated and their families.

**News from the Dominican Republic** (Rey Bonachea) - The Dominican Republic held their second Kairos Weekend at the Najayo Women's prison on March 20-24. The Holy Spirit did a tremendous job once again. One case in particular caught my eye. It is the first time I hear of a Resident whose release date fell during the Weekend and she wanted to stay in prison to complete the Weekend! Granted that she probably should not have been a candidate to begin with. But I thought this was indeed a unique experience.

It is also noteworthy that the team raised sufficient money to hold the Weekend by selling raffle tickets and meal tickets and even had a few pesos left over for the next Weekend. I think this is a mayor milestone considering Kairos was incorporated in the Dominican Republic in May 2010 and the first Weekend was held at a men's prison in May 2011. The first at the women's prison was in September 2012. As far as I know, this is the first Weekend held in Latin America without any external funding.

During the Weekend they had a visit from the country's Attorney General who wants Kairos extended to all the prisons in the country! Opportunities abound! Praise God! The challenge will be to come up with the volunteers and the funding. But I am confident that God is in control.

**Advisory Council Training at Summer Conference** (Jo Chapman, Women's Ministries Coordinator) - Pat Rice will be presenting an all day ACT training on Friday of the summer conference for all three ministries. So bring Advisory Council members for this important training. Pat has presented 6 Advisory Council Training trainings this year so come and join her.

**2014 Kairos Cruise?** - Florida Area 4 has organized a special rate aboard Royal Caribbean's "Enchantment of the Seas" departing from Port Canaveral, FL on January 6, 2014, for a 4 Night Bahamas Cruise. Deposits are due April 6, 2013. More information can be downloaded from <http://www.mykairos.org/fundraising1.html>

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