

Kairos E-News #22 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers - 7/1/13

Kairos Mourns Loss of Founder - Kairos is saddened to relay the news that our beloved founder, Tom Johnson, passed away June 10, 2013. When Tom Johnson, an attorney and Catholic Cursillista from Miami, FL, decided to attend an ecumenical Cursillo gathering in Atlanta, GA in 1975, he had no idea how much that weekend would change his life or the profound impact that event would eventually have on thousands of people. The Atlanta Cursillo (a Spanish word for “little course”) brought together delegates from many denominations. It was there that Johnson learned through his friend, Pastor Gene Hermeier, that some of his fellow delegates were planning a prison weekend in Iowa. Johnson, who was intrigued by the possibilities of a Cursillo program in prison, attended that Iowa weekend and was excited about the experience. He returned to Miami and set to work planning a prison Cursillo experience in his home state. In the fall of 1976 at Union Correctional Institution in Raiford, FL, Johnson’s hard work became reality when he and fellow Cursillista presented a three-day spiritual renewal retreat for inmates. From there, the program grew and within the next two years ministry volunteers led by Johnson were conducting Cursillo short courses in prisons in more than a half dozen states. By 1979, after realizing the need for more structure and organization to continue growth, the Kairos name was adopted and the ministry became an independent, non-profit, ecumenical, Christian organization. Please keep Tom's wife, La Verne, and his family in your prayers.

Take the time for Prayer (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) - Kairos Prison Ministry has just finished an extensive spring cycle of weekends across the country. Thousands of volunteers served in or around hundreds of facilities to share God’s love to thousands. And now prayer and share, reunions, mentoring, and various continuing ministry is taking place. As you serve in your facility do you stop to think about all the other states and people around you serving? Let me encourage each of us to take a moment and celebrate what God is doing through Kairos. Let’s make sure we are a ministry that prays for each other. Each Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the staff gathers to pray for upcoming weekends and for the Kairos ministry. Join us anytime where ever you are!

As I have traveled around the country or talked to many of our volunteers, I find we have several issues we are dealing with across the country. Advisory councils where the facility is reducing ministry during the summer or where weekends are under time pressure, or where difficulties with state budgets or operations is creating issues with Kairos. And the list goes on and on. Yet we see opportunities for new growth and new facilities asking for Kairos to come in or death row facilities starting their first weekend. Whether it is a positive situation or an issue, we need to join in prayer for one another. May I challenge each of us to be focused in prayer and to lift up Kairos Prison Ministry daily. I have no doubt that if we are praying for Kairos and for each other while giving the ministry to God daily that we can weather any situation and will see God’s provision in magnificent ways.

“if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer” Matthew 21:22

Vision - (Jim Hankins, Chairman Board of Directors) - There are many examples of God giving visions to his people in the Bible. Sometimes he gave a vision to an individual, sometimes to a small group, and sometimes to an entire nation. A vision could be about a single event or purpose or the coming of a “New Age”. God’s vision for Kairos is not new, nor is it uncharacteristic of a loving caring God who is concerned for the” least of these”.

It was difficult to limit our vision statement to numbers or time. The end result had to be something that would be used by God not just something to point at in satisfaction. There is power in community. God can use a community that is centered in Christ, vibrant with life, and dedicated to reaching others.

This vision of community includes those who minister and those who are ministered to as we join together to reach the world.

This Vision along with our Mission will guide our strategic planning. This plan will be specific steps that need to be made to put our ministry in position to be used by God for His purpose. Many different groups will be involved to form this plan.

Our Vision

**A Community Spiritually Freed From the Effects of Imprisonment
Reaching all Impacted by Incarceration, Through the Love, Hope,
and Faith Found in Jesus Christ.**

I hope you will join me in praying for God's guidance as we continue to serve. We must ask ourselves, "How can I best contribute to the effort that will see our vision fulfilled?". Join me in seeking the best for God's glorification.

To read the Vision Launch letter from the Board of Directors:

http://www.MyKairos.org/docs/kpmi/bod_vision_launch.pdf

Summer 2013 Newsletter - The latest Kairos Prison Ministry Newsletter is posted on the MyKairos.org website. Look under Newsroom.

Kairos Inside Update (Bill Rushing, Men's Ministries Coordinator) - From the Inside Program: 1. Wisconsin is well on its journey of having a #1 Men's Weekend at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution on October 25-28, 2013. Leader Al Kolff has scheduled 4 team meetings from July through October including the Kairos 101 for all new starts in new states. 2. In Kentucky, a study group has been formed to see if KPMI can get started there with an initial early meeting between Kentucky prison officials and volunteers to held on July 17. Kairos volunteers from Illinois and Indiana will also participate in this first meeting.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) - The Louisiana Department of Juvenile has invited the Kairos Youth Ministry Coordinator to come to Louisiana and present the Kairos Torch Program to their executive staff on July 12, 2013.

Kairos Outside Update (Jo Chapman, Women's Ministries Coordinator) - Please pray for the new Women's Ministries that will start in the second half of 2013. Indiana Women's Prison will restart their KI in August. The first female Peer-to-Peer Torch in Georgia will start in August. KO South Florida will restart their ministry in September. Alabama will start a new KI at Aliceville Federal Correctional Institution in October. KO #1 (first Ministry in Oregon) will start in November and KO#1 Inside North Central Correctional Center in Ohio will start in November. Our prayers go out for all these teams and all the recipients of God's love that will be touched by these weekends. God bless all these new starts.

Prisoner to Prisoner Devotionals - Prisoner to Prisoner daily devotionals can now be ordered through Kairos order system along with all program materials. Only orders for Kairos and paid by Kairos entities will go through this process. To submit your order, please use the Supply Order Form located on the www.mykairos.org website or send your order to order@kpmi.org.

News From Indiana (Terry Crockett, At-large IC Representative) - Pendleton Correctional Facility of Indiana prepared a four-sided hand drawn card with over sixty messages from offenders for the family of Tom Johnson. This card was given to Evelyn at the June 28-29 Indiana State Chapter meeting. The card included messages of thanks and testimonies of how Kairos has blessed them.

Recent efforts of the Governance Committee - The International Council has unanimously approved several changes to the bylaws. The motion provided changes to the bylaws in four areas:

1. Prior to the change, the IC must have 30 days lead time to call a special meeting. This is the same time for any meeting of the IC. The change will allow a 10 day notice for a meeting to handle a special or emergency situation.
2. Some of the committees of the IC were called councils. In order to provide consistency in the naming protocols all Committees are to be named Committee. IC Committees designated as councils is a carry-over from how they were called prior to the adoption of the present bylaws.
3. The Executive Director or their designee is the Staff Liaison to all Board Committees and the Co-Chair of all IC Committees except where another staff member is designated as the Co-Chair.
4. Making the bylaws gender neutral with regards to the Executive Director.

Thoughts on the Business of Kairos (David Ross, International Council President) - In March, I had the privilege of participating in my first ever Board of Directors retreat in N. Carolina. I don't have any idea how previous retreats were conducted, but I was filled with the wonderment of a child as I watched our Board face the issues of our ministry. To come together as one body, to develop a vision statement for Kairos (coming soon to a theater near you), and deal with other matters connected to Kairos was very eye opening. There is no mystery involved. Our Board is made up of dedicated volunteers who love the Lord and serve Him without any thoughts of self. WOW – just like ALL of us!

Four days later, I was in prison as an assistant table leader, family of St. Luke on Kairos #24 at the James V. Allred unit in Iowa Park, TX. Seated next to me was a man named Juan, one of the most tortured souls I've ever encountered in my time with Kairos. I watched (and listened) as God did His work through the food and songs and events of the weekend to turn Juan into a man fully aware that He is God's special child.

It got me to thinking. Is the "business" of the ministry really that important? Does it matter that our Bylaws are grammatically correct? Does God really care that Kairos has audited financial statements? Well, after some serious reflection, I believe that the answer is YES. We are all special children of God. He wants our best. He cares that the fruits of our labor reflect the quality He wants for us and from us. When I encounter the Juans of the world and see the tangible impact of His work through us inside the walls, I sometimes struggle with the importance of the work we do for Him outside the walls. What Jesus teaches us, though, with the parable of the Lost Sheep is that ALL of it is important. As we approach Summer Conference in Oklahoma in just a few weeks, a time where we come together as ONE body of Christ, let's do so with a spirit of love, charity, and cooperation – just as if we were entering the prison – to do God's work outside of the prison.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon and am honored to serve you.

"In Progress" from the Governance Committee (Greg Moser, Vice-President, Operations, Board of Directors) The Governance Committee is working on the following items:

- Recruitment of a person to fill the 15th position on the Board of Directors;

- Approving a Process for Kairos Documents - "KPMI Board, IC and KPMI Foundation Board Motion Protocol" which was presented for our consideration at our June Meeting, and will be finalized (hopefully) at our July Meeting;
- Developing Board of Directors/IC Orientations that will be on going at the Summer Conference, Winter Meeting and Board of Directors two face-to-face meetings in the Spring and Fall;
- We have a 'MyKairos' website committee who are looking into the information that is available on the site. The committee will bring recommendations back at the July meeting, regarding, the information that is currently on the site, what the public should have access to, what needs to be password protected, and how long specific information should remain on the site before it is archived;
- We have reviewed our Annual Election Script, and recently drawn up a procedure that will create an election that includes aspects that increase confidentiality for ballot collection and counting, as well as being timely;
- We have been looking at the By-Laws, in particularly to how the quorum of the IC is established. The question at hand was if International members choose to not participate in a voting session because the point at hand does not apply to them why should they be included in the makeup to achieve proper percentage to vote on ministry items. In no way would anyone be asked to not participate, but in order to fulfill a quorum are they required.

Monthly Recruiting Tidbits (Ken Perduyn, International Council, Volunteer and Guest Recruitment Committee Chairman) - How are recruiting efforts going in your state/area? What about volunteer burnout? Volunteer and Guest recruitment Committee is working on ways to help. Please forward any ideas to Ken Perduyn at kperduyn@cox.net

HELP! Al Kolff, IC Communications Committee) We surveyed all of the Kairos state web sites recently and in that process we realized that there are a lot more "Kairos" (official and unofficial) web sites and Facebook pages out there. If you know of any that are not listed on the <http://www.MyKairos.org/link.html> page, could you please forward the web addresses to lee@mykairos.org. Thank you.

Summer Conference Schedules (Ann Kreller, KPMI Exec Administrative Assistant) - The Summer Conference Schedule including the workshop schedule (with explanations for each workshop) are posted on the www.MyKairos.org website. Click on 2013 Summer Conference Info.

Share the E-News - Not everyone is subscribed to the Kairos E-News. Share this information with your State Chapter Committee, Area Committee, Advisory Council and your community. If you missed a copy of the Kairos E-News and want to get caught up, go to the [MyKairos.org](http://www.MyKairos.org) website, click on Newsroom, then Kairos E-News. Archived copies are there for you to download and read.

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The IC Communications Improvement Ad-hoc Committee