



Kairos E-News #36 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – September 2014

Kairos Welcomes New Staff Members – (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – The Kairos International office welcomes Julie Collins as National Controller. Julie has worked in accounting and finance for various non-profits and for-profits. She is excited to use her God-given gifts and talents to serve with Kairos. Julie began work in August, and we are transitioning utilizing Cindy (former Controller) to train her on Kairos processes.

Kairos also welcomes Gina Brockmeyer as the new Women’s Ministries Coordinator. Gina has volunteered for Kairos in Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside, held various positions, and was recently State Chair of Maryland. She has experience in U.S. and international program management. Gina takes on her new role on September 15th. We will go through a few weeks of transition with Gina and Jo Chapman to train and transfer information.

We celebrate Cindy and Jo and the work they did at Kairos and for what God has in store for them in their futures. And we celebrate our new team members Julie and Gina and are excited for the new chapters in the ministry under their leadership.

Integrity and Accountability (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – Every so often I hear the comment that we are too focused on the financials. In some cases, I agree, as we should just be doing them accurately, timely, and by the guidelines that keep us compliant with the law. Thus when we don’t do this, we have to focus on them to ensure we have integrity and accountability and are good stewards of God’s resources. It all belongs to God. Generous donors give to enable us to do this ministry, and we want to operate above reproach with the upmost integrity and stewardship as a Christian ministry.

Use of Teleconference Lines (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – Kairos Prison Ministry International offers the use of teleconference services free of charge to the Kairos volunteers for ministry purposes. Each call is scheduled for a certain amount of time. Calls must always be scheduled in order to use the line because it may already be scheduled for another Advisory Council or group. Please do not assume that it is OK to go ahead and use the numbers that you may have used for a call in the past without first scheduling the call—this line is probably already checked out to another group. This has become a recurring issue recently and causes a great inconvenience for everyone on the scheduled call. They have all put aside time to be able to participate on the call. We have plenty of lines to be used, so let’s be courteous to our fellow Kairos brothers and sisters and remember to schedule all conference calls. Please pass this message on to all of the volunteers in your state or advisory council. Thank you for your cooperation.

Board of Directors Update (Jim Hankins, Chair) – The Kairos Board of Directors is excited about welcoming Gina Brockmeyer as our new Women's Ministry Coordinator and Julie Collins as our new Controller. There will be a time of transition, but we are excited about the new staff members.

Our Board members are busy serving on our committees in a continuing effort to bring about excellence in our Kairos Ministry. Excellence doesn't just happen, it takes work. Many of us have either just completed or are about to participate in our local team weekends. As we experience God's love for those we are serving, it reminds us all of the importance of giving our best, no matter what role we have. On my recent weekend, I tried to be the very best Head Servant Assistant possible, and I must say that I was truly blessed to be used by God. I am glad that God accepts our imperfect effort, when we give it with all our heart.

International Council Update (Lee Turner, International Council President) – In spite of the fact that we serve humbly, we all desire, at some level, to be significant. We desire to make an impact in this ministry, in the lives of those we minister to, for the glory of God. It occurs to me that we struggle with this, on occasion. We want to make an impact, but we end up leaving our fingerprints on the ministry, not necessarily in a good way.

In the institution where I started serving, there was a tradition for the first 18 weekends of having a serenade on Saturday night. I learned in AKT that serenades were inappropriate and was told why. This was clearly one of those prohibited, riverbank issues. As you can imagine, after nine years of Kairos weekends, the concept of eliminating the serenade was difficult for some to accept. Five years later, we are still in the riverbanks on this issue.

You can still impact the ministry and be in the riverbanks at the same time. If you think of the people in this ministry who made a significant impact, think of their results. Their results are significant in our eyes and in our work today. Please don't misunderstand me. The people who laid the foundations of Kairos were significant in God's eyes, and we honor their work in establishing this amazing ministry. The "Nine Old Men" ... can you name them? What they did wasn't about them, it was about the glory of God. So, as we wrestle with compliance and riverbank issues, it can be overwhelming to contemplate fixing them all at once.

So here's a suggestion going forward: Take a riverbank issue and confront it head-on. Commit, during the fall weekend, to fix that one issue (e.g., recruit a team large enough to fill all the positions). The next weekend, tackle another issue—and give God the glory.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – One of the important roles of my position as Program Coordinator is to listen. Two weeks ago I was visiting an Advisory Council that seemed to be doing a good job of finding new volunteers. So I asked the obvious question, "How do you do it?" The answer is as simple as it is effective.

Inviting potential new volunteers requires a face-to-face contact to be most effective. Brochures, video presentations, cookies, and talks only go so far in getting a person to commit. To get the commitment you are looking for, ask this question with sincerity, genuineness, and prayerfulness. Perhaps the setting is after church and you are fellowshiping with the congregation one-to-one. You find someone you feel is a good potential volunteer. The conversation is going along just

fine—then you ask them to do something:

“I want you to pray about something (pause for their attention for a few seconds). I want you to pray about volunteering for Kairos Prison Ministry.” Then be quiet. Don’t say a word. Just watch, wait, and listen for their reaction. And pray. The effect is powerful. You have asked them to do something that costs them nothing, is something they do every day, and it asks them to seek God’s Spirit and wisdom in discerning a call to serve. It is a calling and one worthy of prayer. Try this and let me know how it works. Listening: the most powerful thing you can do.

Women's Ministry Update (Jo Chapman, Women’s Ministry Coordinator) – As many of you know, I am retiring, and Evelyn has hired Gina Brockmeyer as my replacement. Many volunteers have been praying for who God would send to be the new Women’s Coordinator. I think God and Evelyn have chosen a very capable woman, who has great skills to lead the female programs for the future of Kairos. Please continue to pray for the transition time and that Gina is able to step right up and begin leading those she is responsible for, in a godly way. I pray for her success; when she is successful, all the female programs will be successful. God bless you all.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – I am excited to announce that we are in the beginning stages of developing EZRA for Kairos Torch. This software tool assists the Weekend Leader in the Team Formation process and the 2½-day Weekend. It’s another wonderful tool to move us in ministry excellence. Speaking of excellence, be on the lookout for the new automated Kairos Torch Excellence Initiative form. You no longer have to print it out to fill it out and mail back in. Just go online to www.mykairos.org, fill it out, and hit enter. The form will automatically be sent to those who need to receive it.

New on the Website – E-Mail Tip for Improved Communications—Use the Bcc!! The what? Bcc: stands for Blind Carbon Copy or Blind Courtesy Copy, depending upon whom you ask, and is the box where you put the group e-mails when you don't want everybody else in the group to have access to those e-mail addresses (which should be almost always).

There are a couple of reasons for using the Bcc: for group e-mail address:

1. Did you get everyone's permission before distributing those addresses to everybody else?
2. Spammers love getting a hold of those e-mail addresses because they are guaranteed that almost 100% of them are valid e-mail addresses, and they don't have to guess.

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming fall 2014 weekend is not listed on the Kairos Kalendar, complete the electronic registration on the www.MyKairos.org website so we can adequately publicize your weekend. **This is especially important for #1 Weekends.** We create a banner-type advertisement especially for those #1 Weekends.

Spanish Translation of the E-News – A Spanish translation of E-News (E-Noticias) is also published monthly. If you would like to view previous issues or subscribe to future E-News in Spanish, please go to: http://www.mykairos.org/news_enevs-sp.html

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