



Kairos E-News #38 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – November 2014

Practice forgiveness (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – Often I get calls or emails about arguments or personal stances taken by individuals in the ministry. Unfortunately, the name-calling, arguments, yelling, or just fighting has already reached a negative climax by this time. As I listen, it does occur to me that we should be practicing what we teach within our Weekends ... especially Listen, Listen, Love, Love and forgiveness among each other. Maybe we need to ensure we extend a hand or hug, sharing God's love to each other. Let's try it and see if God does not mend the fences. This ministry is all about God's love—let's spread it among ourselves, too, and ensure we are spiritually healthy as individuals and as a team serving Him.

Financial Policies and Practices (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – Some wonder why we have to be so diligent in our financials as a non-profit. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we are exempt from federal taxes, and that exemption requires we raise and use funds only for the purpose of the exemption. Kairos' exemption is for our prison ministry and the expenses necessary for providing that service to society. The IRS has very specific rules on how we must handle donations (regardless of source), receipt donations, send end-of-year statements, report the expenses, and track costs for the ministry. We must do this to maintain our exemption and to properly operate. Most of all, we want to serve in honor of God and ensure we are using His funds the very best we can and in a way that allows us to do more ministry. Let's be diligent in our timely and accurate reporting so we ensure that the integrity and good standing of Kairos remains strong. And remember, it all belongs to God ... we are His stewards.

2015 Summer Conference (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – The 2015 Summer Conference will be held in Dallas, TX, July 28 through August 1, 2015. The preliminary agenda and the registration form will be on the www.mykairos.org website in the near future.

Kairos Founder Passes (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – Clarence Hodges, one of the original nine Kairos Founders, passed on to eternal life on October 26, 2014. Clarence was a faithful Christian and lived his life by example. He was a very kind-hearted man and very instrumental in the growth and success of Kairos. We will miss him dearly. Please use this link to read his entire obituary: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/orlandosentinel/obituary.aspx?n=clarence-hodges&pid=172968660>

Board of Directors Update (Jim Hankins, Chairman) – The Kairos Board of Directors just completed the fall retreat on Oct. 30th - Nov. 1st in Raleigh, North Carolina. We conducted training sessions on improving our Board. The Board members participated in a self-evaluation survey at the Summer Conference, and our training was a reflection of the results. Please be in prayer for your Board as we strive for excellence in our service to you.

International Council Update (Lee Turner, International Council President) – Last weekend I competed in a major sporting event. I discovered at the end that the organizers didn't follow the rules, and the competition wasn't fair for everyone. So what does this have to do with Kairos? The ministry was created with guidelines, boundaries, and rules to accomplish a purpose ... our Mission. I stood up for the rules last weekend, stood up for the right thing. It worked out, and things were made right.

You can help keep this ministry on the right track by standing up for the right thing. Don't let the "we've always done it this way" voices override what you know to be right. Our rules, our guidelines, our riverbanks have a purpose. They provide order and get our Weekends to the desired conclusion efficiently and purposefully. Every year, almost 1,000 of our volunteers, as Weekend Leaders, are depending on the rest of us to do the right thing on our Weekends. The ministry is depending upon it; so are the participants. Be blessed as you faithfully serve.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – Recently it has become apparent that some may be using YouTube as musical accompaniment for Kairos activities. A word of caution to those who use YouTube for those purposes: It could be considered an infringement of the artists' copyright if you do that. Just because you find it on the Internet doesn't mean it's fair game. There are penalties the artists can and have enforced. It is our recommendation that you use only the Kairos songbooks for your musical needs. Any other source for your music can lead to concerns for you and your local Advisory Council.

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – Recently Evelyn Lemly asked the Program Coordinators, "What would you tell the Board of the Directors about your program if you had to tell them something today?" I have been thinking about that ever since. So, here goes ...

Since I started at Kairos Prison Ministry International as the Women's Coordinator on September 15, 2014, there have been 18 Kairos Inside Women's Weekends including one in Australia, one in South Africa, and one in the United Kingdom, and there have been 20 Kairos Outside Weekends including three in Australia for women affected by incarceration, and one for men affected by incarceration. Between now and the end of 2014, there are an additional 13 Kairos Inside women's Weekends and 20 Kairos Outside Weekends scheduled. The scheduled weekends include three in Australia, one in the Dominican Republic, and one in South Africa.

That means that if there were an average of 30 guests on each of the Kairos Inside Weekends and 15 guests on the Kairos Outside Weekends held since September 15th, we have reached 840 women and men who are either incarcerated or affected by incarceration with the message of Christ's love and forgiveness. And between now and the end of the year, based on the scheduled Weekends, we have the potential to reach an additional 690 women.

That's a total of 1,540 people whose lives have been touched by Kairos volunteers. Those numbers have inspired me to work as hard as I can to empower our local volunteers and Advisory Councils with the tools and resources they need to reach even more women in 2015. Please join me in praying that God will increase our territory and bring new volunteers to the Women's Ministries.

Advisory Council Elections (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – As we all know, this is a very busy time of year for Kairos. Most Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside Advisory Councils are holding or have already held their fall Weekends, and from all the reports, things have gone well. God has shown up and blessed the guests and team members tremendously.

As busy as the Advisory Councils are at this time of year, we also need to make sure we are taking care of business ... the important business of getting members of our Advisory Councils elected for the upcoming year. All Advisory Council elections should be completed by December 1 and reported to the State Chapter Committee in your state by January 1.

If you have any questions about elections, or the election process, please consult the Advisory Council Operating Procedures (ACOP), which can be found online at mykairos.org in the downloads section, or you can give the program coordinator a call.

KI for Deaf or Hearing-impaired Inmates (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – We received some exciting news this week. Weekend #4 at MCI-J in Jessup, Maryland, being held October 30, 2014 – November 2, 2014, will have six deaf or hearing-impaired guests attending the Weekend. According to Mike Kirchner, Weekend leader, all the men will be seated at the table family of Matthew, and two interpreters will be on the Weekend as well. The Advisory Council for MCI-J has been working with Chaplain Bellemy of MCI-J for some time to make it possible for deaf or hearing-impaired guests to attend a Kairos Weekend, and Mike reports that the six guests who will be attending this Weekend make up the entire deaf or hearing-impaired population of the prison. This is the first time that deaf or hearing-impaired guests have attended a Kairos Weekend in the State of Maryland. Mike and his team are very excited to see God work in the lives of these deaf and hearing-impaired men.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – After several months of preparation through planning and training, the Kairos Torch Team will conduct their first Torch program in the state of Louisiana at the Bridge City Center for Youth in New Orleans on November 7th-9th. Please send your Agape and cover this new ministry in your prayers.

I don't normally share these kinds of reports in the E-News, but I thought this might encourage others who are feeling shy about serving on a Kairos Torch Team. Please read the following email that I just received from a new volunteer: *Kevin, In our training manual you suggest that we give you feedback about the Torch program. Daytona Torch #1 had our retreat a couple of weeks ago. It was a wonderful experience and greatly exceeded my expectations. We had our first one-on-one mentoring yesterday, and as mentors, we were all a little nervous. When we entered the Juvenile Facility we were met with a thunderous, sincere round of applause from our mentees. My mentee said that I could share that as a result of our weekend retreat he had decided to start working with his counselor to address his drug abuse and other problems. He had already been in the facility for 8 months and was looking at another 2 years. He said that until our retreat he had not cooperated with his counselor and was hoping to stay in the facility until he was 18. Now he wants to work with his counselor to better himself and to gain an early release date. I noted that my mentee and another young man that was at my table during our retreat had both done a lot of Bible study since the retreat. They liked the Bible that Kairos provided. Hopefully the facility staff and the Kairos mentors will help these young men make better choices in their lives.*

New on the Website (Al Kolff, Communications Committee Chair) – Seeking Team Training Devotionals: Have you been on a team that used a set of devotions other than those in Ezra during team formation? How about sharing them? Ezra only has one set of devotionals, and Mike Springer has said he would be happy to consider more devotional sets that could be included with Ezra. If you can help, send your devotions to the Kairos office, and they will send them to Mike.

Volunteer Recruiting (Mike Nofzinger, Recruitment Committee Member) – One of the issues facing the ministry today is having enough outside volunteers on the team to stay in the riverbanks. Volunteer recruiting is everyone's responsibility. One of the best ways to recruit is one on one. We all have a friend or two we could talk to about the ministry and invite them to a closing. There they will see the effect the ministry has on the residents/guests. Will you help by doing your part?

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 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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