



Kairos E-News #47 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – July 2015

***Now may the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will,
and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever.***

Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV

Annual Conference (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – As the Annual Conference is around the corner, we are excited to see the many details coming together to make this a wonderful time. The meetings, workshops, numerous speakers, and overall content are being planned and prepared. It is amazing the amount of work and number of people involved to pull off our conference. Once again, it demonstrates the wonderful dedication of the Kairos family (staff and volunteers) to pitch in when needed and reflects the heart of the ministry. Our theme for the conference is “Reflections of Light,” which continue to point us to strive to be operating in excellence as we are reflections of Jesus Christ. Please pray for the Annual Conference, that as hundreds gather, we continue to grow in our unity, leadership, and focus to serve those impacted by incarceration through the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

2015 Annual Conference Update (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – The Workshop Schedule will be available soon and will be posted on the www.mykairos.org website: http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html. The preliminary agenda and the registration form can be found using this link as well.

International Council Update (Lee Turner, International Council President) – This is my last E-News article as President of the International Council. In the last year and a half, we have focused on the “edge pieces” of this magnificent puzzle called Kairos. We have tried to focus on the fundamental aspects of the ministry’s expectations and our responsibilities on the International Council ... helping our respective states improve the programs that are represented in each of those states. From reporting, to communications, to streamlining our guidance and fostering compliance with our program manuals, the International Council has sought to leave the ministry better than it was when we were elected to this body. I pray that God looks at our efforts, the efforts of our committees, our committee leadership, and those who have contributed to our efforts and declares, “Well done, good and faithful servants.” To the International Council, the leaders in the ministry at every level, and the volunteers around the world, I pray for blessings upon your efforts and your continued success in this wonderful ministry.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men’s Ministry Coordinator) – Kairos encourages you to serve at just one Institution. The idea is to pick one you feel called to and serve there. Kairos is all about continuing ministry, not just the Weekend experience. The graduates we serve are counting

on seeing us come back time and again. When you spread yourself thin between multiple institutions, you may jeopardize the amount of time you can give to either one. You also set yourself up for burnout and all that follows it. In the end, it is all about finding balance in your life, and what you can give to others without excluding other important priorities in your life. There is nothing spiritual about burning out for Jesus. The New Testament tells us that even He rested from time to time.

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – As with Kairos Inside, the heart of Kairos Outside is our continuing ministry. Kairos Outside is designed to support the female family members or close friends of men, women, and youth who are, or have been, incarcerated. These women are “doing time” right along with their relatives/friends. It is vital for them to know that they are not alone, and that there is a Christian Community that cares about them.

It is so important that Kairos Outside communities hold Reunions a minimum of four (4) times a year, and also do everything they can to encourage the guests to become involved with a S.W.A.P. (Share Witness Account Pray) group.

Without continuing ministry for our guests, we have given them a nice Weekend, but we fail to accomplish the following goals of Kairos Outside:

- To encourage the sharing of one's life journey
- To foster spiritual growth
- To continue to show the guests God's love through the support of a Christian community.

I want to encourage all our Kairos Outside Advisory Councils to focus on improving your continuing ministry In the second half of 2015.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – “Lite ‘n Lively’s” are game-type activities that significantly add to the success of a Kairos Torch Weekend. Youthful participants will typically have short attention spans, be full of energy, and be eager to participate in fun activities. Properly designed and executed activities can meet those needs and add to the development of the participants' concepts of teamwork, self-esteem, and other life management skills. These activities can also be opportunities to present biblical concepts in subtle, non-threatening ways. Several Lite ‘n Lively activities can be found in the appendix of the Kairos Torch program manual.

“It was A Great Movie” (Recruitment Committee) – Recruiting is perhaps the most discussed issue among all the Kairos chapters. Poor recruiting is the root cause of many of the problems our local chapters experience. We are developing new “tools” to help in this regard. However, one critical factor is an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer.

One Sunday afternoon sitting with my “small group,” I was feeling the excitement of a Kairos experience. I was anxious to share this experience with the members of my small group. I was also experiencing some reluctance, since they might be tired of hearing about Kairos from me again. Then I considered, what would I be talking about if I had just seen the greatest movie of all time? So instead of sharing my Kairos experience with them, I shared my feelings of reluctance and offered the Great Movie analogy. At that point, a member of my small group looked at me and asked, “Was it a great movie?” I answered, “It was the best,” and then shared Kairos again.

Each of us should examine ourselves and think about how eager we are to share our experiences like a great movie or a great game with our friends and co-workers. We should be as eager to discuss prison ministry. Does everyone in your church, your workplace, your family, your civic club, etc. know you are a Kairos volunteer?

Excellence Initiative (Program Excellence Committee) – Many of you have been completing the Excellence Initiative Surveys and hopefully using them as a guide to making your Weekends excellent. Change isn't going to happen overnight, but if we take it one step at a time, the results will be more than worth it. Because many have had questions about the survey, we will have another workshop about the Excellence Initiative Survey. We will talk about who should fill out the survey, when it should be filled out, where to get it, how to fill it out, and why it's important. This will be a time when your questions can be answered and some of the problems you may be having get solved, so this will be a workshop you won't want to miss. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas!

New California Kairos Inside Launching Soon – The volunteers of Kairos FCI Terminal Island in San Pedro, California, are starting a new Kairos Ministry at the California City State Prison. The prison is located approximately 100 miles north of Los Angeles in the high desert. The prison is a level two, medium security facility. It has been in operation for little over a year and therefore does not yet offer many programs for the benefit of the residents. The Warden is familiar with Kairos and very supportive.

The volunteers are excited to be able to bring Jesus in with them and to share the love of Christ to the residents. The preparation has been much work, but the reward will be plentiful. The first weekend of Kairos California City is Sept 17–20, 2015.

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming summer 2015 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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