



Kairos E-News #52 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – December 2015

***I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:10-11 NIV***

End of the Year and Celebrations (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – How time flies, and here we are already in December. We trust you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and let us say “Merry Christmas” a little early.

Kairos has had a wonderful, fruitful year of ministry, and we are blessed with the multitude of positive impacts through the ministry, the volunteers, and the forward movement of operating with excellence and with a focus on our Lord, Jesus Christ.

While we continue to grow, we are thankful for the many hours of service of every volunteer, and we also pray for each person who will come to serve in the future. Recruitment continues to be our biggest opportunity to reach more people impacted by incarceration, so let’s remain focused on sharing the story and impact of Kairos and the need for servants. Please thank a volunteer, and also bring a new volunteer. Remember to share the blessings you have received through serving with Kairos.

And a Reminder (Evelyn Lemly Executive Director) – As we finish the year, also remember to say thank you to donors and others supporting the local communities and let them know that their end-of-year donation statements will be mailed in January. We do these through KairosDonor, which generates the necessary documents for donors to take a tax deduction for their gifts.

Fund Kairos while Doing Your Christmas Shopping (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Please bookmark this link so all your eligible shopping will benefit Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.— <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1970458> . Kairos is already set up for you to select as your charitable organization. Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters who are already donating to Kairos through AmazonSmile.

Board of Directors Update (Vicki Spurgeon, Chair) – As 2015 draws to a close, I think of the exciting year we have just experienced and the number of lives touched by Jesus Christ through Kairos Prison Ministry. This happens through the service of many volunteers, Weekend leaders, Advisory Council, State Chapter Committee, and International Council members, as well as staff members and volunteer trainers. Thank you all for your service to our Lord!

Leadership at all levels of our ministry is in a time of transition, as some rotate off and new leaders come on to begin service. These transitions build and train up new ministry leaders and require time and good effort on everyone's part. Each year I have seen improvement in our hand-off to the next person and in our joyful efforts to be and remain available to assist as we are called upon.

To those who are transitioning out of leadership, I want to say thank you for serving the Lord with diligence and passion. You have given of your time and yourself, and that is pleasing to the Lord and a blessing to all of us. To those who are a beginning a season of service in leadership, I want to say thank you for stepping forward and heeding the call of the Lord to serve in this new and different way. Let each of us continue to give our best as we serve our Lord, whether in the midst of a season of service or in transition.

Merry Christmas, and may you be blessed in all things.

International Council Update (John Miller, International Council President) – More than 2,000 years ago an incident took place in a little-known corner of the world called Bethlehem. That incident changed the world forever—Jesus Christ was born. When people encountered Jesus, their lives were changed.

In that regard, things have not changed. When our guests meet Jesus, their lives are changed, and truth be told, our lives were all changed when Jesus met us where we were! In [Matthew 28:19-20](#), Jesus gives us our "marching orders": *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Yes, we all know this, but how many times have we heard, "We found out that you people care"? Many years ago I heard a phrase that echoes this: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." That's the main reason for our motto, "Listen, Listen, Love, Love." In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul states, *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."* And finally, in [John 15:12](#), Jesus says, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you."* Let us remember this, not only during this Christmas season but the whole year through. May you have a very blessed Christmas.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – We owe a debt of gratitude to the volunteers who train our future Weekend leaders. Our Advanced Kairos Training trainers give of themselves as they train a group of typically 30 or so soon-to-be Weekend leaders. The training takes place over a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in 19 locations across the country throughout the year. The volunteers arrive with some uncertainty on Friday evening and leave with the confidence that the trainers have given them the tools to lead a Kairos Weekend. Imparting their Kairos experience is a gift that the trainers give back to the program.

To give them a break, and to give others the opportunity to train, four trainers will step aside to give others the chance to learn and grow in the program. It is a healthy practice for the program to bring in new people, and beneficial for their personal development as they journey from Kairos volunteers into Advanced Kairos Training trainers.

Today we honor four veteran Advanced Kairos Training trainers for their long-time, selfless contribution in teaching volunteers how to lead a Kairos Weekend: Marvin Barnes, Idaho; Rey Bonachea, Florida; Bob Clinkscales, North Carolina; and Harry Horton, Tennessee. Praise God for all they have done to bring the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to the incarcerated. A big thank you, gentlemen, for your servant leadership from all of us here at Kairos International!

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – Recently we updated all the Kairos Prison Ministry brochures. As people have become aware of the new brochures and are beginning to use them to promote their Weekends, one of the comments I have heard over and over is, “We don't have or use cookies on a Kairos Outside Weekend.”

Maybe your community has not used them in the past, but I want to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to use Kairos cookies on their Kairos Outside Weekends in the future. We have snacks, lots and lots of snacks, on a typical Kairos Outside Weekend. So why can't some of those great snacks be “Kairos” cookies?

Look at this as an opportunity to get people involved with Kairos Outside just as we have done in Kairos Inside by asking them to bake cookies. People can pray for the Weekend as they bake them. Homemade cookies always bring up special memories for most of us, and they are sooooo good.

And who knows ... you might even get a few new volunteers.

#1 Kairos Outside held in Wisconsin – On November 13 -15, 2015, Kairos Outside of Eastern Wisconsin held their first Weekend. After working for many years to get Kairos up and running in Wisconsin, 20 faithful Kairos volunteers welcomed 16 guests to Camp Lucerne in Neshkoro, Wisconsin, for this #1 Kairos Outside Weekend led by Gloria Stielow. Closing testimonies of the guests confirmed that all were blessed. Please pray for the guests and for this young Kairos Outside community as they move forward.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – Working with minors who are wards of the state necessitates that all Kairos Torch volunteers are properly screened and vetted through the national office before serving on a team or advisory council. The complete policy and screening forms can be found at http://mykairos.org/docs/kt/clearance_packet.pdf.

New on the Website

Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) – A listing of the Advanced Kairos Training trainings for 2016 has been posted on the MyKairos.org website. You are able to view the full training schedule by clicking on the Kairos Kalender. Registration forms can also be downloaded by following the http://mykairos.org/docs/kpmi/akt_registration_form.pdf link.

Updated Documents Available Soon – At the end of each year we review questions received through the year related to the operating procedures and policies. As warranted, documents are

updated by the appropriate person(s) or governing body to provide clarification or address specific needs of the ministry. Please remember to check in early January to ensure you have the latest versions of the guiding documents. The Board of Directors did update the Code of Conduct for clarity based on questions received, and the update for 2016 is posted on the website.

Kairos in the News – Through this E-News feature, you can link to news stories that have posted recently about Kairos. Here are the links.

<http://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/festival-is-a-great-way-to-support-the-community/2844124/>
http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/readersforum/barbara-purtell-what-do-you-do-with-christmas/article_8501d8d0-a880-52ed-a00f-868e862120e8.html

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming Spring/Summer 2016 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

La traducción al español de E-News (E-Noticias) se publica mensualmente. Si quiere ver las E-Noticias anteriores o suscribirse para recibir ejemplares futuros, vaya a http://www.mykairos.org/news_enevs-sp.html

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