



## **Kairos E-News #53 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – January 2016**

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here!  
2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV***

**40 years of ministry begins** (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – 2016 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kairos working in prisons. Just imagine—from the first Weekend 40 years ago in one prison, to almost 500 communities working in very similar ways and through three programs. God has certainly blessed Kairos, and His hand is on His ministry. This is a blessing to each of us as we serve.

2016 brings new opportunities to impact more people—incarcerated men, women, youth and their families—for Jesus Christ. We continue to have great demand for our three programs and will be focused on strengthening our current ministry while expanding to fill the requests to bring the ministry to more prisons. God has opened doors, and I am confident He will provide just what we need, including volunteers. We just need to do our part and share about Kairos and ask people to join in the blessing. Let's make a resolution to serve Him with our best and make our 40<sup>th</sup> year the most impactful for Him yet!

**Register for the 40th Kairos Prison Ministry International Annual Conference** (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – Come and celebrate this wonderful achievement with your Kairos brothers and sisters! The conference registration form can be found on the mykairos.org website—just use this link: [http://www.mykairos.org/conference\\_registration.html](http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html). The conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, July 26-30, 2016.

**Kairos Prison Ministry International Is in the Process of Changing Printing Companies** (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – We ask for your patience and prayers as the International office transitions to a new printing company. The changeover will take place beginning January 1, 2016. During this transition, orders may not be able to be fulfilled right away. If you do not need your materials in the very immediate future, please wait until February to place your orders.

**Board of Directors Update** (Vicki Spurgeon, Chair) – As we begin a new year in our lives and in Kairos, there are many things that we reflect upon to improve our spiritual walk and to reach and serve others for Jesus Christ. We encounter struggles and setbacks, challenges and opportunities, both individually and collectively. As we seek to grow our volunteer base, enter more prisons that are asking us to come, and spread the transforming love of Christ, let us all keep these things in mind:

- Continue growing and developing an intimacy with God that will guide and bring peace in all situations.
- Pray together, study together, support and encourage one another.

- Be aware there are no pedestals or special places in this ministry.
- Be truthful and humble in serving and loving others.
- Approach each day and each person with urgency and intensity—share the love of Christ.
- As God’s servant, do your very best.

Our lives are governed by a loving God, who knows us better than we know ourselves and has placed us where He wants us to be. We are all God’s servants. That is who you are, and who I am, and who He has called us to be. Let us not ever forget that. May the peace of Christ guide us all in another year of growth in Kairos and in our personal spiritual walks.

**International Council Update** (John Miller, International Council President) – Happy New Year! We are at the beginning of a new year, and with it come hopes and expectations for a new start, new changes, etc. So, what is it that makes this a special time? It really is a chance to start anew. Are we going to try something that we thought might not be possible for us? If we stop and think about it, we all were in that situation before we started working with Kairos Prison Ministries. Before most of us started, we thought, "You're not going to get ME to do THAT!" But look at us now—we love what we do, what God has brought us to.

Isn't it wonderful that we are blessed to be able to do what God want us to and to see Him change lives? Wouldn't it be a wonderful gift to give to someone else? Oh yes, it would, wouldn't it! This year, take the time to share the Kairos story with someone else so they can experience the love and blessings you receive from passing it on. Then see what joy they experience and how excited they become as they themselves pass it on.

**Men's Ministry Update** (Ken Rocks, Men’s Ministry Coordinator) – Happy New Year! May Christ’s blessings bring about a new spirit of awareness of Him and His saving grace as we journey together on this faith walk we call Kairos. This is the time of year when new people are assuming new positions within their Advisory Councils following the fall elections. That transition brings about a new awareness of what Kairos is about, and it may bring some uncertainty as the newly elected begin to assume their responsibilities.

One of those important responsibilities of the Advisory Council is to post their Weekends on the Kairos Kalendar on the mykairos.org website. The logical person to do that might be the secretary or the communications coordinator. It is easily done by logging in to [www.mykairos.org](http://www.mykairos.org), clicking on Kairos Kalendar, then on “Click to register your weekend.” If you don’t post your Weekend, how can you receive agape from around the world? We here in the International office pray each Tuesday at 1:30 pm EST as a staff for each Weekend by name of the prison and the Weekend leader. We would like to pray for each and every one of you individually, and we need your information to do that. Finally, we need to account for all our Weekends to better meet the needs of the program, like training. It is indeed time for a Happy New Year knowing that we are called to work the harvest in His vineyard.

**Women's Ministry Update** (Gina Brockmeyer, Women’s Ministry Coordinator) – January marks the beginning of a new year—2016. And the New Year brings new members to all of our Advisory Councils. As these new council members take office, and Advisory Councils throughout Kairos are holding elections this month to determine the positions all the Advisory Council members will hold, it is a good time for each of our Advisory Councils to re-evaluate how they are operating. Every Advisory Council member should be asking themselves, are we in the Riverbanks?

The Advisory Council Operating Procedures provides Advisory Councils with the guidelines by which they and every Advisory Council should be functioning. If your council is not familiar with, or has not reviewed this document recently, let me strongly suggest that your Advisory Council sets aside time to review it at an upcoming council meeting. The Advisory Council Operating Procedures can be found in the Downloads section of [www.mykairos.org](http://www.mykairos.org) under Advisory Councils, and is updated yearly.

In addition to becoming familiar with the Advisory Council Operating Procedures document, don't forget there is also Advisory Council training available. The training is four hours long, and your State Chapter Committee is responsible for scheduling the training in your state. If you have not had this training, or you have new council members who need to receive the training, contact your state chair and let him or her know you have members of your Advisory Council who would like to attend.

**Kairos Torch Update** (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – Since 2002 the U.S. has celebrated the month of January as National Mentoring Month. The goal is to focus national attention on the need for mentors in the lives of our youth. Nowhere is mentoring more important than in the lives of incarcerated youth!

Thank you to all Kairos Torch mentors who have given so much of their time, talents, heart, and wisdom to hurting youth in the juvenile system. This year I would ask you to make a concerted effort to recruit two (2) mentors to work alongside you in the Kairos Torch program. There are more than 300,000 youth connected to the juvenile system each year. Let's make a difference in their lives this year.

Many agencies that work with youth require yearly screenings of their adult volunteers. Beginning January 1, 2016, we will be rescreening all Kairos Torch volunteers every three years. We will continue to post the names of the applicants who have cleared the background screening just as we have done for the past 12 years. However, we will add the most current screening date beside each name so that advisory councils and team leaders will know to remind their team members when they need to resubmit their screening. Please click on the link to find the list of qualified volunteers: [http://mykairos.org/docs/kt/approved\\_kt\\_volunteers.pdf](http://mykairos.org/docs/kt/approved_kt_volunteers.pdf)

**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.themonitor.com/opinion/commentary-the-value-of-texas-prison-ministries/article\\_3046930c-a5e4-11e5-9bff-9f71ddd51bce.html](http://www.themonitor.com/opinion/commentary-the-value-of-texas-prison-ministries/article_3046930c-a5e4-11e5-9bff-9f71ddd51bce.html)

<http://www.theblaze.com/contributions/we-must-go-behind-bars-to-change-our-country/>

<https://www.dailyadvance.com/news/hard-time-easy-decision-inmates-help-brighten-season-women-kids-3098885>

<http://www.oxfordeagle.com/2015/12/18/straight-talk-mentors-encourages-local-youngsters/>

[http://www.tribstar.com/features/valley\\_life/expanding-our-view-from-prayer-chapels-to-rooftops-to-the/article\\_ccae5e1a-db5e-5930-b5a5-c4a44fee48a.html](http://www.tribstar.com/features/valley_life/expanding-our-view-from-prayer-chapels-to-rooftops-to-the/article_ccae5e1a-db5e-5930-b5a5-c4a44fee48a.html)

<http://www.watoday.com.au/comment/christmas-story-offers-hope-of-resilience-against-all-odds-20151221-glt23l.html>

**Is Your Weekend Listed?** – If your upcoming spring 2016 Weekend is not listed on the Kairos Kalendar, complete the electronic registration on the [www.mykairos.org](http://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](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](http://www.mykairos.org/news_enevs-sp.html)

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