



## **Kairos E-News #54 – Current News for Kairos Volunteers – February 2016**

***I pray that out of his glorious riches [the Father] may strengthen you  
with power through his Spirit in your inner being,  
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.***

**Ephesians 3:16-17 NIV**

**Change Is Continual, Prayer Is Needed** (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – Each January we have roughly one-third of our leadership coming new into their positions at the Advisory Council, State Chapter Committee, International Council, and Board of Directors levels. This is very positive and healthy, as it continually brings in new leadership and builds the body of the ministry, and it also enables us to refresh through new ideas and leadership styles. Meanwhile, we need to work to bring the new leaders up to speed while keeping the positive momentum moving forward. This takes great handoff from the previous leader, a learning spirit from the incoming leader, and much prayer from everyone. Please lift the volunteer leaders for the ministry up in prayer on a regular basis. We are blessed to have them step up to take these positions. I'm praying for 2016 leadership in every position throughout Kairos, and I'm grateful for the work of every volunteer.

**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! Conference registration form can be found on the mykairos.org website – just use this link to access it: [http://www.mykairos.org/conference\\_registration.html](http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html). The conference will be held in Orlando, FL, July 26-30, 2016.

**Board of Directors Update** (Vicki Spurgeon, Chair) – *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.* Ephesians 3:20-21

I pondered over the last week what to share and how we might all be encouraged as we move into the second month of this year. There is much activity in Kairos as we prepare for the election of a new Board member, welcome new International Council members, see new faces on State Chapter Committees and Advisory Councils, conduct training for Advisory Councils and team leaders, and move forward in all respects with excellence. Team training for spring Weekends is well underway, and the ministry continues to grow and reach more people impacted by incarceration.

With so much going on and so much activity, where do we start? And then it became clear ... yield to the work that the Spirit of God is doing within each of us so that we, as the church, may glorify him in Christ Jesus. Yield and let Him have the right of way in my life and in our lives ... in our words and actions, in our time and resources, in our relationship with God and

with others.

May God be glorified as we yield.

**International Council Update** (John Miller, International Council President) – Happy Valentine's Day! Well, we do associate Valentine's Day with Love. As such, it is fitting that we also celebrate this month, remembering that our motto is "Listen-Listen-Love-Love." Have you ever stopped to think about how important our being in the prisons is to the incarcerated? Sometimes those folks—men, women, teens, and children—have not heard from their families, loved ones, or friends for weeks, months, years, or never! Oh, and don't forget the loved ones of the incarcerated. How lonely they must be, in some cases, not to be able to visit their loved ones. But we, as a group, are able to help bridge that gap of loneliness by showing the love of Christ to the incarcerated and the loved ones of the incarcerated. When you go for Weekend events, remember you are that bridge over the gap of loneliness and hopelessness. Our guests are looking for hope and love. We show them that love and hope in what we say and do. Our actions will speak louder than any shout, not only to the incarcerated and the loved ones of the incarcerated, but also to the officers and staff of the facilities. So the next time you go into the prison, or the next time you have an "Outside" gathering, remember our motto, "Listen-Listen-Love-Love." It may be the only time our guests will experience it and know someone cares.

**Men's Ministry Update** (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – As you make plans for the upcoming year, keep Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) in mind. Why? If you are selected as a future Weekend leader, your Advisory Council will make a \$200 to \$400 investment in your training to become a leader. That investment should include a good return when you follow the Ezra software program for the full 6 months it is designed to guide you.

AKT takes place over a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We require the training to take place 12-24 months prior to your Weekend. That way, you can make room in your life for the commitment the role requires, and you can spiritually prepare yourself for your primary role as Weekend leader. That responsibility is the spiritual formation of the team. By fully preparing yourself and the team for the servant leadership role you take as Weekend leader, you will be able to give glory to Christ for the success the Weekend brings.

**Women's Ministry Update** (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – Recently, I have heard from several Kairos Outside Advisory Councils who have asked me about Advisory Council chairs being tapped for their leadership track. If you are serving as the chair of your local Advisory Council, you should not be in the leadership track.

Why? The Advisory Council chair is responsible for leading her local Advisory Council. This means the chair ensures the operations of the ministry are conducted properly and fully carried out in compliance with current State Chapter Committee and Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. policies and procedures. The chair is also responsible for making sure that Weekend leaders are properly identified and trained, and the chair must see that team formation meetings are taking place and volunteers are attending. In other words, the Advisory Council chair is charged with making sure the Weekend leaders are doing their job. So, if the Advisory Council chair is in the leadership track, there can be a potential conflict of interest if an Advisory Council or an Advisory Council chair has to address an issue with an upcoming Weekend leader or leaders.

Once a chair concludes her term as the Advisory Council chair, she is free to step into the leadership track.

**Kairos Torch Update** (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – The Kairos Torch Weekend is an extremely powerful experience for any youth in attendance, but the mentoring component can be life changing:

At its most rudimentary level, mentoring benefits the mentee because it assures a young person that there is someone who cares about them. The youth is not alone in dealing with incarceration and the day-to-day challenges of life. Kairos Torch has recorded many successful mentor/mentee connections that have brought about positive change in the life of the youth and within the facility they are housed:

- Support with day-to-day living for incarcerated youth.
- Mentors help improve a young person's self-esteem.
- Mentors teach young people how to relate well to all kinds of people and help them strengthen communication skills.
- Mentors help direct youth toward self-identity, self-discovery, and self-understanding.
- Mentors help their mentee formulate a plan for their lives by identifying short- and long-term goals and creating a plan to reach those goals.

Several studies have shown a correlation between a young person's involvement in a quality mentoring relationship and positive outcomes in the areas of school, mental health, problem behavior, and health. (DuBois & Karcher, 2005; Rhodes, 2002; Zimmerman, Bingenheimer & Behrendt, 2005)

Kairos Torch does not recruit Weekend warriors; we develop life-changing mentors!

**Program Manuals** – The program manuals for Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch are being updated this spring for use in the fall of 2016. When placing an order, please order only what is needed now for the spring Weekend. We will not be taking returns.

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

[http://www.logandaily.com/news/local-deacon-helps-transform-lives-of-prison-inmates/article\\_d8e09c8f-591f-5597-baf6-cd5c983298e3.html](http://www.logandaily.com/news/local-deacon-helps-transform-lives-of-prison-inmates/article_d8e09c8f-591f-5597-baf6-cd5c983298e3.html)

<http://www.wtvm.com/story/31005658/sister-of-sentenced-woman-recounts-events-of-hostile-hostage-situation>

**Is Your Weekend Listed?** – If your upcoming winter or spring 2015 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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