



## **Kairos E-News #57 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – May 2016**

***Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!***  
**Philippians 4:4 NIV**

**Kairos Is 40 Years Old in 2016** (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – This year we are celebrating 40 years of history and the powerful work of our Lord through Kairos. It is a humbling time to think of all the lives of volunteers, those incarcerated, the families of the incarcerated, the correctional facility staff, and many others who have been positively impacted through Kairos. It also reminds of us the importance of our daily work to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women, and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities. That is our mission, and we celebrate the impact on each life for God's purpose.

April 21<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of Weekend #80 at Union Correctional Facility (UCI) in Raiford, Florida, where it all began in 1976. We applaud the group that has continuously held Weekends since the beginning and served at UCI. Just imagine the impact on more than 3,200 inmates over that 40 years and the impact they may have had on their families, on other inmates, and on other people in their lives as Jesus Christ changed their lives. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to be a part of your work through Kairos.

**Register for the 40th Kairos Prison Ministry International Annual Conference** (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – Plans are being finalized for this monumental event. Be sure to join us for the Friday evening banquet celebration—men: coat and tie; women: appropriate attire. The 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 at the Marriott Orlando Airport Lakeside Hotel.

**Board of Directors Update** (Vicki Spurgeon, Board Chair) – The Board of Directors would like to welcome our newest member, Lettie Carr, Chaplain at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup, Maryland. Chaplain Carr began her career as an Associate Engineer with RCA. She went on to practice law with Piper and Marbury, Baltimore, Maryland; serve as the coordinator for the National Bar Association Black Elderly Legal Assistance Project; and eventually become a partner with the law firm of Jessamy, Fort & Botts in Washington, D.C., before leaving the practice of law to serve as Administrative Chaplain. She has served in that capacity since 1995 and has the responsibility of managing and overseeing all religious educational and worship activities, as well as providing counseling, preaching, and teaching. Chaplain Carr has seen the “fruits” of Kairos Inside since their #1 Weekend and the involvement of many Kairos volunteers. Chaplain Carr was elected to serve by the Board and was ratified by the International Council in April.

There have been many Weekends held this spring, and there are many more to come this month. Praise be to God for the teams committing the time for training and preparations to share the love, hope, and faith found in Jesus Christ!

**International Council Update** (John Miller, International Council President) – Spring finally made it here, and the Weekends are upon us! The weekend encompassing May 1, there will be more than 50 Weekends and one ACT training. You all know, whether you've been a Weekend leader or a team member, the amount of planning, the volunteer recruitment, the spiritual growth of the team that it takes to do a Weekend. Multiply that times the number of states and countries and Advisory Councils in Kairos.

You are to be commended for your successes, but, more importantly, for your commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is why we do what we do. Your bringing in the light and love of Jesus to the dark depths of the prisons and the outside communities is what makes the difference in people's lives. The guests begin to realize at the Prayer and Share times and at the reunions that there is a Christian community in which they can share and of which they be a part. This is why we do the Weekends. Not for the sake of the Weekends, but rather to build that Christian community in the facilities and in the outside communities.

Continue to fulfill our mission of Listen, Listen, Love, Love and Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19-20. Continue to reach out and recruit new volunteers. There is a wealth of people wanting to work, and all we have to do is ask. Just ask my barber. She and her husband want to work!

**Men's Ministry Update** (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – Rushing around on Thursday of the #80 Weekend at Union CI in Florida, Observing Leader Rick Scarinzi forgot to close the tailgate on his pickup truck, where a plastic bin with his clothes and his laptop computer lay on the truck bed. When he discovered them missing upon arrival, he went into search mode. Up and down the road Rick drove, back-tracking his route. An angel had already found them lying on the centerline of the road, undamaged. After opening up the laptop and turning it on, she discovered the owner of it. She then called the International office phone number (found on the inside cover of the Kairos songbook) and was put in touch with Gina Brockmeyer, the Women's Coordinator. Gina knew that AKT Trainer Nolan Gilmore was attending the #80 Weekend. Nolan found Rick and connected the lost with the found.

Now for the rest of the story. Sensing Rick's anxiety about his loss, fellow volunteer Rich Desmond said to him, "God has got this, Rick. Go pray about it." "I already did," Rick said. "Pray again," said Rich, and Rick did. The moment his prayer ended, his phone rang. Rick never carries cash, but for some reason he had stuffed a \$100 bill into his top shirt pocket that morning. When Rick arrived at the rough and tumble trailer in the woods, the angel would at first not accept the reward offered from Rick's top shirt pocket. He insisted, and she replied, "You have no idea how much this means to me!" Rick echoed her sentiment.

**Women's Ministry Update** (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – It is an exciting time around the country in our women's programs.

Kairos Outside of Central Florida is back up and running after being dormant for more than three years. The volunteers have worked for 18+ months to get up and running again. They will be in the midst of a Weekend as you read this article ... so please pray for the team and the guests as they come to your mind this weekend.

In addition to Florida, Kairos of Ohio is reorganizing, and North Carolina is working to re-start their Kairos Outside program in the eastern region of the state. Two new Kairos Outside communities have been formed in Kentucky and Delaware. All of these communities are planning to hold Kairos Outside Weekends in late 2016 or the spring of 2017.

The women of Kairos Inside have also been working hard. New Kairos Inside communities have been formed in Colorado and North Carolina. Also, California will be reopening a federal facility that has been closed to Kairos for more than three years. La Vista in Colorado plans to hold their first Weekend in October, Dublin in California hopes to re-start in October, and the two institutions in North Carolina, Eastern and Swannanoa, are conducting Prayer and Share and/or monthly Reunions, and are looking forward to scheduling their #1 Weekends.

Pray for these councils, and for all of our volunteers. May we all focus on Christ as we serve. When we focus on Christ, He shows us what He wants us to do. That doesn't mean we will be any less busy, but we will be more productive.

**Kairos Torch Update** (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – To ensure the effectiveness of the Continuing Ministry in Kairos Torch, and to track the progress of the mentee, each mentor is tasked with completing a monthly progress report. The report, which we call the “Mentor’s Check-Up,” is provided in the Mentor’s Guide after every fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) mentoring lesson and also in the Mentor’s Refill Packet. Failing to submit this report to the Continuing Ministry Coordinator (Mentor Coordinator) precludes us from having sufficient information to maintain our status as an evidence-based behavior modification program. Mentor’s, let’s remain diligent in getting this report completed and turned in. Thank you!

**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://flycatchermedia.wix.com/news#!a-second-chance/c21ji>

<http://thelensnola.org/2016/04/15/to-accelerate-prison-reform-put-a-human-face-on-mass-incarceration/>

<http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/life/sunlife/2016/03/06/community-spotlight-kairos-prison-ministry/81005626/>

<http://www.capitalgazette.com/neighborhoods/ph-ac-gn-west-county-0131-20150130-story.html>

**Recruitment 101** (Recruitment Committee) – When talking about the best way to recruit volunteers, it is agreed that talking to people one on one and sharing experiences and God at work in this ministry is the most effective tool. At closing after a recent Kairos Outside Weekend, some of the women’s comments were, “I feel lifted, so full of God’s love.” “I am 60 years of age. My whole life I’ve never had my life celebrated, and you guys did that. The gifts just kept on coming.” “I came with a lot of burdens, sadness, guilt, and anger. Now (singing), I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.” “I’ve experienced the awesome love of God, love of my new sisters, and of the family of Ruth.” “I feel full, in more ways than one.” “In the past three years, this has been the safest place I could crack open and cry, and I’ve been crying so much this weekend.”

If you haven’t been sharing the responses to your Kairos Weekend, give it a try. It’s a great way to encourage others to be a part of Listen, Listen, Love, Love. To God be the glory!

**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](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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