



Kairos E-News #71- Current News for Kairos Volunteers – June 2017

“But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Cor. 12:9-19
ESV**

After the Weekend (Evelyn Lemly, CEO) – We spend a great deal of time, money, and focus on the Kairos Weekends. We know God does great things during the Weekend as the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ is shared and the journey the participants are on can be incredible. However, at Kairos, we know the most important work is after the Weekend in the Continuing Ministry for the program. This is where we encourage the journey to take shape, to learn accountability, to learn prayer, to learn community, to be a productive citizen in their own community right where they are. If we are not focusing on the power of what God is doing in the entire Kairos program = Weekend + Continuing Ministry, then we are making Kairos less than it can be in impacting the lives of those impacted by incarceration. We just keep growing as a ministry of excellence when we do the program in full and follow the program manual. God has given us a life changing ministry of impact; let's give Him our best and watch Him work.

Transportation for 2017 Annual Conference – The 2017 Kairos Annual Conference will be held July 25–29, 2017 at the Peachtree Conferencing Center in Peachtree City, GA. The Georgia Conference Team will arrange Airport pickup and will be in touch with you - IF you added your flight information to your registration form. Otherwise, you will be responsible for your own transportation to and from the airport and the conference center. Contact Jan Hunter (jan@kpmi.org) if you need to add or change your flights. The registration form can be found at www.mykairos.org and use this link: http://www.mykairos.org/docs/kpmi/conference_registration_form_2017.pdf.

Board of Directors Update (Vicki Spurgeon, Board Chair) – Board members are sending in their registration forms for the Annual Conference; how about you? I hope you are making plans to join us in Atlanta the last week of July. Many people have worked and are continuing efforts to make this a memorable and enjoyable Kairos conference.

The Annual Conference allows us to gather as a Ministry body to learn together, share experiences, grow in knowledge and in faith, enjoy fellowship with one another and participate in daily worship. As a Board, we look forward to welcoming new members after their election by the International Council, as well having our regular meeting, conducting orientation for new members, and attending sessions, meetings, workshops, and activities through the week. I hope to see you there!

Make plans to attend, and send in your registrations.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

International Council Update (John Miller, International Council President) – About a year ago, we were just about to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Kairos International Prison Ministry. Now we've just are finishing our 41^s year. How has that year been? We've increased the number of people we've help meet Christ. It's our motto that has helped. We don't hit them over the head with the Bible. We listen-listen-love-love. We don't judge—God is the only one who does that. Even when Christ was on the cross, the one criminal said to him, "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." We need to remember that. We are all children of God, no matter what we may have done. It is our task to go in and practice our motto and then watch the Holy Spirit do His work. The results, as we know, are amazing, but God is capable of doing amazing things. We are blessed to be able to witness these things. In order to do these wonderful Weekends, it takes people, and lots of them. When is the last time you asked someone if they'd heard of Kairos? Start the conversation; get them to a closing. What's holding you back?! Just Do It!

Men's Ministry Update (Craig Combs, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – The Kairos Weekend you served on is done, so what happens now besides getting the honey-do list completed?

Yes, the Weekend is over, but the Continuing Ministry is just starting for the grads you know and liked so well.

Chances are you want the best for those new Kairos grads you were with during the Kairos Weekend. Remember that what happened in the prison wasn't for you, but for the residents who live there. Your whole purpose in going inside to do a Weekend was to help create Christian community. If you Google the definition of community, guess what it says? It says that it is "a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common."

Your job now is to strengthen Christian community so that the Kairos grads who live in the same place can experience God's love and protection during the 167 hours during a week that Kairos isn't there. (Before you multiply 7 x 24, I will tell you it's 168.) The best thing now is for the team to show and train them how to become dependent upon Jesus and upon each other and then get out of the way! They can encourage and support each other in ways volunteers can't and in times volunteers can't. They will be honest with each other in ways they won't with us. Remember, it is their community.

Think about your actions with the Kairos grads during the Continuing Ministry events. Think about ways to make their Christian community in prison better, and pray that they learn how to depend on Jesus and on each other. That could be the most important gift we can ever give them. It will teach them how to maintain and desire to have great positive friendships, which can change their life now and after their release.

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – Ministry is about relationships. Just as Christ entered into our lives and into a relationship with us, we are called to gently move into the lives of those we serve in Kairos.

Women who have been impacted by incarceration often live in an isolated world. They may also have trust issues and a great fear of the unknown, and that is why it is so important that the Team Contacts take their commitment seriously. It is the job of the Team Contact to gently move into the Guest's life, forming a relationship with her so that the Guest feels comfortable. By doing this, the Team Contacts ensure that all of our Guests will be gradually and lovingly integrated into the Kairos Outside community.

The Team Contact's duties include, but may not be limited to the following:

Praying for her Guest.

Calling her Guest weekly in the final month before the Weekend, or as soon as she is

assigned a Guest if the Weekend is less than a month away.
Mailing the Guest encouraging notes or cards.
Making sure that the Observing Leader 1 and Observing Leader 2 are aware of her Guest's physical/emotional special needs or special dietary restrictions.
Answering the Guest's questions.
Greeting her Guest when she arrives on the Weekend, helping her with and waiting for her to check-in.
Carrying her Guest's luggage if she gives you permission when she arrives for the Weekend.
Making her Guest's bed if she will allow you to.
Giving her Guest a tour of the facility where your Weekend is being held.
Introducing her Guest to other Guests and team members.
Sitting with her Guest during dinner on Friday evening and afterwards in the Community Room.
Giving the Guest space when it feels like the thing to do.
Staying in touch with your Guest after the Weekend with notes and phone calls for at least six (6) months.
Calling your Guest personally to let her know Reunion dates and locations.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministry Coordinator) – Many mentors look for their mentees to immediately respond to their efforts and are often discouraged if they feel they are not making headway after the second or third mentoring session. Remember that your mentee is a person and not a puppy. Although your mentee may want a friend whom they can trust, it is highly likely that they have experienced rejection (by an adult) several times in their lives. You will have to earn their trust by proving to them that you care and that you will not abandon them. Try not to measure the success of your mentoring by how your mentee responds to you, but know that your mentee will be measuring your honesty and your trustworthiness by how many times you don't show up, or you break your promise!

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming spring or summer 2017 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_enevns-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_enevns-sp.html

If you want to stop receiving the Kairos E-News, go to the www.MyKairos.org Home page and use the on-screen form. You may also subscribe to E-News at the www.MyKairos.org Home page, using the on-screen form.