

Wednesday, January 28, 2009



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: John A. Thompson, Jr. (407) 629-4948

KAIROS REMEMBERS JOHN CALDWELL

Winter Haven FL: Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. has lost one of their beloved Founding Fathers, or one of the "Nine Old Men". John Caldwell, Winter Haven, FL passed away January 18th, due to heart failure. He was 85 years old.

John was born in Winter Haven on September 24, 1923. He spent his youth and school years there before enlisting in the Army in 1943. After 3 years in military service, he enrolled in the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, and graduated in 1949. He married his wife Helena (Boellaard) in 1950.

John enjoyed a career in the Arts and Entertainment industry. He was the Chairman of the Department of Theater Arts at both the University of Louisville and the University of South Florida. He was the Co-Producer at the Barter Theater in Abingdon, Virginia. He served as the Executive Producer of the Manitoba Theatre Centre and a Broadway producer. John was also a gifted playwright and author. He was editor of newspapers in Lake Wales, Haines City and Osceola County in Florida.

He was one of the nine founding members of Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc on whose board he served from its beginning until he became its Executive Director in 1985. He was a long-time, active parishioner of Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal in Lake Wales and he served 5 years on the diocesan Cursillo Commission. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Theology from the University of the South's School of Theology for his many years of service to the church and his involvement in prison ministry. At the time of his death, John was working on his final book on the history of the Kairos Prison Ministry.

John is survived by his son, Charles Caldwell and daughter-in-law Heidi Caldwell of Greenwood, California. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helena in October of 2004.

A funeral service for John is planned for Monday, February 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Wales. Per his wishes, John was cremated and his remains will be placed in the cloister garden at Good Shepherd at the conclusion of the service. There will be a reception to follow in the Campbell building across the street from the church, hosted by the Daughters of the King. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Kairos Prison Ministry, Winter Park, FL.

For more information, call (407) 629-4948 and speak to our Executive Director, John A. Thompson, Jr., or visit the Kairos website at www.kairosprisonministry.org.