



*“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”
Jeremiah 29:12*

What’s the Impact of COVID-19 on Kairos? (Evelyn Lemly, CEO)



It is an interesting time in our world with the impact from COVID-19. Kairos work is suspended during this time as we do our part to limit gathering together. We have suspended all meetings, Weekends and Continuing Ministry until further notice. The other countries outside of the U.S. that Kairos works in are also suspended during this global pandemic. The adult and juvenile correctional facilities are all closed to visitors and volunteers to limit the spread of the virus in every country we operate in as Kairos.

Kairos has also suspended Kairos Outside meetings and Weekends. The safety and health of our volunteers and those we serve is of the upmost importance to us during this time.

The timing of a pandemic is never good. This one hit during one of our busiest seasons for Kairos Weekends around the world. Many teams were in the middle of team formation meetings and some teams were prepared to conduct Weekends literally the week the facilities were closed to those coming in. Of course, the Continuing Ministry of Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch were also impacted. We pray that while we are not there doing Continuing Ministry, the Kairos graduates/guests are carrying on in prayer and praying for others, in accountability, and in service. We pray they are being the Church as we teach in our programs. After all, this would mean our work as Kairos is being fulfilled and we have done our role well. This time should be reminding us of the extreme importance of doing the full program of Kairos...Weekends + Continuing Ministry for each program.

The suspension of conducting the Kairos programs has also impacted our finances as our operations rely on the local communities to be operational as well as donations locally and nationally. We pray for God’s provision to pay for the necessary ongoing needs of Kairos around the world, which especially impacts the International office and the staff.

As we wait, we continue to do ministry. We know that all we do is ministry as we serve the Lord. The staff continues to work remotely to keep the daily ministry operations running, to plan and prepare for the future, and to evaluate processes in seeking better ways to conduct the ministry in the future. The Board of Directors continues to hold conference calls for prayer and meetings monitoring the governance, finances, and operations of the ministry. The International boards and leadership continue

to meet and communicate virtually and plan for Kairos in their country. The International Council committees continue to meet and plan for the success of each of the three programs, communications, recruitment, and the Excellence Initiative. The State Chairs and I continue to have conference calls and share emails in communication of status and specific situations in each state. The State Chapter Committees and Advisory Councils continue to hold virtual meetings to discuss the current and future plans for Kairos.

I have asked the State Chairs in their leadership to help us focus on three things: Prayer, Communication, and Preparation.

- Prayer: We all need to be in prayer daily and often praising God and knowing He is in control, seeking God's guidance for us as we walk through this situation, praying for all those impacted by the virus, the workers in all roles supplying our needs and health care professionals, for Kairos and for each other.
- Communication: We need to be monitoring the situation with our volunteers, prisons and youth facilities, impacts and opportunities and communicating as it relates to Kairos. We need to be encouraging one another and supporting as we can without meeting in person.
- Preparation: We should prepare for when we are doing the programs again. We must be asking what will be impacted so we can prepare. Items such as where were the teams in team formation and the status of the Weekend Leaders. In reviewing the team's current situation, we can better address issues and concerns when ready to move again. We should be preparing how we will start Continuing Ministry again in each location and how will we work with the adult and youth facilities to reopen Kairos work. We should be preparing to do the programs even better by reviewing the financial reports, Weekend leader reports, Excellence Initiative reports, and data on KairosMessenger to learn how we can improve in program excellence, recruiting, and fundraising. In other words, we can take this pause in doing Kairos to make it even better for the future and to be prepared to move forward again as well.

Please join us in prayer daily at 8 am, noon, and 8 pm wherever you are for whatever time you can pray. Kairos Family, It's Time to Pray!

We continue to pray for our Kairos Family – the volunteers, graduates, prayer partners, donors, the family members who support us, the prisons and youth facilities and all the workers, the Department of Corrections, the department of federal prisons, and the department of juvenile justice in every state and every country.

We pray for our countries, the leaders, the health officials and workers, and all those providing services to keep us going daily, such as the military, grocery store workers, drug store workers, farmer, truck

drivers, and all the rest. May we never forget to say thank you to people for doing their job that we so often take for granted.

And we especially pray for those infected with this virus and their loved ones. May God's healing touch be with each suffering from this virus and those who have lost loved ones.

As we wait for that unknown time of when our Kairos program work can continue, let's do our part in prayer and support of others. And when possible stay home and let's help stop the spread!

God Bless You and Keep You.



Evelyn Lemly

CEO

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.