



Kairos E-News #34 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – July 2014

God Focused – (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – Kairos Prison Ministry has a special impact on the lives of the incarcerated. The men, women, and youth who participate in Kairos programs are directly impacted as they learn, share, and grow. We pray they come to know Jesus Christ along this journey. As we work in Kairos ministry, I hope it is apparent that the impact occurs because our Lord and Redeemer is present and with us in every team meeting, every conference call, every Weekend, and every continuing ministry event. Let's make sure we stay God focused and honoring Him in all we do at Kairos. Thousands of lives are being impacted through the hope, love, and truth of Jesus Christ, and thousands more can be reached through Kairos.

Strategic Plan– (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – In 2013/2014, Kairos developed a five-year strategic plan for the ministry. The core vision priorities for Kairos Prison Ministry are: 1. Spiritual Health, 2. Strategic and sustainable ministry growth, 3. Sustainable financial health, 4. Enhanced communication throughout Kairos, 5. Build brand and brand awareness for Kairos, 6. Identify an active volunteer base which enables growth, 7. Ensure healthy organizational structure for growth, compliance, and support, and 8. Optimize the ministry's success through a comprehensive training plan.

There are numerous committees, task forces, and individuals working to pull together and implement plans related to these objectives. Representatives from the volunteer communities through the various State Offices, International Council, and Board are sharing their voice to these plans. I have the distinct pleasure to lead the strategic plan and strive to guide us through to success. If I were to summarize these priorities in a different way, it would be something like this: "We want to do our ministry with excellence in all things as we serve the Lord and are growing in Him. To do that, we have to ensure we are healthy and growing within the ministry and with recruitment, while providing the training and tools for each person, program, and team to positively and through a Christian approach reach those impacted by incarceration and accomplish our mission."

2014 Summer Conference (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – The 2014 Kairos Summer Conference is right around the corner: July 15-19. Visit the MyKairos.org website via this link: http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html for updated conference and workshop schedules. Musicians, please feel free to bring musical instruments for informal impromptu evening jam sessions.

Board of Directors Update (Jim Hankins, Chairman) – All the Board Committees have been very busy preparing materials for the Summer Conference. I hope many of you will be traveling to Indianapolis.

The Governance Committee brought a number of new bylaw changes to the Board. They were approved and forwarded to the International Council for their consideration. These changes will allow both bodies flexibility without constantly rewriting the bylaws. This is an important vote that will take place at the Summer Conference.

The Reentry Committee is preparing a workshop for the Conference on Best Practices. This is the first workshop for this Committee at a Summer Conference.

The Finance, Long Range Planning, and Human Resource Committees have planned heavy working agendas for their meeting times at the conference.

The members of the Board look forward to seeing you all in Indianapolis this summer. If advance planning is any indication, this conference promises to be the best ever.

International Council Update (Lee Turner, International Council President) – The International Council, as well as many other groups, is preparing for the Summer Conference in Indianapolis, so I thought I would take this opportunity to give you an update on what we are doing that directly impacts you as a volunteer. We are evaluating and fine-tuning our recruiting tools so that you have a coherent set of videos, presentations, and handouts when recruiting new volunteers. We are working toward not only updating the Excellence Initiative (EI) so that it is more of a tool to improve Weekends, but also developing a plan to use the data we receive productively. Kairos Outside is increasing the number of EI surveys completed over 2013.

We are working on making the www.MyKairos.org website easier to navigate and evaluating the requirement for the volumes of data we currently have on the website. We are laying a more firm foundation for our international affiliates and stabilizing their operations. Training is receiving a lot of attention by the staff ... Advisory Council Training (ACT), Advanced Kairos Training (AKT), and training for those volunteers handling the ministry's finances. The Kairos Strategic Plan remains our key document and roadmap for the way forward in terms of growth, recruiting, fundraising, and inspiring ministry excellence. We are working with State Chapter Committees to address inactive Kairos Outside communities. These aren't just more bold ideas. These are concrete things to help you grow the ministry, at whatever level you serve. As these things are developed, we'll announce them in the E-News.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – So you are feeling generous, and you want to help out your local Advisory Council, you say? You are scheduled to go to Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) in two months, and you want to pay for it yourself with a personal check written to the State hosting the AKT weekend? We appreciate the generosity; however, the AKT Coordinator for the weekend will be returning your check to you with a nice note—Thanks, but no thanks! You see, AKT is always free to the participant. Yes, it's true. The Advisory Council's fundraising responsibilities include budgeting for their future training needs, and that includes AKT. If you want to donate money, give to the Advisory Council and get a receipt. Your donation to your Advisory Council/ State/ Area may be tax deductible, and a payment directly to the Host State will not be. The other reason is that a check to the host State is fraught with accounting pitfalls, more than I can outline here.

Also, please plan your AKT training 12- 24 months in advance of your Weekend. Your Advisory Council will be investing in you, and the return on that investment will pay great dividends if you

only let it. The Ezra disc has a wealth of information to unpack, and that is reason enough to help you towards our goal of “Ministry Excellence.”

Women's Ministry Update (Jo Chapman, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – Emma Jones and Jackie Cuneo, members of the first KO weekend in 1990 in Northern California, will present “The History of Kairos Outside” at a Summer Conference workshop in a PowerPoint format. Each participant will receive a CD of the Power Point to bring back to their Kairos Outside Advisory Council and present it to them. Any other Kairos Outside Advisory Council Chairs who are not present at Summer Conference will be emailed the PowerPoint for use with their council. The purpose of this presentation is to share the journey of Kairos Outside and to preserve its history.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – Many of the youth facilities that Kairos Torch is presently serving are reporting that the youth are being given lesser sentences or are being released early. As we began to see this trend grow around the country, we focused our attention on creating different pathways within our mentoring materials to ensure excellence while meeting the needs of each youth we have been blessed to serve. The curriculum pathway will be completed by the first of August 2014. Keep an eye open for the new curriculum pathway and keep your heart set on ministry excellence

New on the Website – If you are having a problem searching on the volunteer website, mykairos.org, remember two simple tips:

- 1) Less in the search box means more results.
- 2) Instead of searching by initials (SCCOP), try whole words: procedures, operating, state committee.

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming summer 2014 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 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

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