



Kairos E-News #51 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – November 2015

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16 NIV

Prayers and Praises All Around for the Ministry (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – Each week we pray for the upcoming Weekends and the Continuing Ministry of our three programs. This fall we have more than 230 Weekends taking place in a three-month time frame. We also pray for those impacted by incarceration who are attending the Weekends and the Continuing Ministry, as we know they are the ones we are serving and sharing the love, hope, and truth of Jesus Christ with. We pray for and are thankful for the thousands of volunteers giving their time, talent, and treasures in Kairos, and for the many prayer warriors— family, friends, and church partners—covering the ministry. Just imagine 230 Weekends with even 25 people attending each one: That makes 5,800 people going through the program! Praise God!

Accurate Advisory Council Information (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – A reminder to all State Chairs and International Country Chairs/Representatives to respond to the request for the Advisory Council Listing that was sent out a couple of days ago. This information is used for finances, marketing, recruitment, etc., and it is very important that it is accurate. Please help us to be 100 percent certain that the information we share about this wonderful ministry is precise and truthful.

Board of Directors Update (Vicki Spurgeon, Chair) – Throughout our Kairos ministry, fall is a busy season. We receive weekly opportunities to pray for the many Weekends occurring in Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch. Our Advisory Councils and State Chapter Committees are fulfilling responsibilities and seeking out those who are willing to serve in leadership capacities through the election process. The International Council committees are meeting and working together to seek excellence. The Board and committees of the Board are working to fulfill their ministry responsibilities and governance duties. Indeed, it is a busy time for each of us in the ministry.

What I see is a very large group of individuals coming together seeking to serve Jesus Christ in a multitude of ways and in many places across the country and around the world. As we serve together, let us be reminded of the first vision priority in our Ministry Strategic Plan: Continue to enhance and focus on the spiritual health of the ministry. In the midst of Weekends, preparations, Continuing Ministry activities, elections, seeking leadership, committee meetings, and International Council and Board work, our first priority and focus should be on Christ. That focus is supported through prayer, study, and an attentive ear to His leading. Our Kairos motto, “Listen, Listen, Love, Love,” is so appropriate ... in our relationships with God and with everyone with whom we come in contact.

International Council Update (John Miller, International Council President) – Can it be November already? We've barely gotten past Halloween, and in 25 days it will be Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of the year for most people, but for many of us who work within the Kairos programs, it sometimes is less than wonderful. We think of the many families who will not be together that day because they are separated by the walls and bars.

But for those who have been through the Kairos programs, there is something they have that makes life not only bearable, but brings them happiness, and that is knowing the love of Jesus Christ and His promise of eternal life. They have the word of God from their Bibles that they can go to, and they have the availability of prayer and constant contact with their Heavenly Father. Each of us has that as well. Additionally, we also have the comfort of Jesus saying, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" from Matthew 18:20. God is eternal and will be with us forever, even when everyone else has left. This Thanksgiving, we have reason to be thankful that we live in a free country, that we are able to bring the Word of God into the dark places of the prisons, and that God is with us wherever we may be. May each of you have a very blessed Thanksgiving.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – In my travels around the country to observe our Weekends, I often hear of recruiting challenges. Here's an idea I heard recently that I thought I would share with you—it's called "Kairos Night." It is an event scheduled every six months just before team formation meetings start. Consistency is the key to success!

Every volunteer is expected to bring one possible recruit to a catered affair at your local church. For example, BBQ can be done for about \$9 to \$15 per person if purchased take-out in big aluminum trays. The cost is free to the potential recruit. The program is no more than two hours and includes a Kairos graduate to witness his/her story, the chaplain and/or administrator from your institution, a new Kairos volunteer who perhaps has served one Weekend, and a veteran volunteer. The idea is to tell the story of redemption and restoration for those who were lost and hopeless. More than anything, we bring the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to the hopeless. What a calling it is to bring His hope! Those are the stories that will bring others to this wonderful ministry. One of those stories could even be a volunteer telling how much they get out of this ministry. Be prepared to ask your guests to volunteer for the next Weekend, and watch Christ continue to work on them as workers for the harvest. Praise God!

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – In Kairos we believe that every minute of our Weekends should be covered in prayer. Prayer is a key foundation of our ministry. It does not matter how organized, smart, or experienced we are, the success of our Weekends depends on how willing the team of Kairos volunteers is to humble themselves and adopt a prayerful spirit.

Prayer starts with our Leaders. Leaders should be taking every opportunity during the team formation process to lead their teams with prayerful responses, and we need to remember that one of the most important purposes of the team formation process is the spiritual preparation of the team—the process by which we change from needy individuals into the *unified* body of Christ, who will serve our participants and guests on a particular Kairos Weekend.

Remember to keep all our Kairos Weekends lifted in prayer. The Kairos Kalendar found on www.mykairos.org has a complete list of all the Kairos Weekends being held around the world.

Let me encourage you to get in the habit of praying each week for your fellow Kairos volunteers, and for our Weekends. Remember, the success of Kairos depends on it. “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – Kairos Torch #1 in Maryland will be held at the Silver Oaks Academy in Keymer, Maryland, November 13th-15th. Please sign up now for the prayer vigils and send your agape to 3714 Sue Dan Drive, Hampstead, MD 21074.

While attend a Kairos Torch Weekend two weeks ago, I heard this story from one of our volunteers: “I was on the Inside team for Kairos #41 at NC Central Prison and during introductions one of the residents said his son had attended a Torch Weekend and had told him it was ‘the best thing that had ever happened to him.’ He said, ‘Dad, if you get a chance, you have to go to Kairos.’ So the father signed up for the Kairos Weekend at Central.” I asked the volunteer who shared this story if the father was as impacted as the youth. He answered, “Yes, he was impacted just as much as his son!” Please know that the work God is doing through us in Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch is not only changing lives, it is changing families!

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://www.thesuburbanite.com/article/20151027/LIFESTYLE/151029859>

http://www.thefranklinnews.com/news/gospel-concert-to-benefit-prison-ministry/article_27e1977e-775f-11e5-adc3-b7dc192eb1be.html

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming fall 2015 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_eneas-sp.html

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