



Kairos E-News #60 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – August 2016

***[We] celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.***

Psalm 145:7

Celebration (Evelyn Lemly, CEO) – The Annual Conference was a time of celebrating the past 40 years of ministry and remembering the founders. We are thankful for what God has been doing and what He continues to do through Kairos each year.

As we celebrate being in nearly 500 communities across the world after 40 years, we can only imagine the number of people positively impacted by the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. As we look forward to the next years, we can strive to build on those 40 years of experience and knowledge to continue to make a difference for Christ in the lives of the incarcerated.

One thing that caught my attention as I read and listened to comments by the founders in preparation for the meeting was the reminder that Christ is already in the prison—our job is to go meet Him there. Let's make sure we carry out this ministry we have been entrusted with in a God-honoring and loving way. After all, we have a legacy to continue, and our founders left big shoes to fill.

Board of Directors Update (Vicki Spurgeon, Board Chair) – Greetings, Kairos family! Almost 400 of us gathered in Orlando last week for a celebration of the 40 years of Kairos Prison Ministry sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the incarcerated and those affected by incarceration. It was a great annual conference and celebration, and even more amazing to "see and hear" from our founding fathers and meet with their families. We appreciate each of them!

One of the things I heard over and over in the halls, at the tables, and during our breaks was the amount of learning that was taking place—learning not only of current needs and responsibilities, but of our history. I believe we all learned some new things together as we listened and loved.

The Board of Directors had opportunity to meet on three occasions to conduct business and grow and learn together with our newest members. The International Council elected four new members to the Board: Ken Perduyn, Karen Rayer, Kelvin Thompson, and Lee Turner. We look forward to the gifts and talents they will bring to the ministry through board service. Retiring members were Jim Hankins, Jim Miller, Christine Money, Inetta Reddell, and Doug Watson. We give thanks for the time and talents they brought during their season of service to the Kairos Board. May God bless each of you in all things as you continue to serve Him.

A huge thank you to all of the Kairos Prison Ministry International staff for the work they do every day, and particularly for the work that was put into this annual meeting. On behalf of the ministry, I thank each of you!

International Council Update (John Miller, International Council President) – Wow! Forty years! And what a wonderful celebration it was. For those of you who were not able to be in Orlando, we are sorry you missed it. We had wonderful workshops where we were able to learn to work in the ministry in better ways and help others within our Advisory Councils see some of the new ideas that were passed along. Be sure to talk to your International Council representatives and others who came representing you to find out all the wonderful things they learned and the interesting things they saw.

But now we have passed that mile marker. What's next? Well, here it is August, and yes, it is a time of busyness in getting the children ready for school. But this is also a time of getting ready for the fall programs and implementing new ideas that were shared. We have a responsibility to our guests in all of the programs to make sure we present a program that is pleasing to God, who gave us this ministry. Look what God has helped us do the last 40 years. Just think what the next 40 might be like! Keep the ministry in your prayers. God is doing amazing things.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – One of the changes in the new Kairos Inside program manual is the addition of a Leadership Track, and it is similar to the one found in the Kairos Outside program manual. In the interest of providing ministry excellence to our Participants, our team members, and Our Lord, it is now required that a team member serve on at least three Weekends before serving as a Weekend Leader on their 4th Weekend experience. They must have given a minimum of two talks and have spent at least one full Weekend sitting at a family table to gain that experience. The prospective Weekend Leader must serve in at least one of the core team positions—Inside Coordinator, Head Servant, Chapel Coordinator, or Agape Coordinator—in preparation for the Weekend Leader responsibilities.

Also in an effort to improve ministry excellence, the Observing Leader must attend Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) before serving in that role. That way the Observing Leader will be better prepared for his upcoming responsibilities. He will have access to the Ezra software following the Weekend at which he served as Observing Leader.

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – As we approach mid-year and the upcoming fall Weekend season, it is important to ask yourself how the continuing ministry of your Advisory Council is doing. Continuing Ministry is the heart of our ministry, and our Weekends are only an introduction to the ministry of Kairos for our Guests and Participants. We can invite our Guests and Participants to Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside Weekends, but if we don't keep them involved in the ministry, if we don't support them in their life's journey, we have not completed the vision of Kairos.

Weekly Prayer and Share groups, Share, Witness, Account, and Pray (S.W.A.P.), and Reunions are so important in providing support and spiritual growth opportunities for our former Guests and Participants.

Do your part to promote continuing ministry. If you are a Weekend Leader, when you send your team their letter telling them the dates of your team formation meetings, make sure to include

your Weekend Reunion date. This will ensure that your team members can set the date aside and plan to be there. Additionally, when you are recruiting for your teams, don't forget to remind them of their commitment to participate in continuing ministry after the Weekend. If you are on the Advisory Council, make a concerted effort to promote continuing ministry.

If we don't follow through with Continuing Ministry, we have done nothing more than give our Guests and Participants a nice Weekend. So make continuing ministry a priority, because continuing ministry is where the real ministry of Kairos takes place.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – After several months of planning and writing, Ezra for Kairos Torch is in the final stages of its development and ready for BETA testing. Four Kairos Torch Advisory Councils will be chosen to test this software before it is fully released to all Weekend Leaders.

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.theclarion.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10206:greetings-from-we-care-inc-07-13-16&catid=53:greetings-from-we-care&Itemid=129

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20160715/adolescent-prison-ministry-a-chance-to-save-souls>

Share the Blessing (IC Recruitment Committee) – How did you get involved in Kairos Prison Ministry? Twenty years ago, a lady walked up to me in church, looked me straight in the eye, and said, “I'm going to be the Leader of a Kairos Weekend in the spring and I'm inviting you to be on the team.” I had recently completed my 4th day Weekend and was looking for something to do, so I said, “Okay, I've never heard of Kairos Prison Ministry, but I'll give it a try.” Need I say more? That was 20 years ago, and I'm still blessed to be a part of this ministry today.

“Why? Because someone invited me. I am eager to tell others about this ministry. I don't think of it as ‘recruitment,’ but rather as offering them the opportunity to experience for themselves the awesome blessings of becoming a Kairos Prison Ministry volunteer.

Now, go bless someone!

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming summer or fall 2016 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_enevs-sp.html

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