



Kairos E-News #63 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – November 2016

***I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,
because I hear about your love for all his holy people
and your faith in the Lord Jesus.***

Philemon 4, 5

Kairos Impact (Evelyn Lemly, CEO) – October was a busy month for Kairos. There were 152 Weekends. Wow, God is at work! That’s almost 5,000 people impacted by incarceration being directly touched in one month by Kairos sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. And we cannot forget to mention the thousands of volunteers engaged to serve. There are also the numerous others involved or positively impacted as they observe or play a part—the churches, security officers, chaplains, wardens, other inmates, former graduates, cooks and bakers, prayer partners, agape poster makers, placemat makers, and the list goes on. What an honor to serve in this ministry and be part of Christ’s army working to make a difference in others’ lives. Thanks to all who participate and serve in Kairos—you are making a difference! It does seem Kairos is Changing Hearts, Impacting Lives, and Transforming the World.

2017 Annual Conference Site Selected (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – The 2017 Annual Conference will be held July 25–29, 2017 at the Wyndham Peachtree Conferencing Center in Peachtree, GA. Registration and other conference information will be available soon on the mykairos.org website.

2016 Conference Videos (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – Many of you have requested access to the various recordings from the 2016 conference. These videos are now accessible via the mykairos.org website under “2016 Annual Conference” located on the left-hand menu on the home page. Or you can access them directly by using this link:

http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html

Board of Directors Update (Vicki Spurgeon, Board Chair) – *For this reason I kneel before the Father ... I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:14-21*

A very close friend has been praying this Scripture over and to me during a difficult season. As I have reflected more fully on these words and felt them seeping into my being, I pray these words

over and for all of you—our Kairos volunteers who carry and share the love of Christ to our guests and participants, who hold positions of leadership on Weekends, Advisory Councils, State Chapters, International Council, and the Board. Your service is appreciated and makes a difference in so many lives.

At the end of September, the Board gathered in DeBary, Florida, for board development and visioning. My special thanks to Don Setterlof, who stepped in for me to lead the retreat, when I was unable to attend, and to all the members who were able to participate and share their voice as Kairos continues to grow in the love of Christ.

International Council Update (John Miller, International Council President) – Do you ever look at the “Kairos Kalendar” on the MyKairos.org website? Have you bothered to notice just how many Weekends and training sessions are listed? In the month of October there were 152! This ministry works, and obviously works hard. It’s you 30,000+ volunteers that make this happen—for this we are grateful.

The Advisory Councils and the State Chapter Committees that are guiding you are also to be thanked. They do it with people who have agreed to serve and help lead. But those who serve are limited by time. Each one is obligated to serve their term, be it one or two terms, and then they must step off for a period of time. It is then the obligation of the general populace (the ones on the Advisory Council or State Chapter Committee and those who are not currently serving in these roles) to find replacements for those who have to step off. The elections of your new Advisory Councils and State Chapter Committees are this month. This is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. Give prayerful consideration to who you are electing. These are the men and women who will be doing God’s work and leading you. *These election results are to be in to KPMI by December 1st.* We look forward to welcoming the new brothers and sisters into the leadership positions.

Men’s Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men’s Ministry Coordinator) – So your Weekend is going along full of the Holy Spirit. God has shown up in a big way, and all seems to be going to plan. Then it happens ... there is an incident on the unit. The prison goes into lockdown. Security escorts all the volunteers off the property, and all are disappointed in the development. “Now what?” you ask. Usually these things are resolved in a few days, sometimes in a few weeks. In extreme cases ... years. So the team meets and decides to keep it all together until the green light to reenter comes along. So, do you pick up where you left off? Has it been two days? Two weeks? Two months? Two years? The answer is that a Kairos Weekend needs to be started from the beginning and completed to the end without these kinds of time-duration interruptions. If it needs to be restarted, that means all the introductions need to be done over, including the three meditations given on Thursday night.

Why, you ask? The meditations and talks are designed to be presented in an ordered sequence to reach a desired conclusion. When there is an interruption, then the momentum and impetus of that ordering are lost. The feeling created on a Saturday took almost three days to create; it isn’t going to magically reappear.

Call us if you have questions about a restart for an interrupted Weekend.

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator)

Ordering EZRA – Recently there has been some confusion about when and how a Weekend Leader orders their EZRA software. EZRA must be ordered from Kairos Prison Ministry after you have completed your Advanced Kairos Training, and after the conclusion of the Weekend before the Weekend you will be leading. If you do not order EZRA, you will not get EZRA.

To order EZRA, contact Janet Santiago at Kairos Prison Ministry International. She can be contacted by phone (407)629-4948 or by email (Janet@kpmi.org). If you contact Janet by phone, she will take your order over the phone; if you contact her by email, you must include an EZRA order form with your email in order for her to process your order. This form can be found at www.mykairos.org.

Please do not call Janet on Monday following your Advanced Kairos Training. It takes several days for the names from each Advanced Kairos Training to be entered into our system, and Janet must be able to confirm you attend Advanced Kairos Training. Wait until Wednesday or Thursday to call so your name will be in our system. *Also, remember it takes 2-3 weeks for EZRA to arrive.*

Insurance Riders – Do you need an insurance rider for your Weekend or other Kairos event that you are holding? Please don't forget that some facilities and churches require additional insurance, and don't assume because they don't ask that you are covered ... check with them.

If you need an insurance rider for your facility or church, please contact Jan Holder at our office and she will assist you with obtaining the insurance rider you need. Insurance riders are good for a year and are provided at no cost to the Advisory Council.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator)

Advising Leader Tips – Serving as an Advising Leader can sometimes be a delicate position to serve in. Advising Leaders are expected to give advice, counsel, offer guidance, and even console the Weekend Leader (when necessary), without taking over.

Serving as Advising Leader takes a well-balanced person with a spirit to mentor and not mandate. The prudent Advising Leader will undergird the Weekend Leader in a way that does not undermine their leadership. The Advising Leader prays for and supports the Weekend Leader in every possible way and is available to assist in resolving problems that may occur during team formation and the Weekend. They should always take great caution not to take over the responsibilities of the Weekend Leader or subvert their leadership. They are always there to serve the Weekend Leader as needed and wanted, not as the Advising Leader thinks they should serve and support. The challenge (every so often) comes when the Weekend Leader begins going down a path that is outside the guidelines or "Riverbanks." The spiritual and wise Advising Leader will pull the Weekend Leader to the side and point to the proper course of action by directing them to the program manual and explaining the purpose for that procedure. When we advise with a heart to build others, we develop community and positive leadership that will outlast us.

Recruiting Kairos Torch Mentors – *"The Kairos Torch Mentor should be the type of person that's not easily discouraged. You sometimes want to throw in the towel, especially when you feel like you're not getting through. Sometimes, you feel like you're in this thing by yourself."* A mentor is speaking here, describing what it takes to succeed in their role. But the statement could just as easily describe the people who recruit mentors. Recruiting can be a difficult and frustrating job,

requiring patience, creativity, organization, and persistence. Recruiting mentors is an ongoing challenge for almost all programs. In most communities, there is increased competition for volunteers—and especially for people who possess both the available time and the kinds of personal characteristics required of mentors. There are no easy solutions for the challenges of recruiting. However, a systematic recruitment plan, carefully developed and implemented, will increase your chances of success.

Here are two basic principles that apply to all mentor recruitment efforts: *First, maintain broad name recognition in the community—and second, target your recruitment.* The decision to volunteer is usually a two-step process—a person thinks generally about becoming a volunteer, and then a “trigger event” transforms this general thought into concrete action. The “trigger” is often something very simple: Someone they know asks them to volunteer in a specific role, or they learn about an opportunity through an organization to which they belong. The volunteer role they are attracted to will generally be something that allows them to address an issue they care about because of their values, beliefs, or experience. This two-step process suggests it is important to create broad local visibility so that when people are ready to volunteer, they will recognize your program's name and mission. It also suggests the importance of targeting your recruitment so you are asking people who are ready to volunteer and who will be interested in the possibility of mentoring in your program. As one recruitment expert notes: “If your recruitment message is aimed at no one in particular, don't be surprised when no one in particular responds to it.”

More Recruiting 101 (Recruitment Committee) – The Advisory Council at Greenville Correctional Center, Unit S-3, has had a lot of success recruiting volunteers at catered dinners. They hold a catered dinner twice a year, usually three months before an upcoming Kairos Weekend. Team members pay \$15 and another \$15 for guests. The meal normally consists of barbecue and a couple of side dishes. A local church in the Annandale area hosts the event. After the meal, two team members briefly talk about what the last Weekend meant to them, trying to use a team member who attended their last Weekend. At the last dinner, two released Kairos residents spoke to the group and shared what the Kairos experience meant to them.

When they recruit younger team members, they also recruit their spouses to join the Outside Support Teams. It is much easier if you have both husband and wife serving together. It is a wonderful opportunity for family members or good friends to keep the kids for a few days. This is a great fellowship opportunity for the team, but more importantly, the Greenville Advisory Council told us, they get four or five new team members from each dinner. That is wonderful news! Try it, it just might work for you.

Giving Tuesday – Kairos is a ministry that would not exist if it did not have volunteers who give of their time and money to support the work that we do to spread God's love to those affected by incarceration. Giving Tuesday, November 29th, is a global day of giving that kicks off the charitable season. This year, we are using this specific day to help raise money to completely fund five (5) first-time Kairos Weekends in 2017. Our Goal for Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2016, is **\$30,000!** Please consider giving on this day by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/Kairos-GivingTuesday>

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming fall/winter 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_eneews-sp.html

La traducción al español de E-News (E-Noticias) se publica mensualmente. Si quiere ver las E-Noticias anteriores o suscribirse para recibir ejemplares futuros, vaya a http://www.mykairos.org/news_eneews-sp.html

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