



“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’” – Mark 9:35

Strategic Focus for Kairos (Evelyn Lemly, CEO)

Kairos has a strategic plan that we use to focus the ministry on seven vision priorities for a 5-year period. As we work to accomplish our Mission, the strategic plan enables us to take steps forward each year.

Our vision priorities are:

Vision Priority 1: Continue to enhance and focus on the spiritual health of the ministry

Vision Priority 2: Sustain and strategically grow the ministry reach and impact through the three core programs and inclusive with strong focus on Continuing Ministry

Vision Priority 3: Continuous improvement in the ministry health through financial, operational and program capability with effective communications across the ministry

Vision Priority 4: Continual recruitment and retention of qualified Christian volunteers at all levels

Vision Priority 5: Continual enhancement of Kairos awareness and promotion

Vision Priority 6: Optimize the ministry’s success through continued comprehensive training plans that touches all aspects of the ministry

Vision Priority 7: Develop and if feasible implement a strategic structure and growth plan for international countries

Please note it all starts with our individual and the body’s spiritual health. As we work in the ministry with a goal of excellence, our first priority is our relationship and walk with Jesus Christ so that we may share His transforming love and forgiveness with others.

Board of Directors Update (Terry Crockett, Board Chair)

Acts 17:6, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also.” (NRS)

Are we turning the world upside down for Christ? If so, this means you are all-in for Him; which is the difference between having faith and love in Him or showing fear and worry of the world.

Each of us need to stand firm in our investment with Christ, as did the early Christians when they were persecuted. Wherever Kairos has gone and will go, it has turned individuals’ worlds upside down whether as Participants and Guests or as volunteers.

As the Apostle Paul stated, *“Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.” 1 Thessalonians 3:11 (NIV)*

The 2018 Annual Conference’s theme was “Walk the Talk”, please do not forget it for all the upcoming Weekends, team formation meetings and the Continuing Ministry of Kairos in 2019. The way has been cleared for us to turn the world upside down, so let us be His light to the world.

International Council Update (Tom McCarty, International Council President)

When our now grown sons were not so grown, we became big fans of Psalty, the singing songbook (remember him?). We eagerly awaited his next adventure and made sure we got to our local Christian bookstore as soon as his newest tape (yes, our boys grew up in the cassette era!) appeared.

One song, in adventure #4 I believe, still resonates through our brains. It goes, in part, "Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord, let me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be, make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today."

As we begin another new year of service in Kairos for "them" and for "Him," it is my prayer that you keep your servant head, heart, and legs, always active and always ready. "Why?" we ask. Perhaps Mother Theresa put it best (as she often does), "At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done," she said.

We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in." To that we add the words of the Master, "I was in prison and you visited me." Amen.

Men's Ministry Update (Craig Combs, Men's Ministry Coordinator)

Wise words from our Cursillo Roots.

Eduardo Bonin, the founder of the Cursillo movement from which Kairos gets its roots, has some great quotes that might help you. You can change the Cursillo to Kairos if that makes it easier when you read these.

1. The weekends are not designed "to tell people to love God, but to tell the people God loves them. That is the heart of the message." Do you see that in your Kairos Weekends?
2. The development of friendships is at the core of the Cursillo method. "Nothing fills the heart like a friendship." We are supposed to help the people incarcerated become friends with each other, so their hearts can be filled. That is why we create Prayer and Share groups in prison.
3. Bonnin said everyone needs to know himself, which a person can accomplish with a Cursillo weekend, and to know others and reach out to them. "If you only know Jesus, you are mystic. That's not good. If you only know yourself and not God you just work, work, work." This is why we have the Continuing Ministry, so the incarcerated can help each other.
4. Bonnin had some simple advice, "Cursillo is like a tree; it needs to be seen. If you put too much on it, no one can see the message. It's the same with a Christmas tree. If it is too decorated, no one sees the tree and children think the tree grows ornaments". Do you add things to your Weekend and therefore can't see the tree anymore?

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

My husband loves to stand up in church during his Kairos team formation meetings with the prayer vigil for the Weekend to solicit Prayer Warriors.

His goal is always to get the entire Weekend covered in prayer. He tries to get as many people as he can to sign up to pray for each of the 30-minute slots, sometimes getting as many as 5 or 10 for each

slot, from Thursday until Sunday afternoon, or from Friday until Sunday if he is serving on the Kairos Outside Kitchen team. Joe makes a game out of it, but at the same time he is very serious and committed to the cause - trying to see if he can get more Prayer Warriors for the current Weekend than he had for the previous Weekend.

Recently I heard several communities are just giving portions of the Weekend Prayer Vigil to the volunteers serving on their teams – breaking the Weekend into sections. So essentially the volunteer is only give a portion of the prayer vigil for the Weekend, and they get signatures just for those times – essentially limiting how many Prayer Warriors each team member can collect because they only have part of the Weekend.

Every Kairos Weekend should be surrounded by Agape – the unconditional love of Christ, delivered by the people of Christ. One of the ways that people, who may not be able to serve on team, can volunteer with Kairos is through prayer. When the prayer chains, prayer vigils, prayer posters, or other symbols representing all the people who are praying are introduced on a Kairos Weekend it is a very powerful illustration that God, and the community of God, knows and cares about our Participants and our Guests. They are always blown away by the prayer chain, and I have often heard a Participant or a Guest say, “I was blown away that so many people, who don’t know me, are praying for me.”

I would like to encourage Advisory Councils and Weekend Leaders to give your team the entire prayer vigil for the Weekend. By doing so, I trust you will find you will have many more people praying for the Weekend.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Reslover, Youth Ministry Coordinator)

Benjamin Franklin once stated, “If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!” Two central themes for mentoring incarcerated youth in Kairos Torch are facilitating an environment that will lead towards self-discovery, and assisting the youth in developing a realistic “Intentional Life Plan”.

The essential objective of helping incarcerated youth develop such a plan is intrinsically established around understanding themselves (i.e. dreams, skills, abilities, dislikes, etc.) and to begin to articulate who they are in a safe and cultivating environment. In November 17-21, 2017, DHM Research, asked 1,069 Americans aged 18+ in a scientifically conducted online survey, “Do you have a life plan that you have committed to in writing and use to help guide you through the rest of your life?” Only 33% responded in the affirmative but they went on to say the following:

- Life is too random and unknowable. But a written plan is useful in that it helps to keep one grounded and focused on the goals and things that are important.
- My life plan helps lay out my future goals and provides a game plan to reach them.
- Every time I see my life plan in writing, I become inspired. It gives me energy to work hard to achieve my goals.
- My life plan is a personal compass which guides me through life.
- It gives me something to look back upon so I can see how far along I am, what I need to work on. Things in writing feel more concrete.
- Actually writing things down seems to really help me to commit.
- If I just said it out loud, I wouldn’t feel motivated, and thus that written piece makes me want to accomplish it.
- It makes it feel “real” when you can physically see it on paper and touch it.
- When I’m having a bad day, I’ll read over the life plan to remind me of things I should be grateful for.
- When I am confused about the next step, my life plan helps to keep me on task.

- It makes my life more enjoyable in the long run.
- Without a plan and goals, you're wasting a lot of your life.
- It's my guiding light. It allows me to not make rash decisions that I will later regret. My written life plan helps keep my life in order. In other words, when I finish a goal on my checklist, I will know what to do next.

By assisting your mentee in developing a written "Intentional Life Plan," mentors help these youth to look beyond past failures and the temptation of making reckless choices. It will allow them to set a system in place that will move towards productivity and a rewarding life.

Monthly Mentoring Tip: Find ways to instill in your mentee that life is not a problem to be solved, but an experience, and that life's enjoyment comes from designing it.

New One or Two Day Retreat Topics and Themed Talks Available

All residents who have attended a 3 ½ day Weekend can attend a one or two-day Retreat held twice yearly at institutions as part of the Kairos Inside Continuing Ministry. Retreats are typically held at the mid-point between Kairos Inside Weekends. The primary purpose of the Retreats is to give those not grouping some experience with the process of becoming vulnerable to other people in the small group setting. Additionally, Retreats provide an opportunity for those who have drifted away from the Kairos community to return. The importance of these Retreats cannot be overstated. If you are not doing Retreats, talk with your facility about the possibility of adding them.

Communities are always looking for Retreat ideas, and to keep our Continuing Ministry new and exciting we have just added seven new Retreat topics with themed-talks to mykairos.org which can be used for your local Retreats. On pages 328-343 of the Kairos Inside Program Manual you will also find information regarding the Retreat including topics, themed-talks, and a proposed schedule

If you have retreat topics or themed-talks that you have used successfully in your facility, please email Gina Brockmeyer (gina@kpmi.org) or Craig Combs (craig@kpmi.org). We will be happy to review and consider them for posting.

New Documents Available on MyKairos.org

- Video: "The Kairos Story from Lockhart Prison" on YouTube and mykairos.org
- Video: Judy Henderson's Testimonial on Kairos Inside on YouTube and mykairos.org
- Corrected ACOP 2019
- Agape: Western New Mexico Correctional Facility for Women
- Press Release: Kairos Outside South Carolina Lowcountry #1 Weekend

First Annual Legacy Luncheon

Kairos Prison Ministry International is pleased to announce the first annual Legacy Luncheon to be held Friday, July 26th from 12pm – 1:15pm at the 2019 Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. If you have chosen to leave a lasting legacy with Kairos in your estate planning, please let us know. We will also send you an invitation to this wonderful event. Please email diane@kpmi.org.

Events

Do you have a future fundraiser or awareness event coming up? Be sure to send those to diane@kpmi.org and they will be listed on kairosprisonministry.org as well as promoted in the Kairos Updates & Inspiration email! <http://www.kairosprisonministry.org/events.php>

Prayer Requests

Kairos has a new prayer request page. Please use this page to post prayer requests for publication and to pray for others. We ask that all comments be considerate and within the parameters of Kairos vision, mission, and values. Please do not include upcoming Weekends as we already pray for those weekly! <http://www.kairosprisonministry.org/blog/prayer-requests/>

Agape Contacts

A listing of Agape contacts for upcoming Kairos Weekends is available on the mykairos.org website. This information is compiled from the Weekend information that is posted on the Kairos Kalendar and is available in Excel format so that you can easily download it. In order for this to be effective, please post your Weekends well in advance of their actual dates and ensure your Agape contact's name and their email address are included in the posting. To access this information, please go to: <http://www.mykairos.org/kalendar.html> and click on "Agape Contacts for Upcoming Weekends."

Is Your Weekend Listed?

Now is the time to do it! If your upcoming Weekend is not listed on the Kairos Kalendar, complete the electronic registration at <http://mykairos.org/register.html> so we can publicize your Weekend to help you receive Agape and prayer coverage.

This is especially important for #1 Weekends. We create a banner advertisement especially for those #1 Weekends on mykairos.org, and we actively promote #1 Weekends through local media and social media.

Why Do You Volunteer?

We need short 1 minute or less video clips telling us why you volunteer for Kairos! So grab your phone, tell us why, and send them to diane@kpmi.org. **We need 40 or more of these.** Thank you for your service!

Kairos Facebook Group

Many items of interest such as upcoming Weekends, prayer requests, and inspirational stories are shared in our Kairos Facebook group. If you aren't already a member, you can request to be added here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KairosPrisonMinistryInternational>

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

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_enews-sp.html

You may also subscribe to E-News at the www.MyKairos.org Home page, using the on-screen form. If you want to stop receiving the Kairos E-News, go to the www.MyKairos.org Home page and use the on-screen form.

For more information about Kairos volunteer activities, remember to visit mykairos.org and follow us on social media.

