

Kairos E-News #23 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers - 8/8/13

2012 Annual Report (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) - The 2012 Annual Report is a summary of year of Kairos Prison Ministry and focused on sharing with persons outside Kairos. For the first time in the history of Kairos, the financials are consolidated financials for the U.S. and in the format typical of nonprofit reporting. This accomplishment is due to the hard work in each state to implement the new financial structure and this reporting is just one result of the new system being in operation. Please feel free to use the annual report with persons to share about Kairos, link to the state and local websites of Kairos, or share with potential donors. You will find it prominently using the link on the Home Page of www.MyKairos.org

Summer Conference (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) - There was a excited buzz in the air all week at the Summer Conference. As the teams engaged, shared, and learned from one another it was encouraging to hear of the results. Our theme was 'Vision for the Future'. We are focusing on stabilizing the present ministry, cleaning up where needed, thus enabling us to grow. We all know we must have a healthy foundation to grow on so we will focus on: Spiritual Health, Financial Health, and Operational Health. One of the key operational focus areas is Recruitment. We need everyone focused on getting new volunteers and getting them engaged in the ministry.

Our programs are in less than 30% of the correctional facilities today. We have states where the DOC is asking us to enter into more facilities and to expand the number in each weekend to 42. In most cases around the country our limiting factor is volunteers. We cannot reach those men, women, youth and their families impacted by incarceration unless we get more volunteers. If everyone would get just one new volunteer per year we would not have any issues in recruitment. Let's each take on the task!

Kairos Mourns Loss of another of the "Nine Old Men" (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) - Just one short month after the passing of Kairos Founder, Tom Johnson, Kairos has lost another one of our founders, Joe Gurtis. Joe Gurtis, one of Kairos' founders (Nine Old Men) passed away earlier in July. Please keep Joe's wife, Beverly and his family in your prayers.

Women's Ministries Learn Lots at Summer Conference (Jo Chapman, Women's Ministries Coordinator) - The Summer Conference in Oklahoma City was a growing time for the Kairos female volunteers. There were lots of workshops that helped these women with the work they do inside and outside the prisons. KI and KO Excellence Initiative and Ezra workshops proved to be valuable tools to help volunteers present the ministries more effectively. The following workshops helped the women support their local ministries better: Online Agape, Recruiting of Clergy, Donor, Keeping the Guests Involved, 2-Day Retreats for the KI ministry, Prayer and Share, Reunions, and finally Keeping Balance as a Volunteer. We all thank the presenters and know we will be returning to our communities with lots of new ideas and additional passion for the ministries we serve.

Kairos Torch Presented as an Evidence Based Behavior Modification Program (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) - Dr. Phil Baty, Clinical Psychologist and Administrator of Programs at Southwest Oklahoma Juvenile Center spoke at the Kairos International 2013 Summer Conference on the influential effectiveness of the Kairos Torch youth ministry as an evidence-based behavior modification program to high-risk youth. Dr. Baty felt strong enough about the methods and effects of the Kairos Torch Mentoring model that he discussed it in his research / dissertation for his Doctorate in Psychology. An audio/visual of his presentation will be made available in the near future. The Department of Juvenile Justice in California also approved Kairos Torch as an evidence-based behavior modification program. Upon the request of the warden, promotional brochures have been sent to hand out to all 800 residents and plans are underway to bring Kairos Torch to California.

Summer Conference (Jim Hankins, Kairos Board of Directors Chairman) - Thanks are in order for the many Kairos participants in the 2013 Summer Conference in Norman Oklahoma. This was a productive conference for many reasons. We took seriously the task before us as we looked to the future in all the different segments of Kairos. Whether it was an IC Committee or the State Chairs, each group looked forward with the idea of "One Kairos" as our goal.

The production of a Strategic Plan was introduced to the Committees, the State Chairs, and the other groups who are establishing the goals and actions to be taken. I was excited to see the different groups approach this assignment with enthusiasm. Since October 1st is the target for completion of the first phase, everyone wasted no time getting to the task. There will be more work, but we are off to a good start. Thanks to all who labor to secure the future of Kairos.

The committees had a lot to accomplish, but used their experience coupled with a determination to be open to new ideas, to plan for the future of Kairos. It was evident that each one was striving for excellence. Our competitive spirit seemed to be channeled into a desire to excel and look forward. Thank you for grasping our vision of Community.

There was an abundance of workshops from Recruiting to Improving Prayer and Share. There was a workshop for everyone. Thanks to all those who were willing to share their experience and ideas.

The Kairos Foundation Board met early in the week so they could solidify their purpose and direction. They will be very valuable as they assist in managing Kairos risks, investments, and our planned giving. Thank you for your commitment to be good stewards of what God has given us.

The Kairos Board of Directors had a full agenda as we fulfilled our commitment of training and spiritual growth. We were also mindful of our duties to review contracts, keep current our applicable registrations and certifications in the states, review and establish policies effecting our volunteers, and make sure we are accountable to Kairos for it's financial health. We celebrated our first consolidated financial report for the entire ministry. The Board also reviewed the core values we hold in the Kairos ministry as we strive to stay true to what our founders began. I want to thank the Board for their willingness to work long hours and their dedication to Kairos.

The conference facility was ideal. The transportation arrangements ran like clockwork. A special thanks to Robin and all the hosts from Oklahoma. Ann Kreller did her usual fantastic job of keeping everything organized.

For the first time, the Annual Report represented the state of the ministry in a format that we could understand and others outside our ministry will appreciate. Though Cindy Butcher is new to our staff, she has tackled this and several other financial problems with wisdom and a great sense of teamwork with many State Financial Secretaries.

I saved the best for last. All of the above would not have been possible if not for the hard work, long hours, and the loving dedication to Kairos of our Executive Director, Evelyn Lemly. I can't fully express the thanks we owe her. In the short time she has been here, she has grown to love Kairos. We are truly blessed to have her.

I'm sure there are many people we owe our thanks who I did not mention. It took a great deal of effort from everyone to make this conference a success. A lot was accomplished and it was done with a wonderful spirit of cooperation. Thanks for allowing me to be a part of this great ministry.

Summer Conference (David Ross, International Council President) - If I were forced to choose one word to describe this year's summer conference in Norman, the word would be **WOW**. Oklahoma's host committee, along with Ann Kreller, did a phenomenal job in putting it all together in a way that allowed everyone who attended to get the most out of it. It would be difficult to condense everything that Kairos is involved in to the confines of this E-News. The Board of Directors is actively guiding the spiritual and strategic direction of the ministry. The International Council is hard at work in directing and improving the programs that are a part of Kairos. Board and IC committees are in the beginning phases of developing long term plans for Kairos that are guided by our vision and mission statements. Over 20 of our state chapter chairs were hard at work sharing the successes and challenges of our ministry with each other. Major initiatives that include recruitment, aftercare (or re-entry), financial stewardship, branding and awareness, and overall ministry growth (just to name a few) are all things that will become increasingly visible as we move forward. If you are a Kairos volunteer, our Lord will make sure that you will always have an opportunity to serve Him. While it would be easy to take some time to relax after such a full conference experience, I would encourage you stay engaged and build on the momentum that began last week in Norman. If you are looking for a place to jump in, don't keep it to yourself. Talk to your AC chair, your state chair, or your IC rep. There's plenty to do.

Kairos Photo Policy – There have been some notable gaps identified in the Kairos Photo Policy. The Board of Directors recently approved the latest version of the Photo Policy and it is available on the MyKairos.org website under Downloads and then click Policy. In addition to cleaning up and simplifying the language, wording was added to cover photos on social media websites and how to obtain approval for photographs for marketing and publicity purposes. Additionally, language was added that clarifies who maintains the Universal Photo Release forms.

“If you can think it, I can do it!” (Tom McCarty, IC Representative, Virginia) - No, those words didn't come from Walt Disney, although he was supposed to have said something like that. They were spoken by Jim Weeks, Kairos graduate of Augusta Correctional Center in Virginia, Head Cha at Brunswick CC (also in the Old Dominion), and most recently one of the principal organizers of a Kairos Reunion group at St. Brides Correctional Center (same place). Jim has a very interesting hobby, which he is able to pursue even on the “inside.” He crochets. “What does he make?” you ask. Afghans, hats, scarves, snuggies, pillows, even teddy bears. Jim learned this hobby on his great-grandmother's lap when he was 5. Seems he crawled up there and moved his fingers along with her needles. She taught him to crochet when he was 6, and he's been doing it ever since. To help him with the design phase of his work, Jim has developed a special type of graph paper. He takes sketches, real designs, sometimes even just ideas, plots them on his paper, and—presto!—creates his work. The time it takes from conception to finish varies from a few days for small pieces to about 3 weeks for a large creation. . For a surprise Christmas present for his wife, Jim took the cover of the Kairos *Freedom Guide* and turned it into a multi-colored 5' by 5' afghan. Jim is a real craftsman, an artist with yarn. If you are interested in learning more about this remarkable young man and how he uses his God-given talents, contact Tom McCarty, tgmccarty71@gmail.com

Volunteers (Mary Sogan, AKT Trainer) - Volunteers are the most important asset to the Kairos Prison Ministry. When the time comes for a trusted volunteer to move into any leadership role, the AKT Trainers most important job is to provide each with the proper training which will equip them for that leadership. But, I believe there are times when we must also provide tidbits to train everyone who has been called to the ministry of Kairos. I believe the following questions are important to ask if we are to accomplish our mission, but also the following “vision” for the future which our Board of Directors has recently agreed upon for the future of the Kairos Prison Ministry.

“A Community Spiritually Freed From the Effects of Imprisonment Reaching all impacted by Incarceration, Through the Love, Hope and Faith Found in Jesus Christ”

After many years of training leaders, it has come apparent that many of us feel that because we are “Volunteers”, the Lord doesn’t expect as much. I just returned from the 2013 Kairos Prison Ministry Summer Conference in Norman, Oklahoma. In a committee meeting, during a discussion of volunteer/leadership expectation, someone turned to me and made a statement which I have heard way to many times in my 27 years in the ministry, including many times at AKT Trainings. It went something like this: “...don’t they understand that we are **JUST VOLUNTEERS!**”

So, what are we saying? Does that mean because we are not receiving compensation for our time we spend doing Kairos, God expects less than our very best? Or, are we saying “That’s good enough for God, because we are just volunteers?”

I don’t believe any one of those who have ever verbalized any statement resembling “...Just volunteers...” meant anything of the sort. So, my question would be to each of us in moving forward as a volunteer for Kairos: “What is “my” good enough for the Lord, as I continue to serve Him in Kairos?”

Perspective (Pablo Rivera, Kairos Volunteer) - I thought I would share a Kairos moment with you. The Miami-Dade chapter of Kairos held a four day Spanish language retreat at the Florida City Dade Correctional Institution (DCI) about ten years ago from Thursday evening through Sunday. At the time we were allowed to bring in food as an incentive. Although the chapel we used was limited in size, the food incentive attracted many inmates and the Chaplain had set up a sign up system to screen the candidates. When the inmates arrived in the room our experienced team immediately organized them as possible in the cramped quarters. Throughout the three following days we all shared our frustration at the feeling that we were not getting across to the men. About halfway through the retreat we learned from some of the attendees that there were members of a vicious gang named Maratuchi in the group who had signed up their members by intimidating those responsible for the sign up process. Although alerted by a few of the attendees, we wisely kept it to ourselves. Late on that final Sunday afternoon we offered the inmates an opportunity to speak about their experience. A young (18-19 serving a life sentence) black Hispanic man in his teens stood up with great trepidation and startled everyone present as he was now confessing his sins with uncontrolled tears and grief-stricken emotional outbursts as he could barely stand. In effect he was asking for forgiveness from God as he accepted complete responsibility for the terrible crimes he had committed. We stood in shock and I personally realized that the Holy Spirit was somehow involved since we had come to believe the weekend was a bust. As the men started to leave another man, I later learned was the gang leader, approached me and with tearing eyes told me **“I promise we will watch over him and keep him safe”**. It’s always about the Holy Spirit, never us. We simply serve.

A Summertime Gift (Gloria Hilburn, Mountain View Advisory Council Chair) - The Kairos Inside team from the Mountain View Women's Unit in Gatesville, Texas arrived early at the unit on a very HOT Saturday morning, July 13, 2013, to bring and personally distribute, a very special gift of shampoo, body wash, deodorant and toothpaste to every resident. When the Summer gift idea was presented to the warden, she agreed to allow the offering stipulating that each gift be identical, and go to every resident on the unit, all 650 of them. The team went to work raising funds to order and pay for the items with a deadline of August 1st to raise over \$2000. An anonymous "Friend of Kairos" offered a gift that that would cover two-thirds of the cost, if the team could raise the rest. Another "Friend" donated toothpaste for each lady's gift. July 13, 2013 was set for the delivery day (our normal reunion Saturday), a month earlier than originally hoped for. The team met at the gate, prayed for a smooth day, unloaded and went to work. Each box had to be opened, loaded on wagons and passed through security scanners, which would normally take a while. The officers at the gate were

AWESOME! With 3 officers normally in security, suddenly there were 4 *more* officers there to help with the individual scanning of all 500 boxes "*Thank You Jesus!*" They unloaded all of the wagons, and carefully re-loaded each one exactly as it had been brought in. At the gym, the gift bags were prepared. The residents were aware that something was going on and thinking Kairos "cookies". We were assigned a very kind security officer to escort us and the gift bags and allowed to enter each dorm room and put a gift into the hands of each resident, with a "*God Loves You*" greeting. Imagine the delight when they discovered a bag full of wonderful free-world smells! We visited every cell block, closed & protective custody, as well as, the Texas Women's Death Row House. We closed the day with a joyful and well-attended Kairos reunion full of praise and thanksgiving. The Lord blessed the Mountain View Kairos team throughout the project, and after all was done, the question remained; *Who was more blessed by the events that day, the team or residents?* The Mountain View Kairos team is planning for this blessing to continue as an annual event.

Help! (Al Kolff, IC Communications Committee) - We surveyed all of the Kairos state web sites recently and in that process we realized that there are a lot more "Kairos" (official and unofficial) web sites and Facebook pages out there. If you know of any that are not listed on the <http://www.MyKairos.org/link.html> page, could you please forward the web addresses to lee@mykairos.org. Thank you.

2014 Winter Meetings –

Save the Dates: February 4 – 8, 2014

Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport Hotel

(Just 5 minutes away from the Atlanta Airport)

More information will be posted soon on the www.mykairos.org website.

Share the E-News - Not everyone is subscribed to the Kairos E-News. Share this information with your State Chapter Committee, Area Committee, Advisory Council and your community. If you missed a copy of the Kairos E-News and want to get caught up, go to the MyKairos.org website, click on Newsroom, then Kairos E-News. Archived copies are there for you to download and read.

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

The IC Communications Improvement Committee