



Kairos E-News #35 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – August 2014

Inspiring Ministry Excellence – 2014 Theme (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – Kairos just had a wonderful week at our Summer Conference in Indianapolis, IN. Representatives from 35 U.S. states and Australia gathered to celebrate what God is accomplishing through Kairos Prison Ministry. We celebrated many successes and positive steps forward in our spiritual health, financial health, and operational health in 2014, while also looking forward to where we are heading and our exciting future. Dozens of workshops were held to bring us closer together in the operations and understanding of the ministry. The Foundation Board of Directors, International Council, Board of Directors, and State Chairs or their representatives held extensive meetings and sharing times. Once again as we gathered, we felt God’s presence and blessings on Kairos and all of us as a body working together in our sharing the love, hope, and truth of Jesus Christ. Praise God for all volunteers and for those representing the entire body who could gather for the Summer Conference.

2015 Annual Conference - As we look to the future, we are going to have one Annual Conference in 2015 rather than a Winter Meeting and a Summer Conference. While we love the opportunity to meet together in fellowship, discussion, and learning as often as possible, we hope to be able to have more volunteers attend one conference. So often the states sponsor the same few persons to attend two meetings each year. We hope the states can help more people attend and grow our leadership, interaction, and communication as a community. We will determine the location and dates (assumedly in June, July, or August) in a few months so everyone can plan ahead; states and individuals can budget; and more people can be involved in the conference and annual celebration of God’s work through Kairos.

Thanks Are in Order – We extend a special thanks to Cindy Butcher for her work as Controller for Kairos for the past one and one-half years. Cindy will be leaving Kairos for family reasons sometime in August. She will help us transition to a new National Controller when we identify the person. We are thankful for Cindy’s service, especially during our financial system transition. Please keep Cindy and her family in your prayers and take a moment to thank her.

Board of Directors Update (Jim Hankins, Chairman) – The Board of Directors would like to extend our greatest thanks to those involved with making this year’s Summer Conference the “best ever.” Evelyn Lemly, Ann Kreller, and the fantastic Indiana Volunteers provided the perfect atmosphere for listening to God and following His direction in steering Kairos into the future. The Holy Spirit was evident in the faces of those in attendance. Prayers were felt as they were voiced from all parts of the world, lifting up those present.

In this setting it was a joy to do the work of God with the people of God. The multitude of agenda items were discussed in respectful and positive tones. Where two or three were gathered, Christ was in their midst. It is the hope of this Board that by moving to one meeting a year, instead of

each state sending one volunteer to attend this uplifting event twice a year, we can help twice as many volunteers experience it. This is quite an opportunity for growth.

The Board has renewed its efforts to seek excellence in all that we do. This requires that we concentrate on what we were called to do and that all those in leadership stay focused on their respective responsibilities. We promise to dedicate our best for Kairos.

International Council Update (Lee Turner, International Council President) – To simply say that the 2014 Summer Conference was amazing does not do the experience justice. Your International Council conducted an examination of Spiritual Gifts and determined the Spiritual Gifts each one of us possesses to edify the church (and we all know who the church is); approved a complete revision to the Bylaw; increased our accountability to each other and the ministry; and watched a very clear presentation on how much work is before the ministry as it relates to branding. Those directly and indirectly responsible for websites will be hearing more about branding very soon.

In June, the International Council approved the document that, among other things, defines our job description. The State Chairs heard in detail about that job, and we are ready to be put to work helping State Chapter Committees "*Inspire Ministry Excellence*." The International Council has issues to resolve, and we will be about the work of the ministry. Our committees and subcommittees are fully engaged and focused on the strengths associated with similarities in our three programs and ways to foster excellence that will result in improving our spiritual, operational, and financial health.

During the conference, I heard a question asked to those assembled: "Do shortcuts and deviations from the established procedures make our programs stronger?" No one said "yes." For those directly responsible for conducting the ministry, we must be about doing the job the best we can. I was encouraged and energized by the conference. I encourage you to attend one if you are able. I want to especially thank the Summer Conference Committee from Indiana for a first-rate performance. Well done!

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – Can you believe those great attendance numbers? I don't mean the recent Summer Conference, which was terrific. I am referring to the past two Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) training events. In Jacksonville, Florida, June 6-8, we had 108 participants including Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch. In Raleigh, North Carolina, July 18-20, we had 88 participants, and that was on the same weekend as our Summer Conference in Indianapolis. It has indeed been a busy summer for Kairos. As we head into our fall season of Weekends, keep in mind that AKT needs to be completed 12-24 months before your Weekend. Apparently that message is being heard, and this is really good news for our future training needs. The goal should be to have your Observing Weekend Leader already AKT trained before he assumes his role as Observing Leader. Getting your Weekend Leader training done in a timely manner is one more step to achieving true Ministry Excellence.

Women's Ministry Update (Jo Chapman, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – Jo Chapman has produced a Kairos Outside History PowerPoint. She presented it at the Summer Conference. She has sent a copy of the DVD with presentation notes to all the Kairos Outside Advisory Council chairpersons and the Kairos Outside trainers. The hope is that the Advisory Council chairs will present the PowerPoint to their Advisory Council members and assure that the History of Kairos Outside prevails.

A personal note from Jo: I want to thank all the volunteers who wrote encouraging notes to me during Summer Conference. I felt so affirmed for the programs that have been my passion for so many years. I ask for continual prayers for the woman who will take my place as Women's Coordinator. Please support her in all ways possible and pray for her transition time. God has blessed Kairos with wonderful and dedicated staff. I know we will continue to be blessed with new staff members who bring new gifts and ideas to enhance the future of Kairos. It is God who is in charge of all the details of the Kairos ministry, and our trust is in Him for the all that lies ahead of us.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) –Job well done to the many Advisory Councils that are planning forward and getting their Weekend Leaders to the Advance Kairos Training (AKT) in a timely manner. We are seeing a larger number of leaders coming to these trainings and preparing to lead the ministry with excellence.

The Kairos Summer Conference held in Indiana was informative, inspiring, empowering, exciting, and illustrated a wonderful sense of family. I encourage all Kairos Torch Volunteers to set their minds toward attending the next Kairos Annual Meeting in the summer of 2015—you will be magnificently blessed! In the Kairos Torch Sub-Committee Meeting at the conference, a great deal of time was spent discussing the Mentor's Monthly Check-Up reports and the positive outcomes that we are seeing throughout all our program locations. Thank you to the hundreds of Mentors who have committed themselves to ministry excellence. Your sacrifice has produced a great harvest of youth that will make a compelling impact on this world in positive ways.

As promised in the last Kairos E-News, we have completed the curriculum pathways in our mentoring materials to address the trend of youth serving lesser sentences within the youth correctional facilities. Copies of the pathways will be first sent to all Mentoring Coordinators and then made available to the Mentors for their use.

New Excellence Initiative (Program Evaluation Committee) – We are pleased to announce the new and condensed Excellence Initiative questionnaire effective for Weekends after August 1, 2014. All Weekends before August 1 can be entered into the old system and completed prior to September 30. The new and old systems can be found on MyKairos.org under Downloads/Excellence Initiative. The new system allows for the Interview Survey and Questions to be downloaded or forwarded to the person(s) needing them in advance of the Weekend.

The new system allows for the same process for all three programs. All entries continue to be on the Excellence Initiative website as currently used.

Recruitment – Persistence (Ken Perduyn, Recruitment Committee) – We know the harvest is white as Jesus has said, but that the laborers are few. So, after we pray to the Lord of the harvest, we need to take action. Sometimes it may take months, even years of cultivation, but in the end it's a good harvest. As an example, one of our committee members plowed a certain field for over 18 months: calls, meetings, etc. In the end we wound up with eight solid recruiting prospects. So don't ever give up, and keep on plowing. Some plant, some sew, but He grants the increase, and it's all good.

New on the Website – There are a number of newly revised/updated documents on the website. For the most part, you can go to the last page and look at the Summary of Changes to determine what has changed. The following documents were uploaded in July:

1. The Bylaws – complete revision
2. The State Chapter Committee Operating Procedures
3. Advisory Council Operating Procedures
4. International Council Operating Procedures
5. Start-up Kit for a New Kairos Community – complete revision
6. Kairos Outside PO Boxes – update
7. Kairos Torch Institutional Memorandum of Understanding
8. Kairos Excellence Initiative – see the article in this E-news

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming summer or fall 2014 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 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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