



Kairos E-News #40 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – January 2015

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
2 Corinthians 5:17,18 NIV*

As Christians ... Christmas and New Year (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – As Christians, we have a very special celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ's birth at Christmas. As Christians, we are called to be Christ-like. I pray that in the 2015 New Year we each are walking our Christian faith and being more Christ-like each day. As Christians serving as Kairos volunteers, may we show others Christ's love in powerful ways through every encounter with each other and those impacted by incarceration. I pray everyone had a wonderful celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas and that 2015 is a great year! As Christians, we can make a huge difference in the lives of those living in darkness. Remember, we need to be spiritually close with Christ personally, then as a body to show others His light.

New Year Brings New Leaders (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – As we enter 2015, it is not only a New Year, but the Advisory Councils and State Chapter Committees have new leaders coming on board in some positions. Please help set up those who are new for success, and pass the baton with grace, love, and care by helping them learn their positions. Pray for new and current leaders as they give their time and talents in service to the whole body of Kairos. We extend a special thanks to those who are leaving positions, for their dedication and service for the past year(s) in leadership roles. The whole body is renewed as new members are added to the existing team. At the same time, we want to continue the growth and success of the past as we serve the incarcerated with God's love.

International Council Update (Lee Turner, International Council President) – I trust you all had a Merry Christmas, and I pray for a prosperous New Year as we serve Him. The International Council is transitioning with new committee leadership in several positions, new Representatives joining the International Council, and several Representatives completing their terms of service in leadership. First, please join me in expressing my appreciation to those Representatives rolling off the International Council for their years of service to this Ministry. To our newest Representatives, welcome aboard; we look forward to your contributions to the International Council and the Ministry.

Al Kolff (Wisconsin) has been appointed to the Board Governance Committee. Von Brister (Mississippi) has agreed to Co-Chair the Volunteer and Recruiting Committee in 2015. Bonnie Hambor (Ohio) has agreed to serve as the Co-Chair of the Communications Improvement

Committee. I am continually encouraged by the progress that is being made to grow the Ministry for His glory and the benefit of all those we serve.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – New Year's blessings to all! Christ is indeed born for all, that we might find eternal salvation in Him. It is a time of new beginnings, and of New Year's resolutions. Next month in February, Team formation will begin in earnest for many of our Inside programs. That too is a new beginning for the teams in formation. It is a time for team spiritual formation, as well as a time to organize the logistics of another Kairos Weekend. What do you resolve to do when you prepare for a Kairos Weekend? How is the spiritual health of your Advisory Council? Do you need to go on a more fortified spiritual diet? Consider resolving to be as Christ-like as humanly possible, to shine His light onto those who are incarcerated. It is a resolution that doesn't require you to go on a diet, only that you look to Him for spiritual growth in the coming year. It has benefits for all of eternity, not just in 2015. Happy New Year!

Can you help? We are looking for Kairos volunteers living near North Dakota. Yes, it's true. Have you been a Kairos Men's volunteer in the past and now live anywhere near Bismarck, North Dakota? If so, you may be someone we are looking for. Or perhaps you know of someone who is living there now and has been a volunteer in the past. Please contact Ken Rocks, the Men's ministry Coordinator, for more information. It would be a big help to us.

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – **A Challenge for 2015**

2015 is a New Year: a time for change, a time to start over, a time to begin again. It's a time for a fresh start, and a time to focus on the spiritual health of our ministry, our State Chapter Committees, and our Advisory Councils.

Vision Priority Number 1 of the five-year Strategic Plan for Kairos Prison Ministry International states that our goal will be to do the following:

- Focus on prayer individually and collectively for the ministry and invite others to pray for the ministry;
- Establish an intercessory prayer procedure for all reunion groups (inside and outside institutions);
- Embrace biblical principles in all our ministry work;
- Nurture the environment of building relationship with Jesus and walking with Him;
- Encourage the Kairos Community to embrace the Listen, Listen, Love, Love concept in every encounter with each other, thus showing the love of Jesus Christ; and
- Strive to be the most effective messengers of Christ in our actions and our words.

As we begin the New Year, let each of us consider how we are doing with regard to Vision Priority Number 1 of the Strategic Plan, and what each of us can do to accomplish this goal.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – In 2002 the Harvard School of Public Health proclaimed January as National Mentoring Month. Each year since its launch, National Mentoring Month has enjoyed the strong support of the U.S. President and members of Congress. The goal is to focus national attention on the need for mentors, as well as

how each of us- individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities, and nonprofits can work together to increase the number of mentors to assure positive outcomes for our young people.

We honor all Kairos Torch mentors who have given so much of their time, talents, and heart to hurting youth in the juvenile system. Your gift of love has not gone unnoticed and will yield great returns in its time. First I would like to ask you to send me a two- or three-paragraph story about your most meaningful mentoring experience in Kairos Torch (keep in mind our confidentiality policy). Then I would ask that you would pray about who might make a good mentor and begin to recruit them to Kairos Torch for 2015. There are over 300,000 youth connected to the juvenile system each year. Let's introduce them to the "game changer"—Jesus Christ!

Recruit for Kairos Prison Ministry??? **I'm Already Buried and Exhausted ...** (Kelvin Thompson, Recruitment Subcommittee) – As I write this recruitment article, that is the question I ask myself. After all, God will find someone to do, it as He always does. Well, maybe not, which is why He gave us Matthew 25, including one of our own defining verses, 25:36. There is a parable told earlier in this chapter of talents and their use. Many people, including some Christians, believe our talents are fully used, even if we just do charitable acts or give money.

While this is partially true, God actually desires we "exhaust" our talents so that when He comes, there will be nothing left but for us to leave a few things behind and join Him in eternity. I submit to you that when He returns, His assessment of how we exhausted our efforts on His behalf may be surprising. For you see, the more talents we are given, the more He expects us to return to Him from the use of those talents.

I use this parable as a reminder that God wants me to fully exhaust my talents, lest I be the unprofitable servant. It has made it a lot easier for me to speak to neighbors, guys at the barber shop, youth groups, work colleagues, people at the restaurant, etc. about this exciting ministry called Kairos Prison Ministry. I've decided not to be "too buried or exhausted," as was the servant, and leave open to God my unprofitable stewardship. I have decided that even though I have just a few talents and certainly not much time, I'll use the time I do have to share Kairos with everyone at every opportunity.

Happy Recruiting!

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming Spring 2015 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.

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