



Kairos E-News #61 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – September 2016

***Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.³
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:2-3***

Celebration (Evelyn Lemly, CEO) – Praises to the Lord as we felt His presence and guidance during our Annual Conference and celebration of the 40th year of Kairos ministry. We were overflowing with people and thankful for more Kairos volunteers coming to conference each year. Yes, the hotel food was truly typical hotel food, and the workshop rooms were crowded due to many more participating than ever before, but the blessings, we pray, outweighed these items.

We laughed and felt tears as God touched our hearts; we experienced unity as His servants; and we learned together about Kairos at the start in 1976, today in 2016, and the opportunities in the future. We saw how God has watered the seeds sown by our founders, whom we fondly refer to as the “Nine Old Men,” and multiplied us 30, 60, and 100 times, just like the parable of the four soils in Mark 4. Our theme of “listen, listen, love, love” and related Scripture were woven throughout each day, to remind us of how we serve daily in unity. We made new friends and reunited with old friends as we gathered to learn and equip ourselves in service for Kairos.

2016 ... the 40th year of this wonderful ministry sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to those impacted by incarceration. We are truly blessed. Thank you for serving and making a difference! May we leave a legacy and plant on good soil so our efforts are watered by the Lord and multiply 30, 60, and 100 fold too!

Board of Directors Update (Vicki Spurgeon, Board Chair) – *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience. Colossians 1:9-11*

On behalf of the Board, I want to take this opportunity to give thanks for those who work in this ministry to make the ongoing activities in facilities and communities possible. Much is required to operate and conduct Kairos with excellence, and that effort is noticed and appreciated. Our Annual Conference is but one example of the hours undertaken by staff and volunteers to make great learning experiences for everyone. Planning, preparation, and follow-through were evident all around us as we celebrated 40 years of Kairos!

We also appreciate the daily work of those in the home office. There are many, many tasks that go into daily operations of a ministry with 30,000 volunteers, operating in 35 states and in other

countries as well. Those tasks involve ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations of a non-profit ministry, maintaining proper records, implementing policies adopted, and providing program guidance and support to those conducting the three programs in the field (and much more!). No small task for 11 people to do!

I have been blessed to be present at one of the weekly staff meetings held every Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Not only is that a time for them to share what is going on in the office, but also a time for spiritual reflection, sharing of prayer concerns, and praying for each of the Weekends and trainings being held that week, as well as the leaders of those activities. Each is lifted by Weekend and by name. I ask that we do the same ... not only for the Weekends and training events, but also for the Kairos staff: Evelyn Lemly, Becky Dotson, Ken Rocks, Gina Brockmeyer, Kevin Resnover, Julie Collins, Ann Kreller, Terri Wheeler, Janet Santiago, Monika Hesse, and Jan Hunter.

Let us as a ministry not stop praying.

International Council Update (John Miller, International Council President) – Perhaps I said that it was a wonderful Annual Conference last year, but this year was even better! We had people from South America, Central America, Australia, and South Africa plus the United States! Not only did we have Cleve Bell, one of the “Original Nine Old Men,” but we also had members of his family and of the families of some of the other eight, and we were privileged to hear the voices of the nine men and how they developed Kairos. What a treat and historical gift they gave us through audio and video.

Now that we are back home, it is time to get started with the fall Weekends. The information that was learned at the conference in recruiting, how to use EZRA, the Excellence Initiative, listening, and the other tools now needs to be taught to those who were not there. That way, we are passing information down from the International Council to the States and to the Advisory Councils, which is what we are to do. If you haven't heard from your International Council Representative about what they learned, call them and find out. Better yet, have your State Chapter Committee have a face-to-face meeting, or meetings in the case of large states, and have mini-workshops to pass on what was learned. Only through doing this can we become excellent. The new manuals for each of the programs are also now available, so be sure to get copies for your Advisory Council.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – With the rollout of the new program manual, there is one particular change that needs to be noted now so all can begin to prepare for it. The Observing Leader must now have attended Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) prior to serving in that role. Since the future Weekend Leaders are required to attend Advanced Kairos Training 12-24 months in advance of leading a Weekend, this shouldn't be an issue. This makes sense for many reasons. Most importantly, the investment the Advisory Council makes into their future Weekend Leader can be more fully realized when the entire Ezra program is utilized. There are 180 days on the Weekend preparation timeline to be used as a roadmap to the Weekend.

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – The continuing presence of Kairos within an institution after the 3½-day Weekend speaks to the

uniqueness of our ministry. Through continuing ministry, the spiritual fires ignited within the Participants on their Kairos Weekend are fueled and nurtured.

One of the often untapped components of our continuing ministry is the 2-Day Retreat. The importance of these Retreats should not be overlooked.

All residents who have attended a 3½-day Weekend are allowed to attend a 2-Day Retreat, which is held twice each year at the mid-point between the 3½-day Weekends. The primary purpose of the 2-Day Retreat is to give those not yet grouping some experience in the process of becoming vulnerable to others in a small group setting. Also, having a 2-Day Retreat encourages the return of those graduates who may have drifted away from Kairos.

Two-Day Retreats typically start on Saturday morning and end on Sunday afternoon. The Retreat consists of eight talks, small group discussions about the talks, community and one-on-one prayer, meditations, and music. The panel discussion that was once part of the 2-Day Retreat has been removed from the schedule. There is only one team meeting for a 2-Day Retreat, and the number of team members needed to conduct a Retreat is significantly lower than for a Weekend. Guidelines and schedules for the 2-Day Retreat can be found in the Kairos Inside program manual and on mykairos.org.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – National studies have shown that the mentoring relationship with high-risk youth is one of the most effective ways to positively impact their lives in a non-threatening way. We continually receive a high volume of calls and emails from across the country asking for the Kairos Torch program, with special emphases on the mentoring component. We presently have been asked to bring our program into more than 40 new facilities in the United States alone. The concern is no longer closed doors, but the need for committed Christian volunteers who can speak healing into the lives of these hurting youth. *“The harvest is plentiful but the labors are few ...”* (Matthew 9:37).

I wonder if you would look at the persons sitting in the pew next to you, those who are not a part of this wonderful ministry, and ask them to pray about getting involved. Making the difference in the lives of these youth has a broad-range effect in our community and world. Christ said to pray for labors, but He also instructs us to put feet on our prayers. Please get involved by recruiting those we worship with every Sunday but have not talked to about this wonderful opportunity to serve Christ.

Kairos in the News – Through this E-News feature, you can link to news stories that have posted recently about Kairos. Here are the links.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/david-lauderdale/article96903862.html>

<http://www.arkansas-catholic.org/news/article/4815/A-Catholic-you-want-to-know-Patrick-Sweeney>

Recruiting 101, Continued (Recruitment Committee) – People ... they are everywhere. There are an estimated 324.4 million in the United States, 4.65 in Louisiana, 6.8 in Arizona, and even 1.6 in Idaho. Many of those people engage in what can be referred to as “People Watching.” Watching gestures and facial expressions, looking at what people wear, reading the logos on their shirts. It can even spark up a conversation. “What’s Kairos?” “Why would someone want to ‘Come with you to Prison?’” What a great opportunity to share about Kairos and do some recruiting! Is it

time to update your Kairos Community wardrobe? You can go to your local printer to get some shirts, hats, jackets, etc. printed. The specifications can be found on mykairos.com, Downloads, Communication Tools, Kairos Style Guide. Be sure to take it with you when you order for approved logos and fonts.

Or you can contact one of these vendors to place orders:

Scott Maycomber
New Threads Design
newthreadsdesign@gmail.com
678-720-8542

Bob and Diane Crane
<http://www.mainelyapplique.com/index.html>
Keller, TX
817-075-6796

Enjoy your new gear and conversations about Kairos!

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming fall 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_enevs-sp.html

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