



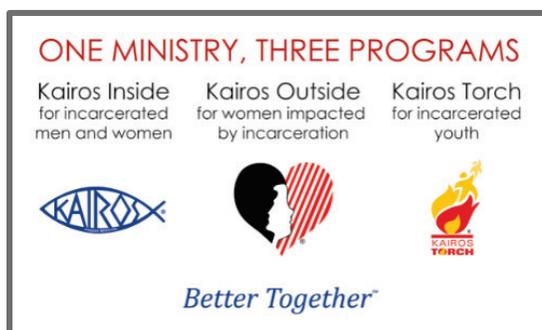
*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” – Colossians 3:17*

## **Walk the Talk** (Evelyn Lemly, CEO)

The 2018 annual conference theme was Walk the Talk and it was a wonderful time of sharing ideas, meeting new friends, learning, and seeing God at work in Kairos. We are encouraged to remember that how we act in demonstrating our Lord Jesus Christ is more powerful than our words. Live it daily.

The theme verse, Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him,” reminds us of how important both our words and deeds are and how we are serving Jesus Christ in everything.

Numerous new tools were launched at the conference, including: new banners for the ministry, a new table runner, a custom cover Bible for Kairos with a 52 lesson devotional to use in Continuing Ministry, and new ideas about sharing each Kairos program and getting applications for Kairos Outside. We also focused on the three programs working together to impact both the individual and the family in order to positively affect reentry and recidivism. We call this “Better Together”.



## **Board of Directors Update** (Terry Crockett, Board Chair)

Praise God for the blessed experience of the 2018 Kairos Annual Conference in Northern Virginia near Washington, D.C. Around 450 attendees (the all-time largest) participated in the worship services, in the meetings, in the workshops, and in the banquet during the week of July 24-28; with “Walk the Talk” as the theme. The entire week was covered in prayer, and it started with the Board gathering in prayer.

All the attendees received Agape at the conclusion of the banquet which was very moving for all. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to the entire staff, all of the presenters, and the state of Virginia for hosting for a very uplifting Conference. God’s kingdom was enriched, and we are “better together” as all the Kairos states were represented, as well as Australia and South Africa. Finally, to our sisters and brothers not in attendance; the Ministry says, “thank you for answering God’s call to be His servant. See you next year!”

## **International Council Update** (Tom McCarty, International Council President)

I’m still returning to Planet Earth after a glorious conference! Great fellowship. Tasty meals. Inspiring music. Enlightening workshops. Networking opportunities galore. And the Holy Spirit flowing fast and

free throughout all five days. If you were there (along with the other 400+ volunteers), you know what I'm talking about. If not, well, make sure you put next year's conference on your calendar. You'll be glad you did.

A big thank you to the Virginia Conference Committee for their hard work and, of course, to our intrepid, wonderful, and immensely flexible (!) Kairos staff, who were present everywhere and then some. To quote (yes, again) a line from a great musical, "The vittles we et were good, you bet; the company was the same."

Now the "fun" begins. As our conference theme said so appropriately, "Walk the Talk." Do not - repeat Do Not - put it on the proverbial shelf. Take what you've heard, seen, smelled, and tasted, and put it to use to make your Kairos experiences even richer and deeper. Tell everyone you meet about this unique (and I use that word very specifically) ministry, unlike any other I've experienced in 50 years of toiling in the nonprofit vineyards. Most of all, take what you've learned and pass it on!

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

### **Accountability.**

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the Kairos community for the spirit of unity I experienced at the Annual Conference last week. It was wonderful to gather as a large group and learn from each other and fellowship with friends. One thing I noticed...I heard the theme of accountability woven through a lot of the workshops and discussions. I have a feeling God is sending us a message - and it isn't even in the form of a parable this time!

We really need people in our lives to be accountable TO. It sounds ominous to some, but I know people who have been in 'real' accountability groups for years. If you ask them about it they say "I can't live without those people" or how different (in a good way) they all are due to having support, love, encouragement and perhaps even the necessary wake-up call about their thoughts, actions or behavior. We live in a society that is more connected than ever, but also more isolated than ever. As a result, we don't share our lives in close, personal ways - so I think there is less "iron sharpening iron" (Proverbs 27:17). Grouping is central to who we are, so we need it to be central to what we do! It isn't that I am beating it over your heads saying you have to do this...but we all need those kinds of relationships to flourish. I challenge you to find folks because I want you to flourish!

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

Matthew 25:36 is a verse that every Kairos volunteer recognizes, "*I was in prison and you visited me.*"

But, are you familiar with the context of the verses that come before Matthew 25:36? Because those verses, as one of our presenters at the annual conference said, "Challenge us as we 'Walk our Talk', and volunteer for Kairos."

Matthew 25:1-13 contains the parable of the ten bridesmaids, and Matthew 25:14-29 contains the parable of the talents. As most of you probably know, the parable of the ten bridesmaids is about being ready for the second coming of Christ, and the parable of the ten talents is about obedience, and wisely using all the gifts God gives to each of us.

It's August and many of you will soon begin teaming for the fall Weekends. As you are preparing for your upcoming Kairos Weekends I want to challenge you to spend some time reflecting on the verses found in Matthew 25:1-29.

Consider what these verses have to say about the importance of Continuing Ministry, accountability, serving with excellence, obedience to the policy and procedures of Kairos, good stewardship of our time and our money, expectancy, and carrying our light, the light of the Holy Spirit that lives within each of us, into prison or to women who have been impacted by incarceration and how you can be "Better Together" and better "Walk the Talk".

## **Kairos Torch Update** (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministry Coordinator)

In April of this year, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) released their "Reentry Guide" for youth in juvenile corrections and treatment programs. Their comprehensive research indicates that the family and home environment these youth return to is vital to their successful reentry. If their surroundings are positive and supporting, the youth have a much better chance of navigating through the difficulties of transitioning back into their communities and not recidivating.

Kairos Outside can play a huge role in making sure these youth have a healthy and affirming environment to go back to. We will be introducing various ideas to the Kairos Torch mentor on how to get their mentee's mother, grandmothers, aunts and female siblings signed up for Kairos Outside Weekend. But don't sit back and wait on the new ideas, let's get these forms to the youth now and give them a fighting chance for a successful reentry. The programs all work "Better Together".

## **Thought...**

Any time a grandchild left the house, Granny would say, "Remember who you are and whose you are." It wasn't important to behave appropriately only when she was watching. Granny knew what we did, how we reacted to the behavior of our friends, and even that what we didn't do would reflect on us, on our family, and on our Christian walk. Walking the talk is about being consistent.

Today's Walk the Talk is much like the old sayings of "actions speak louder than words" and "practice what you preach." Having all the right words does not make your conduct right. Quoting scripture and perfect attendance does not make your conduct right. Doing the right thing, not doing the wrong thing, and how you react to others is how your conduct is judged. Walking the talk is about being obedient.

Why does Paul admonish believers to "conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel?" Because when we live lives that are consistent with the Gospel we profess to believe, the Gospel becomes more believable!

What are some ways people see you "Walk the Talk" in your own life?

## **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 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.”

## New Documents Available on MyKairos.org

New Banners and Table Runner Image Registry and Order Form

Agape from Kairos Outside #31 of Tucson

Updated Photo Policy

## 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>

## 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.

**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.

## 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](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\\_enevs-sp.html](http://www.mykairos.org/news_enevs-sp.html)

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

