



*“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Romans 15:5-6*

## **This Time of Year** (Evelyn Lemly, CEO)

This time of year we have thousands of volunteers in team formation meetings preparing to conduct the Weekends, and we have many Weekends taking place through late summer and fall months. We hear at closings of the great impact the Weekends have had on the Participants. But Kairos is not done, we come back to encourage the graduates, that they are allowed to get together to pray and have accountability groups – weekly and monthly – as Continuing Ministry. This is true for all three of the Kairos programs. Let’s make sure we are putting as much attention to the Continuing Ministry as we are the Weekend event. Also, during the Continuing Ministry remind people to encourage their loved ones to be involved in the “other” Kairos programs so that the family as a whole is impacted, as the programs are Better Together.

This time of year elections are held at the Advisory Council and State levels. This is when 1/3 of leaders rotate to bring in new leaders who continue leadership development throughout the ministry. Kairos needs leaders in every position to run the Advisory Councils and State Chapter Committees. This year, the secretary of each location will enter the election information into KairosMessenger so both local and state levels will have contacts and a roster at their fingertips. Using the database will expand the availability of information locally and reduce repetitive entry. Step out and trust God to equip you in whatever position you are being asked to take. Thanks for those who have served, those serving, and those God is calling to serve!

Finally, this time of year is time to plan for next year and the future, not only with the elections and placing persons in positions, but with budgeting. One item is planning for growth to add new locations or expanding one or more of the three programs in the states. It’s time to build on the great work that has been done to continue the legacy of the past while looking forward to the future.

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

Why do we do what we do with Kairos? One of the main reasons is stated in John 3:16-17, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...”* God is love and His love through Christ is for the entire world. God wants us to be in community with all with no exceptions, as Jesus did by eating with sinners like me. Listen and Love is not just for the big events like a Kairos Weekend but for each time we come in contact with our sisters and brothers in Kairos. Kairos will not be shaped as much by what happens on the stage as it does around the table and listening.

As we pray for one another, please also pray for the areas affected by Hurricane Florence, all the Fall Weekends (both domestic and international), and the Weekends that were cancelled for many reasons.

God provided us the grand event through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now, in small acts by each of us, His love is revealed to the world as Jesus did both large and small actions exemplifying how we too might love others.

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

We've all heard the Core Values that define our ministry often, but I think they bear repeating. As God told Moses in Deuteronomy 6, *"Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."*

### **Lay led, Christ centered Ministry**

We are Christians who believe in the Holy Trinity and honor and live the teachings of the Bible and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We conduct the ministry while inviting all to attend as Guests or Participants in Weekends and program-specific follow-on activities to build Christian community.

### **Empowerment while Building Accountability**

While we empower the local volunteers to conduct the ministry, we are accountable to excellence and performance at the highest standards and authority of the ministry. We empower Guests or Participants to be accountable for their lives and be transformed by Jesus Christ.

### **Continuing Ministry Model to Build Community**

We believe in the importance of enabling relationships to build community, thus our model includes the Weekend experience, followed by Guests or Participants gathering regularly for accountability, support and prayer. The full complement of the well-defined returning model is necessary for the community to prosper.

### **Trustworthy**

We believe that we must be honest and truthful in our personal conduct as we represent the ministry consistently and with integrity. We are obedient to God in everything we do and obedient to the guidelines of the Kairos ministry programs.

### **Respect and Love**

We believe in respecting each person with dignity while modeling Christ love. We practice "Listen, Listen, Love, Love."

### **Stewardship**

We believe that we must be good stewards of our ministry's programs, funds and resources, as well as our personal time, talent and treasures.

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

Now that we are once again in the midst of the fall Kairos schedule, I would like to encourage you all to go to <http://mykairos.org/kalendar.html> and see exactly how many Kairos Weekends occur each week and pray for them. We all know there are all sorts of roadblocks and issues that arise and the teams

need prayer coverage! Pray for the attendees, the prison staff, the team, the leaders and most importantly that the love and forgiveness of Jesus comes across loud and clear.

Please pray for the Weekend Leaders. Many of them spend hours and hours planning and still wonder if they are doing it 'right' or if it is going to be a good Weekend. They need your prayers, your encouragement and they need for you to be engaged in the Team Formation process. I hear that a lot of them return from Advanced Kairos Training only to find that the folks at home think they know it all already, refuse to fully participate in the meetings, and give them a hard time about what they learned.

That is pretty sad, and I can't imagine anything positive ever comes from that attitude. Please consider how to spur one another onto love and good works...don't spur one another onto anger and frustration! Please encourage the Weekend Leaders and ask how they need help and what you can do to make their important jobs easier.

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

I hear repeatedly that Kairos Outside communities have difficulty keeping Guests involved with the ministry following their Weekend. I know this is a challenge for communities. I know that our Guests and volunteers have busy lives, but Continuing Ministry is the heart of our ministry, it is what makes Kairos unique, and it is what keeps Kairos Outside Guests and team members connected.

Communities need to make sure that they are doing everything they can to grow their Continuing Ministry. Are you encouraging and reminding Team Contacts of their responsibility to maintain contact with Guests for 6 to 12 months following the Weekend? Are volunteers being reminded to offer former Guests rides to reunions if possible? Are we all encouraging Guest(s) to get involved with a support group and/or a church community? Are your Table Leaders reaching out to the Guests from their table to keep them involved following the Weekend? Are you personally calling people and inviting them to S.W.A.P. groups or Reunions? All these things are so important, and really make a difference in the success of your Continuing Ministry.

Share, Witness, Account, and Prayer groups, and Reunions provide a continuous opportunity for everyone to do life together. We must always remember the purpose of Kairos Outside is to demonstrate God's grace and love through Christian support for women impacted by incarceration. On a Kairos Outside Weekend our Guests learn it is safe to make friends, and they learn the importance of support, so they can avoid living their lives in isolation as well as strengthen their personal relationships and grow in their relationship with God. Kairos Outside communities must do everything they can to build up the Continuing Ministry.

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

According to the Justice Department, in 2004, 48% of the 2 million inmates in state prisons across the USA reported they had relatives who have also been incarcerated. The portion of those reporting the detention of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, spouses, and children has kept pace with the national prison population over the past decade. In 1997, 48% of state prisoners also reported that family members had been to prison, according to a Justice Department analysis for USA TODAY. Social scientists and law enforcement authorities say the influence of family members may be one of the most important and largely unaddressed factors in determining whether people adopt lives of crime. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says an estimated 2.7 million children with one or both parents incarcerated face the greatest risk of perpetuating the cycle of crime across generations.

Through Kairos Torch, we have a unique opportunity to stop generational incarceration while Kairos Outside introduces these youth's mothers, grandmothers and female loved ones to Christ and a healthy life style. Each time Kairos Outside is privileged to minister to the guardians of these youth, we are helping to positively change the environment they will return to and break the cycle of criminal behavior. Let's make sure we are contacting a Kairos Outside representative to speak at all Kairos Torch Closings. Then, let us follow up with each youth and encourage them to gift their moms and grandmothers the Kairos Outside experience.

## **Continuing Ministry Enhancement using "God's Word" Bibles**

Kairos isn't a Bible study, but we know that being in the Word is necessary for growth and change, so we want to encourage Kairos grads to be in the Word. The "God's Word" Bible that has been on the Kairos Supply order form for a few years has tools in it that we want to better use. We are excited to announce that we recently arranged to have it printed with a special Kairos-branded cover.

### **Bible for Kairos Inside Continuing Ministry Use:**

We would like to enhance Kairos Continuing Ministry by:

- 1) Using the 52 lessons in the front with questions and prayer during the grouping time at the Monthly Reunions.
- 2) Enhancing Prayer and Share by using a lesson and its discussion questions for Question #3 on the Prayer and Share Grouping Cards. The question "Have you discovered anything, anywhere which will help you to be a better follower of Jesus?" is probably the hardest one on the card for folks to answer, but the lesson can help with this problem. The lesson can be done ahead of time, or it can be read in about 5 minutes during Prayer and Share and the two discussion questions that follow can be answered.

In addition to the questions with each lesson, there are 2 or 3 prayer points for each lesson – which could give some concrete things to pray about together, which is question #6 on the Grouping Card.

### **Discussion Guide for Kairos Inside Continuing Ministry Use:**

The front of the "God's Word" Bible has 52 lessons that are also available in a separate booklet- with a matching Kairos cover. That way people can continue to use their favorite Bible, or if they are only allowed to own one Bible in the prison they can use the lessons and their own bible.

### **Bible for Kairos Outside Continuing Ministry Use:**

On a Kairos Outside Weekend, our Guests are encouraged to break down their walls so that the real person, rather than who they pretend to be, can begin to shine forth. Guests learn about the unconditional love of Christ and the need of a Christian support system. This begins a process in our Guests by which they can grow in their relationship with God. It is so important we encourage our Guest to continue the process started on the Weekend by getting into and having them remain in the word.

The "God News Bible" is a translation that is easily understood by new believers. The Bible can be given as agape for Kairos Outside Weekends, and the 52 lessons found in the front are a great tool that can be utilized to enhance your Share, Witness, Account, and Prayer group (S.W.A.P.) or S.W.A.P. time which takes place at Reunions.

If you don't want to order the Bible, but still want to make use of the 52 lessons found in the front to enhance your S.W.A.P. group or your Reunions, the 52 lessons can also be ordered separately in the form of a Discussion Guide. The lessons include questions and prayer points which will help everyone grow in their knowledge of God's word, and in their relationship with Him.

### **Bible & Bible Study for Kairos Torch Continuing Ministry Use:**

Bibles are given to each Participant on the Kairos Torch Weekend which is used during the mentoring sessions. A principle is stated to connect that biblical truth to life situations, and the mentoring pair then focuses on strategies for successful life choices. In this way, Participants are able to develop their personal and lasting relationship with Christ.

The Christian Bible study is intended to continue the spiritual journey and offer two benefits to the youth and the volunteers. The 52 lessons in the front the Bible are followed by discussion and prayer question. The Bible study is conducted after the six months of mentoring is completed. The loving, caring, and trusting Kairos Torch community seems to be a contradiction when the Kairos Torch Participants are "left at the gate" upon release. It is not the intention of Kairos Torch to be one more entity to abandon the youth, but instead reduce the sense of rejection Participants may feel when they leave the facility. As Kairos Torch moves through the different stages of ministry from the Weekend, mentoring, and Bible study groups, the youth learn to transition from one format to another and celebrate the changes.

### **New Documents Available on MyKairos.org**

- Radio PSA – Kairos General Overview (1 min)
- Radio PSA – Kairos Cookies Volunteer (1 min)
- "Walk the Talk" Poster
- New Kairos Custom-Covered Bibles and Discussion Guides will soon be available. Because they were given to Kairos through a grant, we can only distribute them if we are provided testimonials from the recipients in return. If you order these bibles, please make sure to send your testimonies to headquarters.
- Agape from Craggy Correctional Center in North Carolina, USA
- Agape from Pendleton Correctional Industrial in Indiana, USA
- Agape from Kairos Outside Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- Did you know we have the Silver Kairos Inside Program Manual now available in Spanish?

### **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's 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."

### **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 to help you receive Agape and prayer coverage.

**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.

## 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>

## 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)

*You may also subscribe to E-News at the [www.MyKairos.org](http://www.MyKairos.org) Home page, using the on-screen form. If you want to stop receiving the Kairos E-News, go to the [www.MyKairos.org](http://www.MyKairos.org) Home page and use the on-screen form.*

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

