



“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” – Galatians 6:1

Happy New Year (Evelyn Lemly, CEO)

I trust everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! Kairos starts the New Year with many new leaders, hundreds of Weekends being planned, and Continuing Ministry taking place regularly. Let's take the time to ensure we plan and prepare ourselves and the teams to conduct the ministry with excellence. Sometimes, taking a few minutes to review where we are at and where we are going will help us focus on things we need to improve on and things we should continue to do. A quick review of your job description for whatever role you are taking at the State, Advisory Council, Weekend or Continuing Ministry levels could help you and the team work more efficiently and effectively each day.

We have our new 5-year Strategic Plan (which is a continuation of the last 5 years) posted on MyKairos.org. Take a look and review our 7 Vision Priorities for 2019 and beyond. Those will help us all focus on the key items such as our spiritual health, the programs, recruitment of volunteers, fundraising, handling operations well, and training. The most important items each of us can do is ensure we are focusing on our spiritual health. Please commit Kairos to prayer regularly. And let's make sure we use devotions and prayer within all our meetings so we are focusing on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“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...It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” - Colossians 3:17, 24

Board of Directors Update (Terry Crockett, Board Chair)

Let us be thankful. As all of us reflect on this past year of showing God's love to all of the Participants, to the Guests, and to each other; we can realize how blessed the ministry has become. Thank You!

1 Peter 1:13, “Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Last year's theme at the Annual Conference was “Walk the Talk” and we have seen this demonstrated each day by your actions, thoughts, and prayers. During this Christmas season, Christ is revealed, celebrated, present, and with us (Emmanuel) by His grace. Thanks be to God!

The Board of Directors, the staff, the International Council, all of the States and each volunteer have the 2019-23 Strategic Plan as a guide to live out the Mission and Vision Statements of Kairos. 2019 as a new year is upon all of us with the budgets and plans set, but never take your eye, your mind, and your heart off of God's grace. We can be grateful for the past and very hopeful for the future.

The Board is, and has been, praying for all of you including our international sisters and brothers.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

International Council Update (Tom McCarty, International Council President)

Hello all, and Happy and Blessed New Year to everyone. For this month's thought, I thank new Kairos Board member Mary Ketter. At our Fall Board retreat, Mary presented these excellent reflections on unity, using Romans 15:7 as her key scripture: *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."*

If we are serious about living a life of Christian faith, she said, we must keep in mind how our actions affect others. We cannot grow in faith all by ourselves; nor may we forget to tend to the well-being of others. Even if we have broad diversity, there can be unity when our shared focus and purpose are about loving God and neighbor. Mutual hospitality is a vital part of building unity as God's people. We build unity when we look out for one another.

This means we are to help others out, even when it might not be convenient. Paul speaks directly to believers who are "strong," including himself in that grouping, because those who consider themselves "strong" can easily be tempted to look down on others who are not like them.

Going even further, Paul says we are to accept one another just as Christ has accepted us just as we are, with plenty of faults. We have all experienced being let down by other people, and we have all been guilty of letting others down.

Paul also reminds us that we are to forgive just as we have been forgiven. And he urges us to put on the virtue of love because that is what binds us together in perfect unity. Ask yourself, now and throughout 2019, in what ways can you share God's love to help build unity?

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

Thank you! I just want to share part of a note that came to the office from a Kairos grad that hopefully will encourage you. He tells exactly why we do what we do and how it has changed his life!

"My appreciation, my understanding and my overall relationship with God is at a place today that my life has never seen before and I couldn't be more excited about that truth in my life. Kairos has everything to do with that reality. I am so thankful for Kairos and I will continue to pursue God, his truth and the understanding of my faith. The weekly small group discussions about Christ's presence in our lives has helped me understand what is happening to me and why I initially felt so blown away by God's love during the Kairos Weekend. On Thursday night when the leader said 'this might very well be the best weekend of your life' something in me thought that could be true...and it has turned out to be true. Thank you Kairos."

So, thank you for sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ each and every time you go through the gate into a Correctional Institution. It has, and will continue to make a huge difference in the lives of those incarcerated and those impacted by incarceration.

Happy New Year!

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

This week I received a phone call from a lady who was interested in sending her friend to a Kairos Outside Weekend. She knew very little about Kairos. She had heard about the ministry from her friend's son who is incarcerated. The young man is not a Kairos graduate, but he shared with her that he heard about the ministry from other inmates in his housing unit, and at his job within the institution. Those inmates whose wives and mothers had attended a Kairos Outside Weekend told him about Kairos, and

they encouraged him to send his mother. The women who called said his fellow inmates talked with him about the impact of the Weekend on their loved ones, the positive impact it had on their families, and ultimately the impact it had on them. The testimonies of those inmates convinced her friend's son that he needed to do whatever he could to get his mother on a Kairos Outside Weekend.

As I listened to what the women was saying and shared more with her about Kairos and our three programs it suddenly hit me. Are we encouraging our graduates, and other inmates who have loved ones who have attended Kairos Outside, to talk about the program, to share their loved ones' experiences, and the impact the Weekend either on them, their family or their loved one with fellow inmates?

If not, why not? Inmates who have a loved one who has been on a Kairos Outside Weekend may be one of the best untapped resources we have for getting Guests to Kairos Outside Weekends.

At your next Kairos Continuing Ministry event encourage your Kairos graduates, and anyone they know who has had a loved one that attended Kairos Outside, to share with all the inmates in their housing unit, on their job, or anywhere they can about Kairos Outside. Encourage them to tell the other inmates how they and their families can benefit from their loved ones attending a Weekend.

After all, we all know inmates listen to other inmates.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Reslover, Youth Ministry Coordinator)

The Bible has a lot to say about new beginnings and fresh starts: Lamentations 3:22-23 speaks of God's mercy being new with every sunrise. In II Corinthians 5:17, it declares that old things pass away and instructs us to behold (take notice) that all things become new, for those that are in Christ Jesus.

The New Year is often a time when we set new goals to change old behaviors, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve our life in some way. One study found 46% of participants who made common New Year's resolutions (e.g. weight loss, exercise programs, quitting smoking) were likely to succeed, over ten times as among those deciding to make life changes at other times of the year. (Norcross, JC, Mrykalo, MS, Blagys, MD, J. Clin. Psych. 58: 397-405. 2009).

Goal setting has great value in our lives. It gives us something to strive toward and a road map to maneuver through life's journey. It helps us not to dwell in past accomplishment or failures and we learn many great lessons along the way. Paul says it best in Philippians 3:13-14, *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

As 2018 comes to an end, we in the Kairos Family are wrapping-up our 5 year Strategic Plan for 2014-2018, and have set course for the next five years (2019-2023). I highly recommend all Kairos Torch volunteers to go to www.MyKairos.org and check out the 5 Year Strategic Plan, as our roadmap towards "the high calling" can be found in it. I wish you God's best blessing in 2019 and I look forward to "...press toward the mark for the prize..." with you!

Monthly Mentoring Tip: BE PRESENT! How you show-up in "THE MOMENT" (each minute) can determine how fruitful the outcome of that moment will be! Make your mentee feel like you are the only two people in the room. No matter how deep or how shallow the topic of conversation is, be fully engaged.

New One or Two Day Retreat Topics and Themed Talks Available

All residents who have attended a 3 ½ day Weekend can attend a one or two-day Retreat held twice yearly at institutions as part of the Kairos Continuing Ministry. Retreats are typically held at the mid-point between Kairos Weekends. The primary purpose of the Retreats is to give those not grouping some experience with the process of becoming vulnerable to other people in the small group setting. Additionally, Retreats provide an opportunity for those who have drifted away from the Kairos community to return. The importance of these Retreats cannot be overstated. If you are not doing Retreats, talk with your facility about the possibility of adding them.

Communities are always looking for Retreat ideas, and to keep our Continuing Ministry new and exciting we have just added seven new Retreat topics with themed-talks to mykairos.org which can be used for your local Retreats. On pages 328-343 of the Kairos Inside Program Manual you will also find information regarding the Retreat including topics, themed-talks, and a proposed schedule.

If you have retreat topics or themed-talks that you have used successfully in your facility, please email Gina Brockmeyer (gina@kpmi.org) or Craig Combs (craig@kpmi.org). We will be happy to review and consider them for posting.

New Documents Available on MyKairos.org

- Updated Ministry Structure PowerPoint
- Updated Financial Policies and Practices 2019
- Updated FPP Job Descriptions
- Updated Property Loan Agreement
- Updated Request for Cash Advance
- Updated Request to Open A Bank Account
- Updated Cash Advance Clearing Worksheet in excel and pdf formats
- Updated Check Request Form
- Updated Cash Disbursement Voucher
- Updated COA Glossary
- Updated Supply Order Form
- Updated ICOP 2019
- Updated SCCOG 2019
- Updated SCCOP 2019
- Updated ACOP 2019
- Updated Website Style Guide
- Updated Kairos Style Guide
- Updated Business Card Template in Word
- Updated State Letterhead Template in Word
- Updated Master PowerPoint Template

- Updated New Community Start Up Kit
- Updated Agape Contacts Spreadsheet for 2019
- Agape from Tehachapi CI (California, USA) both unsigned and signed
- General Banner Stand in Spanish

Agape Contacts

A listing of Agape contacts for upcoming Kairos Weekends is available on the [mykairos.org](http://www.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](http://www.mykairos.org), and we actively promote #1 Weekends through local media and social media.

Why Do You Volunteer?

We need short 1 minute or less video clips telling us why you volunteer for Kairos! So grab your phone, tell us why, and send them to diane@kpmi.org. We need 40 or more of these. Thank you for your service!

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

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

You may also subscribe to E-News at the 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 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.

