



Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

March 2004



THE GRAPEVINE

To Contact Kairos :

National Office :

P O Box 73,
Northmead NSW 2152
Phone : (02) 9683 0286
Fax : (02) 9683 0296
Email : kairospm@optusnet.com.au

Chairman : George Novak

Executive Director :

Edwin Galea 0408 839198
AH : (02) 4883 9195

State Councils :

New South Wales Doug Orr
Queensland Col Stiller
South Australia Chris Walters
Victoria Denis Kimberley
Tasmania (Ad Hoc) Les Apted
West Aust. (Ad Hoc) Kath Seel

Regional Committees :

Bathurst David Cook
Berrima Margaret Fuller
Canberra/Goulburn John Simmons
Cessnock Ian Stephens
Emu Plains Kathy Wells
Fulham (Sale Vic) Arthur McPherson
Grafton Rosemary Orr
John Moroney II Glenn Holdsworth
Junee Maree Wild
Lithgow Mr & Mrs G Ogg
Long Bay Mike Kinch
Mid Nth Coast John Layton
Mannus Evelyn Lett
Mulawa Chris Campbell-
Blackett
Silverwater Bill Byrne

Torch :

Paul Napier

Kairos Outside :

Canberra/Monaro Toni Clark
Hunter Sue Royal
Melbourne Sue Pors
Queensland Lesley Bryant
South Australia Christine Walters
Sydney Teri Kempe

INSIDE :

- *The testimonies of an inmate, a team member and a Chaplain.*

Kairos And Prayers

Prayers for every Kairos Program that takes place have always been integral to the ministry of Kairos. This is hardly a surprise since Kairos was adapted from the 4th Day Movements and in particular Cursillo.

In Kairos we often refer to these prayers as Agape, the Greek word for selfless unconditional love, the same love that God loves with. We differentiate Agape from the selfish, ill-conceived love called Eros, a love which usually has strings attached.

Kairos depends totally on the love and support of Agape. When you think of it, every action planned and documented in Kairos has Agape love built into it. When the doer carries out any action *without that love*, the consequential effect intended is most likely reduced and minimised.

As we commence team training for at least 14 Teams we humbly request your prayers for them and indeed for us all. 500 volunteers are coming together to form little Christian communities. Each of these 14 communities will model to their respective Kairos Outside, Torch or Prison participants the love of Christ as a new hope in the dark world that we live in.

This new hope opens new opportunities of grace and blessings to over 300 men and women suffering on their own.

You may well be one of these volunteers. Regardless, we need your prayers no matter what your role in this ministry may be. Your Agape, your free gift of love is strongest when you pray over what lies ahead.

Please make full use of the Prayer Calendar enclosed. If you miss a day here and there, just look over the previous day's intentions and God will honour the rest.

May God bless you. Don't forget – we are counting on your prayers!

Edwin Galea, Executive Director

Dates For Your Diary

March 19-20, Kairos Outside Directors Training Weekend.

For anyone interested in learning more about this aspect of the ministry or planning to be a director of a Kairos Outside weekend. At St Joseph's Spirituality Centre Baulkham Hills, cost \$125.00 includes meals, accommodation and printed material.

July 23-25, 2004 Kairos Advanced Training Weekend.

For those interested in learning more about Kairos or planning to be a director. At Kiah Ridge Tahmoor, cost \$125.00 includes meals, accommodation and printed material.

Please contact the office for further details and application forms.

Mel Gibson's highly acclaimed movie:

The Passion Of The Christ



**Kairos Outside Fundraising Filmnight
Wed March 17 2004 at 7.00 pm**

(Pre-Session Drinks & Nibbles From 6pm)
**Greater Union Multiplex Macquarie
Shopping Centre, North Ryde**

Tell your friends – Spread the word!
Tickets \$15 per person (inc.drinks & nibbles)
Booking Essential! Call Teri on 9402 8267
or send cheque payable to Kairos Outside
PO Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076

Greetings and Blessings fellow Kairos Volunteers!

As we return to our normal routines after Christmas and New Year, may the Blessings of Christmas remain with us and may the Holy Spirit guide us through 2004, which shapes up as another very busy year for Kairos throughout Australia. 2003 was a year of consolidation, marked by our first National Conference. 2004 already has a number of exciting and significant changes for Kairos as we expand into new fields. Kairos Outside will be launched in South Australia and Victoria and Advanced Kairos Training will be held in Adelaide. The Kairos Board is negotiating a new agreement with Kairos Prison Ministry International Inc. I am preparing for a long round of negotiations before we can sign an agreement which truly recognizes the great progress made by Kairos volunteers in Australia.

We need to keep focused on the important Kairos issues that help us to better serve those in prison and their families and always be ready to invite into leadership positions those individuals whose skills and talents will benefit the Ministry. I am very excited about the future of Kairos in Australia because God will continue to equip us with what we need to continue His ministry and I thank Him for the enormous gifts and commitment of my fellow volunteers.

There has been concern in some prisons where Corrective Services has restricted the Journey program from weekly to fortnightly. However, I see this as an opportunity to encourage the residents to meet in their small prayer and share groups on those alternate weeks. We should be encouraging them to rely more on each other and less on us. Let us never think of this wonderful work as our own and always thank Almighty God for His Blessings upon Kairos Prison Ministry, always giving Him the glory.

I remain the servant of Kairos volunteers.

George Novak, Chairman KPMA

The Role Of Clergy In Kairos

CLERGY are absolutely essential for the success of the Kairos ministries. But it is very important to ensure that the ecumenical nature of the Kairos ministry is upheld. This requires not only that the clergy come from a variety of denominations, but also that the clergy who participate refrain from activities that are unique to their particular denomination while serving as a Kairos volunteer.

Kairos is not non-denominational, instead we are ecumenical. We present only broad based, main stream Christian teachings, built primarily around

Christ's love. Therefore Clergy who participate are those who are willing to support and uphold the ecumenical nature of Kairos. Naturally selection of clergy persons to serve as team members takes into account their ecumenical spirit and outlook because it is critical that *every* team member approve of the principles and goals of Kairos. Everyone must be willing to work co-operatively with other brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We thank all the clergy, who have given of their time in this work, and also their church members who have released them to come and serve in this way.

This program was very rewarding and everyone on team recognises the lessons experienced. Training and teamwork was integral to the success of our time with the young guys at Frank Baxter. But right from the outset our training was disrupted. Our first training Saturday was double booked, so we were told on the Friday night that we had to find alternative facilities to those at Frank Baxter.

We were blessed by the fact that God wanted this program to happen! An alternative location for training at a team member's home/church was available (more than once due to double booking!). So our team became better prepared for the roadblocks that were put in front of us. We held it together thanks to the trust and understanding developed at our training days. Although our team was modest in number, it appeared that God was very specific about who he needed for this program. We needed to be flexible so we had team members volunteer themselves to activities outside their relative comfort zones, which greatly contributed to the program's success.

We commenced on schedule on the Wednesday for the afternoon session. The boys arrived and we got underway with some music, light'n'lively/ice-breaker activities then Sean presented the "Get Real" talk. We shared some supper and watched "Remember the Titans" a video with a strong message about "community" mixed in amongst American Football! Matt gave the "Creation" Talk/PowerPoint presentation, and then the team re-introduced themselves and the boys as God's special creations. At the end of the day, the team retreated back to their accommodation, which fortunately is in the same building complex as Frank Baxter.

The Second day began with a table naming exercise with the boys and table families agreeing upon a suitable family name, followed by a table family discussion on Sean's talk (which he briefly recapped). The main difference between Kairos and the Torch program is the idea of identifying our own "mask" which we wear as a safeguard against others, to pass off an impression of who we want to be portrayed as. At this point of the program we asked the table fami-

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

lies (boys & team) to draw their own masks and describe them to the group. This is a crucial moment on the program as there may be personal issues with the boys in disclosing things about their mask.

With the program picking up speed we were breaking up the day with music and light'n'livelys. The next talk on "Who ya gonna trust?" was presented at only an hour's notice by Tony who handled the talk brilliantly. The program then proceeded with minimal interruption as the team was bonding well with the boys. The behind the scenes team in the kitchen and Agape were doing a great job despite being the hardest hit by lack of team numbers. The boys on program were gradually participating more and more as their trust developed in their family groups.

The only noticeable disruption to the program was late in the final day of the program when there was an incident with a boy, not on the program, which could have put an end to the closing ceremony. We were instructed by Centre management to stay indoors and improvise the lunch arrangement. Fortunately the matter was resolved quickly (thank God) and the closing ceremony was an experience that will never be forgotten.

In conclusion the program, despite its training disruptions and uncertainty towards the end, turned out to be a great success. The team member's testimonies through their talks, masks, kitchen work, music/song and Agape successfully conveyed the message of Christ's love.

The Ongoing Journey

Personal Testimony From A Resident

I attended Kairos #1 and I handed my life over to the Lord at that time.

A while back I had the opportunity to face my victim's parents. This was arranged by the Restorative Justice program, which brings the victims and perpetrators of a crime together in a conference situation to create an opportunity to say sorry and where some sort of restitution, healing and forgiveness are made possible. This was a huge thing for me of course, but I gained great benefit. Facing my victim's parents brought me face to face with the reality of the inhuman thing that I did and I have found it quite hard to climb over it. At the time it caused me to push away the people who had become close and dear to me, Kairos people who cared about me and supported me. But I think I only ended up hurting myself, and them too. I thought if I pull back far enough I won't hurt anyone, but it didn't work out that way!

I struggle with myself for the 'shit gutless' thing that I did, I've never hurt anyone in my life before, and I don't know why this thing happened, but it did and I'm living with it every day. But over the past few months I've learnt to hand it all up to our Lord, I've had to

be humble, asking for forgiveness from those I've hurt, and asking God to give me salvation for myself.

On one of my 'weekend leaves' I was invited to stay with a couple who have been involved in Kairos, and who care about me. I was really blessed by them because I learnt from them humility. I feel in the past I have been blaming everyone else, when I should have been looking at myself. I'm the problem, not anyone else, and it's time for me to step up to the plate and take responsibility for my pain, the hurt I've done, the painful journey I've put others through and the painful journey I've put myself through.

I realised that all I had to do after Kairos #1 and handing my life over to the Lord, was to entrust myself to Him and hand it all up to Him. I know it's a bit late now, but I'm handing my life totally over to God now, trusting in Him, and walking through all the gates or layers within myself, all the crap and all my fears. It's been like having a disease and not getting treatment, but I'm seeking that treatment now and I'm feeling that with each passing day I'm obeying God more and more, plus I'm trusting His words more instead of beating myself up.

I used to know what I wanted to do in the future, but now it's just a day at a time, one foot after another and growing in the Lord. Putting some dignity back into my life. I'm feeling a lot better about myself, and slowly getting to know the old me, but with new principles and morals, and entrusting myself to our loving Lord.

G.F.

Giving It A Go Changed My Life!

Peter Paff's Testimony from Grafton

Back in 1996/97 I had the urge to become more involved in Church and became an active member of the Anglican Church. This was a completely new experience for me, as previously I had been "a get in and get out fast" churchgoer. That way I wouldn't have to do anything and wouldn't have to say anything, or even admit I was a Christian. This was at a particularly difficult time as I had not long lost my wife to cancer, and in a relatively short period had met a lovely lady, who was to become my wife in 2000.

As with many people who are in turmoil over their personal lives, I went hell bent into everything I could; with disastrous consequences – I burnt out

and started to feel there was no point to what I was doing.

I decided to start a Chaplains Course by correspondence. This proved difficult, as I am also a full time dairy farmer so time was limited. I therefore only completed the first subject on Grief, which proved to be a wonderful healing tool for me.

I first heard about Kairos when Fr Richard Brown spoke at my church, but although I thought it was a great idea, I never mentioned that I'd like to be involved to anyone. Then out of the blue came Denis' call – you tell me who is in control! He was director for K7 and asked me to be on team. What a truly magic time, God showed himself in so many ways at K7, in fact he shows

himself in many ways all the time if we take the time to look and listen!

Since K7 I have been on K8, K10, K11 and am about to start training for K12 and will be director for K13, then finish the run with K14. Some times the thought of this many Kairos courses in a row seems daunting, but then I remind myself that God is in control and it all seems easy.

Last year I was invited to attend an advanced training course and it helped me to understand why we do so many things the way we do in Kairos. I would recommend this course to anyone. I found it a great time of prayer, praise and fellowship and got to meet some great people doing God's work. During a walk along the beach I was made aware of the need for a Secretary for

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

the Grafton Regional Committee and next thing I knew I had volunteered. It's great to be involved in Kairos at so many levels!

After 4 Kairos Short Courses I realise that we are blessed by God by being allowed to enter Grafton Correctional Centre to meet the guys on their patch. My time there reminds me of the line from the prayer "may you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you". The face of Christ came to me in the most unusual way at one of my Kairos courses. Everyone who has been on team will realise how tense it is when we are waiting to be introduced to the resident we are hosting, well, my meeting with Sean was no different, except it wasn't until the last afternoon that I actually got to see his face properly. He couldn't, in his words, understand why we would want to do something for a "low life like me" and this was his main concern during the whole course.

I suppose I prejudged him when he walked in the door, eyes down and covered by a cap, and thought 'please don't let him be mine'. He wasn't, but on the first morning he was seated beside me, when the Lord made me realise how horrible I had been, even just thinking what I thought. When I looked down at Sean's arms I noticed that from wrist to elbow on both arms he was covered with dozens of scars from attempts to kill himself on many occasions.

We spoke fewer than 10 words at a time for the rest of the course, but on the last afternoon he came up to me and gave me a hug and said thankyou. I don't know whether he had tears in his eyes, because I couldn't see through mine! I haven't seen him

Patience the Key To Being A Chaplain.

Fr. Ian Bailey, Chaplain at Grafton Correctional Centre reflects on his experiences.

I find it hard to believe that I have been involved in Prison Chaplaincy in Grafton for almost two years; so much seems to have happened. I have learned a lot yet there is so much more to experience and share. It would be fair to say that many of the ideas that I began with have been jettisoned long ago and even now I find that there is a need to continually re-assess as Corrective Services changes. Yet there are some things that do not change.

Of all the things I have learnt and am learning, 'Patience' seems to override everything. No matter what we plan, there is the reality that it will probably need to be changed and, whether it is waiting at a gate or running a Kairos, it won't happen the way you had planned!

Even though I am far from Sydney, I find the support from the Chaplaincy Service both in Ministry and personally most helpful, Sr Pauline (Administrator) and Rod Moore (Co-ordinator) are always in touch and inclusive in their planning. I have been to two Conferences now and been challenged

since, I don't know if he's home or if in fact he is still alive. But I will never forget his pain or the profound affect it has had on me and my interactions with the residents since.

Are you sitting back and thinking is Kairos for me? I say give it a go, it has changed my life and I believe it changes those we share with in Gaol. It may not be today, but the seed is sown and who knows when it will start to grow. **Peter Paff**, Grafton Kairos

both in terms of Ministry and supporting the other Chaplains.

The Chaplaincy Service (although predominantly Christian) ministers to all inmates and Staff no matter what their spiritual journey. I have found it a great blessing to share with Buddhist and Muslim Chaplains and to gain insights into their faiths not coloured by media hype or stereotypes.

In the middle of last year I was part of a small Chaplains group that visited the far Western Centres (Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Ivanhoe, Junee) and it was exciting to see the new initiatives at Brewarrina and the difference it seemed to be making in inmates lives.

In my first year I was privileged to be the first Chaplain to take part in the Common Induction Course held at the Academy in Sydney. It meant sharing in three weeks of training with new custodial officers, probation and parole staff and others (psychologists and secretarial). While it was challenging and very informative, it also allowed me to gain an insight into how custodial officers are trained and to build friendships (I still catch up with course members when I am in Sydney). On reflection it seems that Corrective Services have, over the years, been directed either towards Punishment or Rehabilitation or places in-between. The direction of the day influenced the training which accounts for the different attitudes staff have to their service.

In the early days, Kairos was only a name to me - my good friend Ian Whittaker would ring me and tell me what a great thing it was. We had been involved with Cursillo and although Kairos certainly does have some similarities there are some profound differences too. I believe it is a great witness and strength that Kairos has team members from such diverse backgrounds (we seem to average about ten denominations on team at Grafton). It has also impressed me that in going through changing times we have been able to work through our differences, which is a great credit to the members of our committee.

As I look to the future, I thank God that I have this privilege of Ministry in the Prison. I have met such great people (inmates, staff & Kairos) that my own faith journey, my understanding of who Jesus is, continues to grow.

Dates for Short Courses 2004

Please advise the National Office of plans for your local area, if not included.

Apr 20-23	Silverwater #12 Men	PO Box 73 Northmead NSW 2152
Apr 20-23	Goulburn #11 Men	PO Box 3961 Weston ACT 2611
Apr 27-30	Cessnock #14 Men	PO Box 371 Cessnock NSW 2325
Apr 27-30	Fulham (Sale, Vic) #4 Men	PO Box 254 Sale Vic 3850
May 4-7	Emu Plains #10 Women	PO Box 2588 Taren Point NSW 2229.
May 4-7	Grafton #12 Men	PO Box 1816 Grafton NSW 2460
May 10-13	Mulawa #6 Women	PO Box 572 Seven Hills 2147
May 22-23	K O Sydney #11 Women	PO Box 2178 Normanhurst NSW 2076
May 28-30	K O Qld #7 Women*	PO Box 88 Morningside QLD 4170
June 4-6	K O S. Aust #1 Women	PO Box 31 Kent Town S.A. 5071