

## A note from a guest on KOW Adelaide

To a dear friend, Wendy

I would like to thank you very much and appreciation goes to you especially. My sincere thanks also go out to the entire team working on that glorious weekend.

For last weekend, I was an invited guest, to a once in a life time, spiritual journey at the Kairos Outside for women program. We all bonded like a big family. God has taken their burdens, pain and hurt, into his caring hands. My heart was saddened; it bleeds for their loved ones in prison.

I too, have supported two troublesome men in prison. My story for me is a "happy one". This kind person told me that God lives him unconditionally, in a way that perhaps her has never been loved before, and the congregation have accepted him into the church. He is so grateful, meeting and making friends of his church family.

God bless you ALL!!

Jillian

## 1 Peter 1:22 The Prison Bible

**You have made yourselves pure by obeying the truth. Now you can have true love for your brothers and sisters.**

**So love each other deeply—with all your heart.**

**Kairos Prison Ministry Australia is an interdenominational Christian ministry reaching out to incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them; to bring sustainable meaning and hope in the place of loneliness, isolation and despair. Building Christian Community.**

Course	Program	Contact Address	Leader
<b>Kairos Inside &amp; Torch</b>			
05-08 July	June 28	PO Box 189 June 2663	Kevin Amery
11-15	Port Augusta 3	P O Box 2110 Port Augusta 5700	Stewart Hoseason-Smith
26-30 Sep	Mid North Coast Women 3	P O Box 2604 Port Macquarie 2444	Helen Boutell
04-06 Oct	Frank Baxter Torch 19	P O Box 6221 Gosford West 2250	Kevin Llewellyn
10-13	Parklea 4	P O Box 169 Hornsby 1630	Ken Moore
<b>Kairos Outside for Women</b>			
08-10 July	North Queensland 5	Post PO Box 10 Tolga 4882	Jenny Poggioli
12-14 Aug	Canberra Monaro 17	PO Box 3961 Weston ACT 2611	June Lawrence
19-21	North Coast 9	P O Box 814 Woolgoolga 2456	Bec Kerton
09-11 Sep	Perth 9	P O Box 1359 Joondalup 6919	Jenny Bothma
23-25	Wide Bay Capricorn 11	PO Box 1928 Bundaberg 4670	Glenda Craig
07-09 Oct	South Coast 1	3/12 Parsons St West Wollongong 2500	Robyn Allen
14-16	Hunter 22	P O Box 221 Kotara 2289	Sue Hodges
28-30	New England 5	kownewengland@kairos.org.au	Mariette Duns
04-06 Nov	South East Qld 32	P O Box 88 Morningside 4207	Dorothy Dare
25-27 Nov	Sydney 36	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Carmelita Mitchell
<b>2017</b>			
28-30 April 2017	Central West 2	P O Box 192 Orange 2800	Susan Jolliffe
<b>Essentials of Kairos Training</b>			
16-17 July	Kairos Outside for Women	Perth Check the Kairos website	Jenny Bothma
23-24 July	Kairos Inside	Woodville Uniting Church	E: <a href="mailto:kimobilong@kairos.org.au">kimobilong@kairos.org.au</a>

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# kairos BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

## PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

### A Word from the KPMA CHAIR Ian Saunders



At my church we've recently had a sermon and study series on the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. I'm sure many of you are familiar with it at least through Pete Seeger's song "Turn, turn, turn" which was a hit for the Byrds in the 1960's. The song is based on Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes: "To

everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven". In the Septuagint, an ancient Greek version of the Old Testament, which was used by Paul and other New Testament writers, the word translated "time" is "kairos". So the passage reads "To everything there is a *chronos*; and a *kairos* for every purpose under Heaven". Then it goes on using *kairos*: "A *kairos* to be born, a *kairos* to die" and so on through the chapter.

Our ministry uses this name Kairos, because it means "The right time". A baby is born when the time is right and it is ready to start on an independent life. We see in our Short Courses that, for some of our guests, it is the *kairos* time for them to truly hear the Gospel, but for others it is not. Ecclesiastes continues with "a *kairos* to plant, a *kairos* to reap". For us as Kairos team members, we have to accept that we are the planters or sowers and it may not be until much later and after the Guests have moved on that God will reap the harvest.

The Kairos Board thinks that now is the right time to press forward with some initiatives that have been on the back burner for a while as we sorted out our funding issues.

As you will know, our CEO stepped down last year and, in the interim, I've been filling the CEO role as best I can. The Board feels that we need to move forward on finding a new CEO, with a particular focus on finding someone who can take a lead in fundraising for the national organisation. However, we are in the cleft stick of needing to be able to fund the position while fundraising initiatives are developed and put in place. We are therefore asking for donations specifically to support this. There is a form with this Newsletter if you are able to support us, or ask your friends at your church to help out.

Of course, fundraising is not an end in itself. Our overall goal is to sustain and grow the Kairos ministry. There are specific areas that we want to move back to the front burner in the near future. There is a new prison opening in Victoria where we have been asked to run a Kairos course. Our Victorian volunteers will need support to make this a reality. We have also been considering for some time the possibility of expanding into the Northern Territory and Tasmania. This will need a lot of work to build supportive communities there for Kairos teams to operate.

To do this we need two things: funds to cover costs and above all volunteers to do the work on the ground.

Please keep all of these matters in your prayers, and pray especially for wisdom for the Board as it seeks to move forward: "if the Lord does not build the house they labour in vain that build it".

Thanks for your service to Kairos and God bless you.

### Kairos Outside for Women Wide Bay

Capricorn

Celebrating 10 years



From Dee

Well it only seems like yesterday that someone asked me to go on a Kairos Outside Weekend For Women, when actually it was May 2003. It was held at Coolum and I was very concerned at first and wondered about it all. You see our son had been in Prison for some time and I was broken hearted as I blamed myself a lot of the time. Anyway I decided to go and man WHAT a blessing I received from God and the unconditional love of the team members was so real. I made many new friends and we were able to hear their stories and the stories of the team members and then I thought I am **not alone** in all of this. Broken hearts broken lives Jesus can take and change them all. It is often said that the family do time right along with the loved who has committed the crime. On the way home I talked all the time and I really wanted to let others know about this wonderful Ministry. I felt God impressing on my heart to go and tell other women and not to just keep all this to myself. I prayed about it and then I told my darling David that I knew God was calling me to spread the word. He looked at me and said, "Great, let's sell our home and buy a motorhome and head off." I thought WOW that is NOT what I had in mind as I had thought just Churches in the town we lived in. Anyway we sold our home and bought a home on wheels and away we went. After 3 and a half years on the road and speaking at Churches, home groups, and anywhere people asked me to share I knew God wanted me to start up another KO somewhere and I thought it was Rockhampton. When we were on our way up there and we got as far as Bundaberg and doors started opening up here as people expressed the great need and the support that could be given to the Ministry in this area. After much prayer and preparation and a couple of weekends, called "Awareness Weekends" where we invited someone from Sydney to speak about opening in other areas, and what we had to do before this could happen. We had one weekend in Bundaberg and the other one at Hervey Bay and I was overwhelmed by the support of so many people. Some that had been impacted through having someone close to them inside Prison walls, while others were those who had a friend or relative in this position. Also we had the support by many of the Emmaus Groups and I spoke at a lot of their Gatherings. Out of these weekends we were up and running in 2006, starting with an Ad Hoc Committee. The Lord provided all the way and I know without a doubt that it was God's Will for the Ministry to open in Bundaberg, and as we are known Wide Bay Capricorn.

### **Kairos Inside Emu Plains #23**

Kairos #23 Short Course at Emu Plains Correctional Centre was held in the first week of May. We were blessed with glorious weather which we were able to enjoy together in the outdoor area during the designated breaks. These were times of great fellowship, chatting, blowing bubbles at times, having fun and getting to know one another. Eighteen women from the Centre completed the entire four days and we saw many answered prayers.

At the Closing as we listened to the various answers to the questions posed, the team were greatly encouraged by the ways that the lives of the women had been impacted by God's love and the movement of the Holy Spirit during those days. There was a peace, a joy and a hope amongst the women that hadn't been there at the beginning of the week.

They also showed a genuine concern for each other. Many were overwhelmed by the number of people all over the world who were praying for them, even though they didn't know them. The posters from other Institutions all over Australia and indeed all over the world, were powerful expressions of God's love to these women. There was an excited anticipation when the talks were presented and the posters created and God touched many hearts through all the activities of those four days. We had a wonderful team whose focus was to work together to enable God's love and forgiveness to become real to these women and to help them know how to live their lives God's way.

Lynne Noble Leader

### **Mid North Coast Men**

As we completed the Men's Kairos #13 at the MNCCC Kempsey, I was told by several that it was the "hardest" Kairos we've done here.

**Monday** – we were blessed with our maximum number of Participants (24) and away we went. By 11.00am one man had stolen the doily under the candle, but was spotted and returned it. By lunch time Table leaders reported that several men were not really interested, as is the norm. Early in the afternoon another participant decided, just for fun, that he would "attack" another inmate. Minus one Participant.

**Tuesday** – A replacement Participant arrived, transferred from another gaol, with a broken arm and 5 broken ribs, in pain, but stayed until the pain got too much. Also departed was the doily thief who was unwell, advising us he was terminally ill. He did not return. Late in the day, a Graduate Servant was removed for "unusual drowsiness". The program continued and those who were interested, began to "get it".

**Wednesday** – Another Participant decided that lying down, was preferable to receiving the gospel message. Satan was at work, and, yet another man was clearly showing the affects of "something", as his behaviour became increasingly abnormal. Two more removals. Then the message came: if one more man needs to be removed, Kairos will

be terminated. Despite the progress many others were making, the mood changed. We managed to finish the day. The Team was understandably disappointed at what was happening. We had put a lot of effort in to get this far. How could they let us and their mates down. How stupid. The reaction from the other Participants was anger and payback.

**Thursday** – At 4.00am I awoke and from the Holy Spirit I began to see how God was at work (despite any action from Satan): I saw that my disappointment was actually criticism. "How could those guys risk spoiling it?" But then I realised that "I don't have a problem like theirs. How would I know what that's like. I've never walked in their shoes. What right do I have to condemn." Check the plank in my eye. And also I saw that when the message came, the Participants rallied together and with the Team. They wanted to stay, not have it end. And the Team had a wonderful opportunity to turn anger and revenge into forgiveness and love. The time was right not just to hear Talks about forgiveness, but to have to actually do it for real. When I had thought that God might have taken his hand off the wheel, I saw, no, He had put His foot down on the accelerator. The mood at the morning's Team meeting changed to one of "Thank you Lord for yesterday". We had seen God at work – as we usually see Him most visibly - in the hard times. The day was a good one – no, a great one, as lives continued to change, both lives of the Participants and the Team.

**Friday** – Full on. Hard, but rewarding. Men praying in Families with arms together, and doing it more than once. Participants praying for each other, as it should be. God was consolidating His work, and we were privileged to be His hands and feet. There was more than one lost sheep returning this day.

For me, the most poignant comment from a Participant, was this: "...We did not deserve to be treated as well as we were by the Team from Kairos..." This guy saw what grace means. He saw grace in action – through us, from our awesome God. That's why I am involved in Kairos.

We continue to pray for all the men who heard anything of God's love for them, including those who were removed. Glory to God.

Glenn Maas Leader

### **Kairos Outside for Women Central West #1**

Testimonies from the Guest of KOW Central West #1

"Our KOW weekend was a wonderful weekend all round. I really enjoyed meeting so many lovely caring people."

"The KOW weekend was helpful knowing there are more people out there going through similar situations. Sharing our thoughts and stories with one another was helpful with some people sharing of how they had been healed of their recent, or old wounds, with their friend or family inside."

**'I was in prison and you came to visit me' Matthew 25:36**

### **Kairos Outside for Men Goings On**

Things have been pretty busy in the KOM world over the past six months.

**EKOMT:** As most people are aware we held our first Essentials for Kairos Outside for Men Training (EKOMT) in February this year. We are indebted to Gill Begbie & Lesley Rawlings for the way they conducted this course and provided us with the material which we are using to prepare our own EKOMT courses for the future. Following this course in February we now have three trainers prepared to lead future courses. We are hoping to have our completed EKOMT course available for use around August this year.

**KOM6:** We completed our KOM6 team formation on 21 May and our KOM6 weekend is planned to be held 3-5 June at Castlereagh Christian Conference Centre near Penrith. By the time you read this we will have shared in our weekend. Michael Hardiman is the Leader for this weekend and the team formation has been a blessing to all who attended. Currently we have six guests who have registered with another six on our possibles list. We are praying for twelve guests to attend. We will have observers on the weekend from New England & South Australia. Guests will be coming from the Newcastle area, South Coast, Queenbeyan,, South Australia & the Sydney area so far. We have been blessed by our observer from New England sharing in three of our team formation days. Over the last months team members have distributed flyers to advertise the KOM6 opportunity in letter boxes, in Nowra Correctional Facility visitors area. Visits have been made to team formation days for Kairos Outside for Women weekends & reunions, Kairos Inside and to Kairos Inside Reunion days. Since December the RC has met via GTM for prayer on Tuesday nights to pray for KOM6 and for guests. This has been a really encouraging time for all who have been involved

**KOM Reunion:** We are planning a KOM Reunion on July 16 at St Judes Church at Dural from 12.30-4.00pm. We are planning to have soup & crusty bread plus the usual deserts & slices! All past KOM team & guests are invited as well as anyone else who is interested in what is happening in KOM. Please contact [komsydney@kairos.org.au](mailto:komsydney@kairos.org.au) if you would like to attend.

**Kairos Presentations:** We have been trying to get appointments with churches in the Shoalhaven area to present Kairos. To date we have shared at Moss Vale Connect Church and Berry Community Church. This will be a continuing work in progress.

Any enquiries regarding KOM can be made to [komsydney@kairos.org.au](mailto:komsydney@kairos.org.au).

**Blessings from KOM Sydney**

### **Kairos Outside for Women - Hunter #21 'Come & See'**

And so began my lesson in trusting Him. Called to lead the KOW Hunter #21 weekend at Myuna Bay, the preparations began 18 months before as I jetted off on holiday. I had a window seat and looked down on the earth through the clouds - a wonderful vantage point. On the tarmac, rain, black clouds, gloom; above the clouds, sunshine and light. The theme was born, 'Come and See'. We were inviting Ladies to come and see life from a different angle, a different perspective above the troubles of their lives just for a little while, for one weekend of God inspired sunshine and light.

I read the Gospel of John with the theme in mind and discovered lots of stories where people were invited to 'Come and See'. Philip to Nathaniel, the Samaritan woman at the well, the hordes of people who wanted to see Jesus, the man who performed miracles, and made such a difference in ordinary peoples' lives.

The preparations continued: calling faithful servant-hearted people on Team, delegating jobs and responsibilities, lots of emails, phone calls and letters. In all this, God was faithful and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, we were ready to welcome our Guests, 16 in all.

God showed up in many ways: the Prayer Vigil still one third empty only two days before was miraculously filled. A Guest who through some misunderstanding wasn't coming, suddenly could! Team members who had been unwell only the day before, miraculously better! All fell into place, even the weather obliged with rain overnight and early morning.

We trusted Him for the Talks, that what was shared would touch hearts and they did. We trusted that all our preparations during the Team Formation Days would cover the topics we needed to think about, and that the Team would become a cohesive team. And we were.

Finally, we continue to trust that God is making a difference in our Guests' lives even now. We can only do so much, God does the rest, and the Guests' make their choices whether to stay connected or not.

The first Reunion Dinner was attended by a record 76 people! Guests shared of their weekend experience and what it meant to them. The highlight, however, was the sharing of a much loved son who wanted to thank God and Kairos for supporting him as he trod the long journey of prison from the inside, and for supporting his mother as she trod the path of prison from the outside. Surely that is what Kairos is all about. God is good!

Karen Fogg

Leader, KOW Hunter #21