

The Grapevine

Volume 3, Issue 3

KAIROS FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

“KEEP ON TRUCKIN”

That is the message from Cleve Bell, one of the founders of Kairos, at Raiford Correctional, Florida, USA in 1976.

Cleve and his wonderful wife Cynthia, spoke to us, in encouraging tones, they complimented Kairos Australia on what has been achieved in such a short time and urged us to keep up the effort.

Cleve, also known as one of the “nine old men who gave birth to Kairos”, charmed us with his many words of wisdom. Judging from the Conference Critique forms almost all had positive things to say about Cleve Bell. At each of his talks, the audience was clearly eager in anticipation of what he had to say.

The First National Conference was judged a great success from the positive feedback received and this encourages us to plan ahead for the next National Conference.

Here are some excerpts from the Critique forms received thus far:

“I loved meeting so many brilliant, committed, inspiring people!”

“I have now a much broader view of the ministry than I had before.”

“Much greater appreciation of our organisation”

“As the first one (Conference) it was well planned. Dinner and staff (young volunteers) excellent— Food delicious and well presented –Cleve and Cindy (Bell) 1st class— humour, friendship – Team effort was great!”

The Workshops also rated well with the participants. Some wanted to have more time to attend more Workshops or stay at each one longer with more question time.

Presenters did much planning and preparation. Technical aids added to the professional standard with the use of Power Point presentations. Kairos Outside produced its own in-house video, showing testimonies of past guests.

The greater majority of attendees indicated we need to have such a Conference every two years. When asked if they would come again, every respondent said YES.

The Organising Committee is now reviewing answers to questionnaires hoping to learn from this experience and to help us plan the next Kairos Conference. This is likely to take place in 2005, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Kairos in Australia.

Cleve shared many of his personal stories with us at the Conference and also on the Journey Programs at Long Bay, Mulawa and Silverwater. At each of these the inmates were spell bound with his own conversion experience. His testimony to the unconditional love of God, was truly convincing as he himself is a former prisoner.

Cleve also has a wonderful sense of humour. He has an uncanny ability to size up his audience and be able to tell them what they really need to hear. In sharing the many messages of the Gospel as they apply to us, Cleve left us with a good feeling that God is really happy with what we are doing with His ministry.

So as not to take ourselves too seriously, Cleve advised us to “*lighten up a little*” His ongoing message left us in no doubt of our future direction —*Keep on truckin’*.

FROM THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we go to print, we have just witnessed the first Kairos National Conference with the Theme “One in the Lord”. Some 150 delegates representing Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales sang, laughed, sat and listened, dined and worshipped. Some even shared tears, especially at the beautiful presentation of Kairos Outside.

Kairos is truly an amazing ministry that captures our hearts and minds in the way it does.

Meanwhile, twelve Short Courses, one Torch Program and 2 Kairos Outside weekends have taken place in the preceding months. From all accounts each of these mammoth efforts yielded the outstanding results that God achieves through our meek and humble efforts.

It never ceases to amaze us how awesome God is and how He touches the lives of the incarcerated or their families through these programs. Let us thank God for the changes He also makes in us, through Kairos.

As they say you are never the same, once you have done a Kairos.

Please remember us in your prayers by your daily use of the Prayer Calendar. The needs of the ministry are now so many. Only prayer will continue to see this work maintained and flourish.

God is also raising new people in far away places. Western Australia is now ready to formally set up its Ad-Hoc Committee. This means there are sufficient people to begin the huge task of planning and assembling all the jigsaw puzzle parts. Please uphold them in prayer. Please also pray for Tasmania as they continue to meet in their Ad-Hoc Committee.

Likewise prayer is much needed to assist Queensland in its quest to re-start Kairos in prisons. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Kairos Outside would also welcome prayers in their gigantic task of running the weekends as they do.

Victoria and South Australia would also like to grow in their own States and your prayers are just as important there.

As we all know, God is in charge, and we must wait as He prepares us for new challenges. An example of this is the preparatory work that must precede Kairos in the three day Movements. I can think of two instances of this. The Emmaus Movement is busily planning its first Walk in Tasmania. This is essential for so many reasons. Not least of which that God will send people who would be ready to outreach in ministries such as Kairos. Kairos would also like to begin in New Zealand in due course. The first Catholic Men's and Women's Cursillo takes place in July and August this year. I am fortunate to serve on the Men's team going to Auckland.

Our links to the movements must be strong for at least one very important reason. We as volunteers receive much spiritual nourishment from the Reunion groups, gatherings and Ultreyas. I am forever grateful for my Cursillo Group and our Ultreyas. It is there that I must go to be part of my own Christian community, apart from my local church. This gives me the charge to outreach at Kairos. The theme must be: “Kairos is my action stemming out of Cursillo/ Emmaus”.

I continue to encourage your support and the many good works that you do at Kairos. It is nothing short of amazing and gives me the encouragement I need to go on living a life of faith alone.

We now look forward to all the new teams coming together for the next set of Short Course and Kairos Outside weekends.

May God bless you all.

Edwin Galea

Executive Director.

The first National conference of Kairos will take place between Friday 27 and Sunday 29 June 2003.

As we go to print most Regions have at least one nominee attending.

We are pleased that Western Australia's new Ad-Hoc committee together with that of Tasmania are each sending a delegate.

The weekend will provide an excellent opportunity to network with Kairos volunteers from all fronts.

The venue at **Baden Powell Centre**, Pomona Street, Pennant Hills is ideally suited, with a number of locations for the 9 different Workshops.

Workshop Leaders have put a lot of effort into their respective presentations. Two videos, Kairos Outside and Torch, have been prepared for the Conference. This will give those attending an opportunity to understand the length and breadth of Kairos.

Delegates have chosen from Workshops on:

*Music *Ministering in Women's prisons
*Fundamentals of Kairos *Kairos Outside *Table Dynamics *Treasury *Torch
*Promotion of Kairos *Agape

Preliminary Workshop preferences has Table Dynamics and Promoting Kairos as the popular choices amongst those attending.

Cleve Bell, a member of the very first Kairos, in Raiford, Florida, USA is our special guest speaker

A dress up Banquet (Green and White) on Saturday night, with entertainment from our own musicians will make this a special night to remember. Brian Benson will act as Master of Ceremonies for the Conference. We look forward to a relaxing weekend with the venue set amongst leafy surroundings and an abundant bird life present.

FUNDRAISING - NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE

After the great success of our first Kairos Cookbook we are happy to introduce our second Cookbook -

The

“menus for mobs”

Cookbook

Cooking for large numbers of people is something that often befalls those who are involved in Christian Ministry. Kairos is one of those ministries and for those responsible for preparing these meals it can be a daunting task.

We have asked the Kairos chefs to send us their favourite recipes for inclusion in our next cookbook. Here they are—hope you will find them a blessing.

Cost: \$ 2.50

All profits from the sale of these books will go to help the spread of Kairos into detention centres across Australia.

To order contact Robyn in the National Office on 9683 0286.

New Kairos Pin

A new Kairos Pin has been forged and produced.

They will be available for sale at \$5.00 per pin.

Board Changes

Bob Royal from the Cessnock Region and John Tancred from Bathurst have been elected to the Board. The composition of the Board will come

in for some change over the next 18 months. 7 Directors are due to retire, having served the maximum statutory time of 6 years on the Board. Doug Orr was elected Deputy Chairman.

The Board is mindful of retaining a balance of denominations as well as having appropriate representation for all its ministries. More changes will be announced in due course.

KAIROS — THE WIDER VIEW

Western Australia

An informal Ad-Hoc Committee has been formed by a group of Emmaus Walkers and Cursillistas in Perth. They have met twice. The Executive Director will visit the State in the next few months to formalize and get Kairos established in the State.

South Australia

Apart from our existing involvement in Mobilong prison, the SA State Council is looking at a number of other prisons. Northfield Women's prison is one such option. South Australian observers for Torch and Kairos Outside have travelled to NSW in the past as part of the overall plan for development.

New South Wales

Our **Kempsey** volunteers have used much initiative to gain considerable early support from both the Christian community and the Governor. This new prison, is nearing completion on the mid north coast. It is hoped that a Kairos Short Course program will take place during 2004.

Hunter Kairos Outside

An Ad-Hoc Committee has been formed and plans are being put into action to get the first Kairos Outside taking place.

Victoria

The second Kairos Short Course was run in May at Fulham prison in Sale. Prayers are needed for the further growth of Kairos in Victoria.

Queensland

New developments and opportunities have arisen. Kairos Outside continues to be the flag bearer in the state and has many prison officials asking for Kairos inside the Prisons. Please pray for the Chaplains in this state.

Tasmania

Our active and keen Tasmanian Ad-Hoc Committee continues to meet. Major construction work is taking place over period of time at Risdon Prison in Hobart. A visitors Centre and a Women's Section are under construction. These developments must first take place to provide some hope for an otherwise antiquated Corrective system. New developments have arisen that may facilitate our entry into the prison system as soon as possible.

A minimum of 24 Short Course Programs, Kairos Outside weekends or Torch are taking place in this state during 2003.

Please pray for Long Bay, John Morony and Lithgow.

KAIROS OUTSIDE

To date 247 women whose lives have been impacted by the incarceration of a loved one inside prison, have attended a Kairos Outside weekend in Queensland, ACT and Sydney.

God willing, in November 2003, Kairos Outside Hunter will have their first weekend event. A survey amongst the Kairos residents in Cessnock Correctional Centre revealed that approximately 40% had family and loved ones in the Newcastle region.

Kairos Outside Hunter will draw guests for the weekend from areas as far as Grafton in the north and Gosford in the south as well as surrounding Swansea, Maitland, Cessnock.

We believe the results are far more than WE ever see- our deepest joy and delight is that we have been obedient to God. The Lord Jesus is head of each Kairos Outside team. The Director, under God, has chosen a team, which at the end of team training, is united as one voice. This can only be orchestrated by God.

Each talk, each meditation, each act of God's *Agape* love is intended to encourage and support these dear ones in their often difficult journey. Is it any wonder that the guests feel that they are enveloped in a cocoon of love when a ministry has as its focus, the love of Christ?

Each Kairos Outside weekend is unique and special and has a theme, prayerfully chosen by the Director of the Kairos Outside weekend. The themes since May 1999 have been: Light for the Journey; A Home for each Heart; Come to Me; Hope; He saw Her and His Heart was Filled; Living Water; In Safe Hands; God will Make a Way Where there Seems to be no Way; God's Love Changes Everything; Companions on a Journey; Sacred Space; Pure Love; Weave us Together; God is Love; Jesus is the Key to being Free; God loves Us in Our Broken-ness, and Jesus Longs to Fill our Hearts with Hope.

This year for the first time, in both Sydney and Queensland, a previous guest will be the Director of a Kairos Outside weekend.

Through Kairos Outside, God has given both team members and guests the wonderful assurance of His love, the encouragement to persevere in spite of obstacles, hope for the future and companions on the journey. To Him be all the glory!

Deanne Chapman

TEAM MEMBER TESTIMONY

My Kairos and torch Journey.

What led me to prison ministry?

I read about Kairos prison ministry in our 'Encounter' in 1996, and felt instant attraction. I rang, then panicked and hung up. Wasn't I too old to start this?

But later on enquiring I was told 'You are never too old Dorothy, please be part of a team.

Thus began a new phase for me.

Kairos 3 was my beginning.

This was a new phase for me.

I met many young men on team who shared their hurts and pains of rejection as they felt once they had taken the first steps into crime, we on the outside would always condemn them. Many never knew stability or love, so they felt justified in breaking the laws.

The first day of the program was tough, the second day they started to listen and sing, even let you put a hand on their shoulder. The third day we bonded with them in laughter and tears.

Many of the men team gave their talks to the boys, and witnessed to them of their journey. Many have been gamblers, used or experienced violence, alcohol and drugs, loosing their families. What stories these inmates heard, it broke down the barriers. They thought, 'OK' they'd listen to these goody goody church people who never broke the rules.

But they were able to hear how lots of us have walked the same paths of torment too and have found God on the journey.

When it came for the forgiveness notes to be burnt, we all came as one together, dropped our notes into the fire- cried, held the boys too, it was such a time of peace and love.

Jesus was there with us all and enfolding us in His love.

These moments stay with me as often as I see these men all as one, equal, all loving.

Praise to God.

Now they wait eagerly each week for us to return and have supper and prayers. It's good.

In 2001 Ray Gillham asked me to join the new Torch program.

Well, it's different!!!

First day – I thought 'what am I doing here? I must be mad at my age'.

At first they didn't acknowledge or even care to talk to us. They seemed uninterested.

But again that same magic word 'LOVE' is what opens little doors for us. And now these same boys are meeting with us fortnightly. They tell us how much they miss us over the holidays. They listen now. They hug us, and wave whenever they spot us.

Every new torch is a challenge to us. Will we feel it's worth the effort? To me YES. With love, tiny as a mustard seed – feed it, nourish it, and Jesus Christ will do the rest, when we ask Him to open their hearts then they'll know that love and friendship we offered them.

Dorothy Perk

KAIROS PROGRAMS COMING UP

Sept12-14 Kairos Outside #4 Can/Monaro (Women) PO Box 3961 Weston Act 2611
Sept 23-26 Kairos #3 Berrima (Women) PO Box 185 Bowral NSW 2576
Sept 29-Oct 2 Kairos Mulawa #5 (Women) PO Box 572 Seven Hills 2147
Sept 30- Oct 3 Kairos # 9 Junee (Men) PO Box 144 Uranquinty NSW 2652
Sept 30-Oct 3 Kairos #6 Torch (Juvenile) C/- 20 Balanada Ave Chipping Norton 2170

Oct 7-10 Kairos #3 Fulham (Men) C/- 13 Mareeba Cres Bayswater VIC 3153
Oct 20-24 Kairos #5 Bathurst (Men) PO Box 192 Orange NSW 2800
Oct 21-24 Kairos #11 Silverwater (Men) PO Box 73 Northmead NSW 2152
Oct 28-31 Kairos #13 Cessnock (Men) PO Box 371 Cessnock NSW 2325
Oct 28-31 Kairos #9 Emu Plains (Women) PO Box 2588 Tarren Point NSW 2229

Nov 4-7 Kairos #11 Grafton (Men) PO Box 1816 Grafton NSW 2460
Nov 21-23 Kairos Outside #10 Syd (Women) PO Box 2178 Normanhurst NSW 2076
Nov 28-30 Kairos Outside #1 Hunter (Women) PO Box 200 Medowie NSW 2318