



Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

September 2004



THE GRAPEVINE

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South Australia Chris Walters
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Regional Committees :

Bathurst David Cook
Berrima Margaret Fuller
Canberra/Goulburn John Simmons
Central West Cathy Ryan
Cessnock Ian Stephens
Dillwynia Yvonne Kinch
Emu Plains Kathy Wells
Fulham (Sale Vic) Arthur McPherson
Grafton Rosemary Orr
Junee Maree Wild
Lithgow Mr & Mrs G Ogg
Long Bay Mike Kinch
Mid Nth Coast John Layton
Mannus Evelyn Lett
Mobilong (S.A.) Scott Hutchinson
Mulawa Chris Campbell-
Blackett
Parklea Glenn Holdsworth
Silverwater Bill Byrne
Tamworth Des Stewart

Torch :

Adelaide (Ad Hoc) Belinda Upphill
Frank Baxter Paul Napier

Kairos Outside :

Adelaide Christine Walters
Brisbane Lesley Bryant
Canberra/Monaro Toni Clark
Hunter Sue Royal
Melbourne Kris Argall
Sydney Teri Kempe

Hi. My name is Rick Johnson and I am the new, full-time Executive Director of Kairos. I join Robyn Morris (that's us in the photo), who has been at the office for a number of years. Between the two of us, and a number of extremely valuable volunteers, we aim to give you someone to talk to between 9am and 5pm, 5 days per week. If you would prefer to come and see us at Parramatta, we'd be pleased to have a chat and a prayer over a cup of coffee.

"So what does the National Office do?" I hear you ask. The National Office is here to handle the administrative issues that crop up daily. If you've ever wondered where things like the Crosses and Freedom Guides magically appear from, the team here have worked out that you'll need these items for your Short Course or KO Weekend and they will have pre-ordered them for you. We are also the hub for communications between the KPMA Board of Directors, State Councils, Regional Committees, other prison ministries and volunteers.



If anyone wants to talk to "Kairos", they ring us on (02)9683-0286. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of visiting our salubrious (!?!) headquarters building, let me describe it to you – It is a demountable building at the rear of the Parramatta Correctional Centre that was originally the Periodic Detention Centre (before they condemned most of it over 2 years ago). We are lucky enough to have a few rooms that have not been eaten by white ants and we are extremely grateful to NSW Corrective Services for their support in allowing us to use the building. Over that past few years we have been actively looking for alternate accommodation in this area (as it is central to most of the Sydney volunteers), but unfortunately we have not been successful. If anyone has any contacts that may be able to assist us in finding alternative accommodation at a reasonable rent (gratis is better), we'd love to hear from you.

I look forward to getting out to meet as many of you as I can. This will probably be a long slow process, but I trust that God will provide the time and the budget to allow me to achieve it in a reasonable period of time. This ministry lives through its volunteers and you are our most valuable asset. Please continue praying for us and for the wonderful ministry that God has led us to be a part of.

Vaya con Dios

Rick Johnson, Executive Director



It's on again at Greater Union, Castle Hill...

SPECIAL SCREENING

7pm Monday

November 22nd

\$10 a ticket

Bring All Your Friends For A Great Night Out! Don't Miss It, Call The Office To Book NOW!

Focus On Kairos Outside...



This painting is the work of Darleen Oliver who hopes that the Kairos Outside Community have as much enjoyment and pleasure out of the painting as she did in creating it. She says –

“It was truly an inspiration from God and comes from the deepest depths of my heart. I will try to explain the painting for you so that you can then explain it to others –

“It begins with God's greatest gift of love to us (the Heart) his son Jesus (represented by the cross) who died on the cross so that we may be saved. For what ever our reasons, sorrows and heartaches we find ourselves being guided by this love and encouraged to attend a Kairos Outside week-end.

“This marks the start of our journey. We are pampered and spoilt

with unconditional and overwhelming love all week-end and encouraged, not forced, to let Jesus into our lives so that He may help and guide us through our pain. God's love flows through this vast community from far and wide. From here our journey really begins. (*Follow the footsteps*) The first stage (*the eggs*) represent being born again, only this time in God's great family. We go forward one step at a time being supported by the family through our gatherings and reunions (*meeting places shown as circles*). God's words heal our wounds (*represented by the medicine vine winding through the pathway*). The support and love encourages us to keep going forth and thus we are fed and nurtured along the way (*growth of the caterpillar*). We reach

Reflections on Kairos Outside By A Previous Guest

In May 2001 I was invited to a weekend away where I discovered there were other people just like me, whose lives had been profoundly affected by having a loved one in jail. I listened to testimonies and talked to people over the course of the weekend and found for the first time in seven years, I was with a group of people who were totally compassionate and understanding about my situation.

They didn't make any demands on me at all, in fact I felt I was being treated like one of the most important people on earth! They really seemed to care about how we, as guests, felt and were totally unconditional in their loving support.

I came home from that weekend feeling as if I had had a blood transfusion. Although throughout all our troubles my faith had never wavered, I found a strong renewal of my faith and at last I felt not only able to cope, but to actually have hope again. *cont...*

a point in our journey when we need to take time out to regather our strengths and to pray and meditate (*this is the pupa/chrysalis stage*). The spirit of God is always present no matter where we are or what we are doing and this is represented by the hand stencils around the painting. Finally we have completed the hardest part of our journeys and emerge as something beautiful (*Ulysses Butterfly*), one of God's children fully matured and ready to share his gracious unconditional love to others in need and to help them walk that same pathway.

“I'm not very good at writing so I hope that you can understand and follow the story. Thank you very much for everything and may God bless you always. Lots of Love

Darleen Oliver

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When we know God's love - we know that we are loved, we get our sense of identity back and we can be the person God wants us to be. We see in the guests who come to Kairos Outside, people who are in a million pieces; they are hurting, they feel rejected, they don't know what to do. Through the experiences they have, of hearing what has happened to other people and how their lives have been turned around when they accept Jesus' love in their heart, it gives them so much hope and encouragement.

I think the most important thing that Kairos Outside meant to me, has been that I have been able to see God at work in people's lives, and that has just confirmed my faith so much. To see people's lives which are broken and hurting, and people who are so distressed they just don't know where to turn, they have no-one to talk to - seeing their lives being put back together again, giving them hope and letting them know that the thing they are putting their hope in, is not something of man, but is something dependant on God- and God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. His promises are true. We can trust Him and He never, never lets us down.

Has our family situation changed? No! Really nothing has changed, and yet everything has changed. My husband is still in jail and we have no answers. With the help of Kairos (inside) and serious Bible study and daily prayer, he has found renewed peace and assurance of God's love.

We feel that this whole experience, as hard as it has been, is for a purpose, and we need to explore all the opportunities that God gives us to use what we have learnt in order to bring others into an experience of His amazing love. *Teri*

New Era In Kairos Fundraising

In February this year, Kairos was approved as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) by the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

The Board of Directors of our controlling company (Kairos Prison Ministry Australia) have been working towards this outcome for a number of years and we thank God that, in His time, He has provided mightily for us.

The DGR status means that we can now issue receipts to individuals and corporations for gifts given to Kairos, which will allow them to claim a deduction against their taxable income.

It is also possible for Regional Committees, who receive regular donations during the Short Courses and Journey Programs, to receipt volunteers to ensure they can claim the tax deduction. If you need more information please contact the National Office.

New receipt books (blue cover, as opposed to the original green receipt books) have been issued to each State Council and Regional Committee Treasurer, along with papers written by our National Treasurer (Graham Morrison) on what constitutes a "gift" and how to use the new receipt books.

In July 2004, the Board commenced an 18-month project called "First Transitions", where a number of initiatives have been commenced to raise the level of professionalism of the Kairos ministry.

We were extremely fortunate to have secured a grant from the

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation to kick-start our project.

Part of the project will be to raise funds on a scale that was not possible before DGR. A revitalised Fundraising and Promotions Committee has been meeting weekly over the past month to determine the strategy for our future endeavours.

If you are aware of any volunteers who might be in a position to assist the Committee due to their roles or past experience please contact me and I will make sure that the information is passed on.

Apart from raising funds at the corporate level, we envisage that the State Councils and Regional Committees will now be able to play a large part in the raising of funds that can go towards the growth of the ministry.

It will now be possible for State Councils and Regional Committees to look wider than just securing the funds that they need for their immediate requirements. They will now be able to assist the National body with its expansion plans for new states such as Western Australia and Tasmania. They will also be able to assist with the running of Kairos Outside weekends in new areas and Short Courses in new correctional institutions within our existing states.

All of these new initiatives require seed funding to get established and we believe that a large percentage of those funds can be raised by existing groups, at a local level, without having to ask our valiant volunteers to dig into their pockets once again.

Please give this much prayerful thought and think about what **you** can do to assist Kairos in the area of fundraising and promotions.

Rick

June 17-19, 2005 An Important Date For Your Diary 2nd Kairos National Conference, 10th Anniversary in Oz!

Kairos Australia will be 10 in 2005 and we will be holding our second National Conference from 17th - 19th June 2005. Please see the enclosed brochure for more information and get your confirming deposit in to us early so that you don't miss out. We also have a tour party of over 50 American "Kairos-ians" coming over here to celebrate with us.

A Funny Thing Kairos!

How often do we find that in the depths of hardship, misery, and despair humour gives new joy, and hope? In the animal world humour is a characteristic only of mankind: we alone revel in this gift - can any other animal enjoy a joke? So humour is one of God's gifts to us. And perhaps Our Father has a sense of humour too.

Humour allows us to survive in circumstances when all seems lost or purposeless: it makes us feel good when things are seemingly all bad. And somehow the bad times hone humour's cutting edge so that it cleaves through gloom with ease, opening up fresh avenues of endurance and optimism.

The prison environment fosters lifelessness, pessimism, and despair in so many inmates. Kairos helps to give back a reason for living, an optimism for purpose in life, and hope in fellow men and oneself. It re-introduces God to those who have forgotten Him and presents Him to those who have never had the chance to meet Him. God is "invited in". Is it too much to accept, then, that in circumstances like this God will join in the celebrations and share in His people's joy, laughter, and fun? In Kairos we shouldn't be surprised to find good humour. After all, it is God's special time.

Like the time when a clergy man was delivering a talk and a sparrow flew in at the very moment when he had said "Holy", was turning the page to continue with "Spirit", but uttered "Sparrow" instead. "Holy Sparrow" ??? For the next few days every speaker avoided any references to the

Holy Spirit and the phrase in the well known song "rise up like an eagle" simply stopped the show.

Alan, approaching the microphone to report on his personal impressions of Kairos and clearly very ill-at-ease brought the house down with "Err ...well... uhhh...geez... I'm really nervous: the last time I talked into one of these things I got eight years".

And Bill, describing a number of acts of community service which the men inside had initiated as a result of Kairos, told us of one inmate who had arranged the sale of his car donating the proceeds to the Cancer Council. "I didn't steal it either!" yelled a voice in the wings. But with lightning reflexes Bill responded "Not this one yer didn't".

These few memories of spontaneous humour in Kairos are all that I can bring to the surface right now but there are more buried in my brain somewhere. Perhaps you can remember some examples? If so, I'm sure the Editor would like to hear from you.

Let's thank God for His gift of humour and for giving it so abundantly to men and women who appear to have so little to laugh about.

Denis Harrington, Junee

New e-mail Prayer Service

Thanks to the lovely folk at Uniting Communication (under the auspices of the Uniting Church), we now have access to an online Prayer Request List for Kairos Prison Ministry Australia (KPMA).

If you would like to be a part of this Prayer List, please send an e-mail to us at the National Office:

kairospm@optusnet.com.au and we'll add your address to the List. You should allow us a week to do this, as we expect to be inundated with "prayers" wishing to join.

To then lodge a Prayer Request, all you have to do is send an e-mail to **kpma-l@uniting.com.au** and it will be automatically routed to all addresses on the list. The e-mail will show that it comes from your address, but will not list all the people on the list (for privacy reasons). If you wish the Prayer Request to be anonymous, send the request to the National Office and we'll lodge it for you. *Rick*

Please Pray...

We received these requests after the prayer calendar had been printed, so please add them to the calendar where you think is appropriate -

"PRAISE GOD for His power and faithfulness during KAIROS #4 at Berrima and for the interest of the women attending the Journey Program."

"PRAY FOR the residents at Berrima, that they may adjust to the constant changes of prison life."

Kairos Website

When did you last check out the Kairos web site?

Did you even know that we had one?

Check it out at **www.kairos.org.au** and give us your feedback on how it could serve you better.

Dates for Short Courses 2004

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

Sep 3-5	Kairos Out. #2 Hunter	Women	PO Box 200 Medowie NSW 2318	S Royal
Sep 10-12	Kairos Out #5 Canberra	Women	PO Box 3961 Weston ACT 2611	D Clancy
Sep 21-24	Kairos #11 Junee	Men	C/- 28 King St Junee NSW 2663	V Laidler
Sep 28-Oct 1	Kairos #12 Goulburn	Men	PO Box 6146 Nth Goulburn 2580	J Short
Oct 12-15	Kairos #11 Emu Plains	Women	PO Box 2588 Tarren Point NSW 2229	G Ricci
Oct 19-22	Kairos # 15 Cessnock	Men	PO Box 371 Cessnock NSW 2325	D Wilson
Oct 19-22	Kairos #13 Silverwater	Men	PO Box 73 Northmead NSW 2152	M Day
Nov 2-5	Kairos Grafton #13	Men	PO Box 1816 Grafton NSW 2460	P Paff
Nov 5-7	Kairos Outside #8 Qld	Women	PO Box 88 Morningside QLD 4170	N White
Nov 9-11	Kairos #5 Berrima	Women	PO Box 185 Bowral NSW 2576	J Mc Dermott
Nov 19-21	Kairos Outside #12 Syd	Women	PO Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	E Aldos
Dec 3-5	Kairos Outside #2 Adelaide	Women	C/- P O Box 31 kent Town S.A.5071	F Cockington