



Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

December 2004



THE GRAPEVINE

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Parklea Glenn Holdsworth
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Adelaide (Ad Hoc) Belinda Upphill
Frank Baxter Paul Napier

Kairos Outside :

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

UNITY

Last Sunday night my minister, Rev. Steve Everist (some of you will remember him from Silverwater teams) preached on "Restoring a Unity of Purpose" and it struck a chord with me.

Over the last few weeks I have been trying to focus my thoughts on why some areas of the ministry have recently been coming under attack.

Steve (as he usually does) came up with exactly what I'd been looking for and I'll try to explain it in this article.

In the book of Joel, the prophet called all the people of Israel together because they were suffering from a plague of locusts (very topical in country NSW at the moment!). He likened the darkened skies to the days before the coming of the Lord, when those who oppose God will be punished.

Joel called on them all, young, old, everyone, to unite and be a community – one in heart, mind and spirit. But he did not ask them to unite for their own purposes. He told them that they needed to unite to protect God's name and glory. By doing so, God would look favourably on them, protect them from attacks by their enemies and bless them mightily.

In Kairos we need to have the same goals, because if we stray towards "doing our own thing", we run the risk of God treating us like the Israelites of Joel's time. We've all seen examples of what can happen when people unite for the wrong reasons. The united group can be very powerful, but in the end achieve nothing meaningful.

Our aim in Kairos has to be to present a loving and caring body to the residents on the inside and also to the guests of our outside ministry.

But our team members must ask themselves whether they are doing Kairos just to satisfy some inner gratification, or are they doing it to glorify God?

This is what we need to ask ourselves every time we "Kairos junkies" sign up for another Short Course or KO Weekend team, or a Committee meets to discuss issues.

If we are there purely for our own motives, we will probably end up causing more damage to the ministry than we had ever thought possible.

We must remember that our inside teams are there only with the approval of the Chaplains and the Correctional Services staff. If we cannot abide by the requirements of these 2 groups then we should pray hard about what it is we think we are trying to achieve in prison ministry.

By working in unity, as a mirror of who God is, we can reach the lost and give them a positive challenge to strive for in their lives.

On a more uplifting note – have a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year – as one Grafton resident put it "On a holy high!!"

Vaya con Dios
Rick Johnson,
Executive
Director



**Kairos National Office will be closed from December 23 to January 10.
We wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and Blessed New Year.**

Kairos National Conference – Celebrating 10 Years of Kairos in Australia.

Our 10th Anniversary Conference is only 7 months away and we are thrilled that bookings are already rolling in to the office.

Have you thought yet about being part of this great weekend?

Many who attended the last conference were blessed by learning more about the overall Kairos ministry and networking with many others who serve God through Kairos.

The opportunities to meet people from the various Regional Committees and to learn what was happening across Australia helped many to understand the bigger picture.

Why not become part of the big Kairos family over this weekend, sharing aspects of the ministry that you are involved in and learning from others.

During the weekend we will look at what has happened in Kairos over the last 10 years, giving thanks for what is occurring now and committing to the exciting plans for the future of Kairos.

We are also expecting a large group of overseas Kairosians to be coming to Australia to share with us and we hope that the richness of their experiences, mixed with the Aussie enthusiasm, will encourage all parts of this world wide ministry.

If you are planning to be part of this weekend could you please advise the office as soon as possible so that we can firm up our booking numbers. Application forms and details of the conference can be obtained from the National Office. Just give Robyn a call on 9683 0286 or email her at kairospm@optusnet.com.au and she will attend to your needs.

Join us in this celebration and be blessed, encouraged and further equipped to serve God through this mighty ministry.

BOOK NOW!!! to ensure your place at this pivotal event.

“Your sins are forgiven... get up, pick up your mat and walk” Mark 2:5 & 11

Until my involvement in Kairos Prison Ministry I had not realised that forgiveness is a concept that is foreign to secular society. I discovered that in prisons, as in much of society, as portrayed in the mass media and as evidenced in world events, that most people respond to being wronged with resentment, hatred and revenge. This was driven home to me when, during a Kairos program, I shared a story of how I had written to a man who had assaulted me some years earlier to tell him that I had forgiven him – one inmate told me afterwards (in all seriousness) “you don’t deal with that sort of person that way (ie, forgive them), you sort them out with an iron bar”.

But the power and grace of forgiveness: what transformation, what freedom and new life it brings!

Jack (*not his real name*) had been in prison for over 20 years, serving a life sentence. Through a Kairos “Short Course in Christianity”, Jack came to understand that God loved him, accepted him and would forgive him for

his sins. He also came to realise that the Kairos team members accepted him and loved him even after he told us what he was in prison for. And, thirdly, he began to forgive himself for what he had done. The burden of guilt he had been carrying for over 20 years had crushed his spirit and sapped him of his self worth. Accepting forgiveness gave Jack a new energy and confidence – another inmate related how he could no longer keep up with Jack as they walked around the prison oval! Knowing God’s forgiveness, being accepted and being able to forgive himself enabled Jack to “get up, pick up his mat and walk”.

Please pray for the work of Prison Chaplains, Kairos and other prison ministries. Please pray for prisoners, that they will have the opportunity to hear of God’s forgiving love and that through grace they will come to know God’s transforming love and forgiveness.

The above contribution was originally written for the Uniting Church in Australia’s 2005 Mission Prayer Handbook.

Kairos Outside Canberra/Monaro #5

It has been a wonderful privilege to have been the leader of the 5th Kairos Outside in the Canberra Monaro Region and I give God the Glory for all that happened at the weekend.

We were privileged to have a dedicated and powerful prayer team as well as huge support from other praying supporters who were, either known to us personally, or came through the Emmaus and Cursillo communities.

We were blessed with a dedicated team of 36, 19 of whom had not been involved with Kairos Outside before and this required a great deal of extra work from those who “knew the ropes”. This was true in particular for our Observing Leaders and Kitchen Leader, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude for their awareness of all that was required in the practical details and for the extra work load they took on. The work of the table leaders was summed up by one of the guests who, in answer to the question, “Did your Table leaders encourage each person’s participation?” said “Yes, in very gentle, non-threatening ways. They were lovely leaders.”

We, as a team, were so grateful for the constant reminders throughout training, that we were to be vulnerable and open in all that we did and said. By the time the weekend arrived our prep work seemed to be able to cover most aspects of life that women were seeking help with. As the weekend progressed we realised, along with our guests, that God’s mercy kept falling on us in beautiful, refreshing showers so that the singing of “Mercy is falling like sweet spring rain” became almost a theme song, along with our official theme song “I could sing of your love forever.”

Our theme Scripture for the weekend was; Psalm 104:30 “You send forth your Spirit and we are renewed” which was also paraphrased as “You give breath, fresh life begins”. It seemed to me, as I was preparing to lead, that the Lord would send His spirit to anoint us for this ministry. Many times the assurance came that the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord would be upon us enabling us to preach the Good News, to bind up the broken-hearted, and to announce release to the captives.

I had a sense that, as the desert springs forth into life when unexpected

rains come so we, God's creatures, would experience amazing new life as we were touched by His Spirit. The theme poster was a picture of the desert flowers bursting forth and streams of water cascading over Uluru: another simpler poster conveyed the picture of pools in the desert.

One of our guests wrote beautifully: (and I have her permission to publish it:)

"This so-called 'camp' bears only a passing resemblance to other Christian camps. It is more like being a movie star receiving adulation, or a queen only able to incline her head as the colorful masses hurl flowers, songs and seemingly whatever beauty or hopeful thing they can lay their hands on. It is like being a marathon runner, exhausted beyond sanity after days of running without food, drink, or a milestone, startled beyond words when a gaggle of unseen fans all break from the thicket in cheers to hoist her on their shoulders for a while. It is extravagantly wasteful, and makes the same kind of sense that God does."

We were privileged to have 17 guests present with us for the weekend and of course it was not only a healing and refreshing time for the guests but also for the Team. Our lives have been changed too and richly blessed by the privilege of sharing the unfailing love of our gracious God. We were truly privileged to see His hand at work and to experience Christian living as it was intended to be!

Thank you KPMA for your help and support. To our Advanced Trainers we also give our grateful thanks. We also owe a huge thank you to Kairos International for the program which we are privileged to use and to be part of.

WHY ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING?

Training helps us to grow in obedience, (after all we are on God's business) and to show us that we have potential that we may not have realised and can do things that we did not think possible. Training reminds us who we are, what we are doing, and why we are doing it. We can work hard to do things for Kairos, but by our over zealotness, possibly misguided compassion and just in our doing, we can stray and move away from **whom, what and why** we are doing what we are doing in the name of Kairos. We can lose sight of what is Kairos and why we do it.

Training sessions are designed to explain the rationale behind certain pieces of the ministry, which might not be evident, and so make sense of the activity. Then we can encourage everyone to support it with a new enthusiasm and vigour. Training sessions offer a 3-part opportunity –

1. *To understand the components of Kairos ministry.*
2. *To buy into the philosophy.*
3. *To present the ministry in the Kairos mission field.*

We are all so enthusiastic and keen to do the best possible that we often get carried away with our own ideas. We all know that if the people who formulated the Kairos program had known our ideas then definitely they would have done it our way. The changes may be gradual and seem a good idea at the time, but the benchmark will have changed and once the 'model' is altered how will future team members know what the original model was? So an AKT will help us keep it all together.

Who can do an AKT?

Any one can participate in an AKT - Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, Torch. It is almost mandatory for future Directors, but everyone is welcome. We all want to serve God to the best of our ability.

So plan ahead and consider attending an Advanced Kairos Training.

Education and training is never a waste. Let us serve Him together.

Comments made by people who have attend an AKT.

Q : *How was AKT instructive from your point of view?*

A : 100% better equipped; Knowing the purpose allows me to plan with more certainty; Yes, Yes, Yes, learnt much; Gave insight in ethos & substance of Kairos; Particularly the discussion on Journey Program

Q : *How are you better equipped to lead a Kairos Short course?*

A : Understand the reason why we do things and the way we do them; By watching others show their skills; Problem solving

Q : *Which presentations had the most meaning for you?*

A : Explanation of the Foot Washing Ceremony, The Commitment Service; The Prayer Circle; The Journey Program; The Journey Program; The Journey Program (said many times)

Other Comments :

I personally have gained loads and will leave here feeling better equipped to handle the Director's role; Great to hear from other institutions; Sharing of ideas is encouraging and worthwhile; Sharing and fellowship with men and women from other prisons was wonderful and question time was very helpful.

We are seeking people to fill the following positions :

KPMA Company Secretary

Victorian State Council Chairman

NSW State Council Secretary



For further details contact the National Office on 9683 0286 or email kairospm@optusnet.com.au

Quartermaster

David Aspinnall who has filled the role for the last 3+ years needs an assistant to train and ultimately take over this roll. You would be required when Short Courses operate to purchase stores and then distribute them to the Regional committees. This includes Berrima, Emu Plains, Dillwynia, Silverwater, Kairos Outside Sydney, and Long Bay.

Please contact David on (02) 9899 9819 or email aspinnall@ol.com.au for more information.

Help Keep the National Office 'NEAT and TIDY' by joining the Cleaning Roster

The job entails cleaning the bathrooms and kitchen, sweeping and mopping the vinyl flooring, vacuuming the carpet and some dusting. All equipment and materials would be supplied. This would take one person approximately one and half hours or two people three quarters of an hour.

It would be preferred if this could be done between 10.00 am – 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday but we could make arrangements if these times did not suit.

Please contact Ann Morrison on 9899-1672 or 0411 817823

Spoken by a Grafton #13 Resident at the Closing Ceremony.

Psalm 137:1 "By the rivers of Babylon we sat down, there we wept when we remembered Zion."

There are many people to thank for this Kairos #13 for without these people such an event would not have transpired.

Firstly, the Lord our God for his Spirit and word, also the Governor and his staff at this institution. Then our prison chaplain, Ian Bailey, and his helpers - you the Kairos team. Ian said that he knew last night why he comes to work.

As Kairos #13 draws to a close and we shall return to our normal lives before this auspicious occasion, let's take a minute to reflect on how it has affected everyone around us but especially you the residents and temporary residents.

Silence

The past 3-days have shown us that, although our former actions have led us through the iron gates and the steel bars, we are not alone or forgotten. This is shown by you, the Kairos team, who have forsaken your freedom by coming in here and sleeping as we do, feeling as we do, suffering as we do and living as we do. But yet you show us how a spirit cannot be broken and there is always hope, no matter how rough the road may be, or how big the obstacles placed before you are. They can all be overcome through faith in yourself, your family and now our new-found friends and you the Kairos #13 members - but mainly in one person that we have shared about, Jesus. He holds the key, yes, to set you free from behind these bars and resentment for the world and lead you to enlightenment. Although physically behind bars, the faith you feel will lighten that load and make your short time behind here go quicker and easier and you'll find you will be looked upon differently – not just by fellow inmates but also by the custodial staff.

The speakers have given talks on topics from personal experiences and well-wishes for all us and left us with questions as we may seek the answers within us and our time. I urge you, the residents to try and find those answers and only then will you find your true worth and meaning in life through the love, faith and hope you have received. You said you came to Kairos to see the faces of us guys on Friday, well last night was your Friday night and the movement of the Lord was very present. So now you have a double dose of our expressions.

L. T. spoke of how Jesus said 'Father forgive them, they know not what they do'. Well the Father has proved this and forgiven them – us, and has sent his children here to be our saviours and we thank you for this.

Romans 3:23 states, 'For all have sinned and fell short to the glory of God.' Yes all of us, not just those in green, but all here and it is through this verse we realise we are not perfect, and we all need each other to reach eternal life.

Remember what the word AGAPE means :

A lways
G ive
A nother
P erson
E quality

Kairos Outside Fund in Memory of Karen Novak



Many of you were aware that Karen Novak passed away on August 31, 2004. Karen was the wife of the Chairman of the Kairos Board, George Novak.

In memory of Karen we have established **The Kairos Outside Karen Novak Memorial Fund** to advance new Kairos Outside programs throughout Australia.

Karen had been on team with this arm of the Kairos ministry, so we are hoping that you will contribute to this fund. If you wish to do so, please make your donation to Kairos Prison Ministry Australia noting that it is for the Kairos Outside Karen Novak Memorial Fund. As with all other Kairos donations, gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

All donations can be forwarded to the National Office, PO Box 73, Northmead NSW 2152.

Automated Subscription to KPMA Prayer Chain

The KPMA Prayer Chain allows all our Prayer Warriors to keep up-to-date. You can now do an automatic subscription by doing the following :

Send an e-mail to : majordomo@uniting.com.au with the following text in the heading line: subscribe kpma-I your_full_name (obviously you replace "your_full_name" with your name!)

The Uniting communications server will pick up your name and e-mail address and add it to our KPMA Prayer List. Then, to lodge a prayer request, you simply send it in an e-mail to kpma-I@uniting.com.au and it will be routed to all our Prayer List subscribers (that's kpma-"I", for list, not kpma-"one").

Dates for Short Courses 2005

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

April	Kairos Torch #9	Juvenile	C/- 20 Balanada Ave Chipping Norton	S & J Andriski
April	Kairos #6 Berrima	Women	PO Box 185 Berrima NSW 2576	Pam Galea
April	Kairos #16 Cessnock	Men	PO Box 371 Cessnock NSW 2325	Kerry Page
April 19-22	Kairos #14 Silverwater	Men	PO Box 73 Northmead NSW 2152	Alex Robinson
April 26-29	Kairos #12 Emu Plains	Women	PO Box 60 Emu Plains NSW 2750	Veronica Tonks
May 15-20	Kairos Bathurst #8	Men	PO Box 192 Orange 2800	Phil Reid
July	Kairos #12 Goulburn	Men	PO Box 6146 Nth Goulburn 2580	J Weatherson
September	Kairos #7 Berrima	Women	PO Box 185 Berrima NSW 2576	Suzu Taylor
October	Kairos Outside #1	Women	PO Box 1010 Mitcham Nth Vic 3132	M. Van Rossen
Oct 14-16	Kairos Outside#3 Hunter	Women	PO Box 200 Medowie NSW 2318	Shirley Wells
October	Kairos #15 Silverwater	Men	PO Box 73 Northmead NSW 2152	Michael Tonks
Oct 23-28	Kairos Bathurst #9	Men	PO Box 192 Orange 2800	Mark Thompson

Advance Kairos Training Weekends 2005

Jan 28-30	Bonny Hills Uniting Church Conf. Centre	NSW	Kairos & KO
Mar 18-20	Margate Conference Centre	QLD	KO
April 15-17	Belgrave Heights Convention Centre	VIC	KO
July 15-17	Carcoar	NSW	Kairos