



Letter from Tony

Dear Friend of Kairos,

This is an exciting time! Through your commitment and support we have been able to maintain all of our current programs at a high standard that brings honour to God. Kairos continues to enjoy an excellent reputation wherever it operates. The testimonies on page one give just a glimpse of the lasting impact Kairos is having. They are a great encouragement!

Each day, within the constraints of the things we 'have to do', we all enjoy freedom. Every day we can choose to travel, shop, work and visit friends. But there are many who, as life has carried them along, have chosen unwisely. And they have lost the freedom that we often take for granted.

Kairos is committed to working in the lives of these people—to introduce the choice of Jesus and to demonstrate the values that will help each one towards freedom of spirit—true freedom.

That's what you make possible! So thank you for your partnership and fellowship in this ministry.

Be sure to read our 'Vision for the Future' on page two. You'll pick up on the big picture of how your partnership is enabling Kairos to be responsive in moving and growing in a changing environment to meet a huge need. And please know that we really wouldn't be here without you. Your gifts, time and especially your prayers are invaluable as we continue to seek to work together in harmonious union with the infinite power of God!

Thank you for everything you do in the Kairos community.

God Bless,
Your Brother In Christ

Tony Carter

Tony Carter
CEO



Tell Us
Your
Story

We would love to hear from you!

If you or someone you know walked an extraordinary journey of forgiveness with Kairos, please share it with us on the enclosed reply form.

Later in the year Kairos also has the opportunity to partner with Wesley Mission Media in developing a documentary for national television about God's forgiveness, personal forgiveness, family forgiveness and community forgiveness. We are currently seeking stories that could impact the lives of those who are struggling to understand the immensity of forgiveness for this unique and powerful project. Please tick the permission section of the reply form if you would like the opportunity to share your story in this way.



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KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

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Finding true Freedom

"Soon after the Kairos course, I had the opportunity to face my victim's parents...it brought me face to face with the reality of the inhuman thing I'd done. I had never hurt anyone in my life before and I'm living with it every day."

Time in prison. Doing time.

Time is the one thing that every inmate understands, which is why we chose the word 'Kairos' for this ministry. It is one of two Greek words for 'time'.

In prison, time can be an enemy. But through Kairos, time is used by God to bring healing and hope, as one inmate so aptly shared,

"I've learnt to hand it over, asking for forgiveness from those I've hurt, and asking God to give me salvation. I'm feeling a lot better about myself with new principles and morals."

After three days of Kairos sessions another guest commented, "They told us that after this week, our lives might be changed forever. Some of us scoffed at the idea—we ALL came back. We were with very special people who showed us unconditional acceptance, filled us with hope, and it is the best decision some of us will ever make.

Some of us fought against the feelings we were experiencing, but we really didn't stand a chance against the overwhelming power of that love. None of us are scoffing now. All of us had an experience that will last us our lifetime because our lives are changed."

This story is being repeated over and over again each week... men and women finding true freedom, like this young inmate...

"I had a pretty strong belief in God and a correspondingly strong belief that He was the cause of all my troubles. When I first came to Kairos the first thing I said was, 'I don't know what the heck I'm doing here!'"

"There is nothing half hearted about God once you accept Him. I'm proof of that.))"

I was the least likely person to become a Christian. But when I prayed (yes, me—I prayed) my prayer took an unexpected turn. I found myself asking Jesus to walk with me. I have been saved. Saved in the obvious way of accepting Jesus, but ...

continued on page 2...

in this issue!

A Vision for the Future / Congratulations – John Fry OAM
Doing it God's Way / Letter from Tony

Finding true Freedom continued from page 1...

also saved from myself – the misery inside; the bitterness; the lack of forgiveness that was like a cancer in me.

There is nothing half hearted about God once you accept Him. I'm proof of that."

Each story... each transformed life... is testament to the power of your support, whether you are a volunteer team member, a prayer supporter or a financial partner. You are a vital link in making

"We were with very special people who showed us unconditional acceptance, filled us with hope, and it is the best decision some of us will ever make.))

such a difference in so many lives... like this one inmate:

"The [Kairos] team and the other guests have become the best lot of friends I have met during my 14 months here, and I know their friendships will help me through the next two years.

I was rather skeptical, thinking, here we go again – a bunch of do-gooders, probably Bible bashers to boot... I was wrong... These people really didn't care what I'd done to end up in here. They all possessed this ability to love you regardless."

That's the impact of your prayers, your time and your gifts! So thank you for giving so practically and prayerfully to this life-changing ministry.

A Vision for the Future

As you may know, there are three powerful arms in Kairos that are made possible through your commitment, partnership and support. The three arms are:

- Kairos Inside – impacting the lives of prisoners.
- Kairos Outside – comforting the families impacted by the imprisonment of a relative.
- Torch – offering preventative choices to youth in trouble.

Following several Strategic Planning meetings in August, Kairos has developed a vision for how we together, can impact even more inmates and their families with the good news of Jesus Christ. This vision includes:

- Introducing Kairos to eight new prisons around Australia.

- Building on the existing Kairos presence by setting a goal of running two courses per year in each institution.
- Establishing four Kairos Outside centres to support men with relatives in prison. Each centre will be capable of running two programs per year.

"Please pray with us as we seek to build our community... to continue bringing true freedom to those who in one way or another, have always been 'captives'.))

- Growing the current Outside programs to around 25 participants per course in each state and incorporating more country – area support groups.
- Piloting a new torch program in South Australia
- Increasing the Torch program from one to two institutions in NSW.
- Petitioning the Victorian Department of Correctional Services for permission to allow Kairos to operate the Torch program in that state.

This is an exciting time for Kairos as we work toward these goals! But what do we need to get there? Over the next two years, Kairos will need about 800 more volunteers... and your continued support! So please pray with us as we seek to build our community of volunteers and pray also that the funds needed to help reach these goals, will be raised.



Board Members Left to Right: Peter Francis, Terry Clancy, Lyle Jones, John Halmarick, Aif Baker, Yvonne Kinch, Scott Hutchison, Mal Young

Congratulations John Fry, OAM



John Fry

After nearly two decades of growth and success in the United States, Kairos came to Australia in 1995. John Fry was one of the original team and became the first chairman of Kairos Prison Ministry Australia in 2000. He remained an active member of the Board until 2005.

We congratulate John on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June. John's citation included: For service to the community through Church organisations and social justice initiatives to assist prisoners and detainees.

John is currently the Chairman of Frontiers International (Aust.), an organisation building bridges with the Muslim community. He is also the chairman of Neighbours and Friends Inc, a new Christian holistic ministry for refugees, asylum seekers and new migrant arrivals.

We celebrate with John in the recognition of how God has used his skills and gifts to bring freedom to so many through Kairos in Australia.

Doing It God's Way

– by Peter Francis, Kairos Spiritual Director

Have you ever wondered why certain things happen? And why other things don't happen? The more we give ourselves over to God, the more we can expect Him to 'intervene' in our arrangements.

But the way He may choose to do that may surprise us, as God has said:

'My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways' (Isaiah 55:8)

We are called to commit to seeking the 'higher ways' of God and walking in those ways in our life journey with Him. Sometimes this means changes to our plans. At times it might involve accepting what seems to be disappointment, but we continue to learn that there are no real disappointments

with God, for His plans are to prosper and not harm us, to give us 'a hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11)

If you are presently in a place, perhaps personally or in ministry where you may be tempted to ask: "Why is this happening or what's going on?" Be encouraged with the words of God's wise man, Isaiah:

'Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.' (Isaiah 55:6)

May you know peace, joy and blessing as you continue your daily travels with our wonderful Saviour and Lord.



Resources for Your Spiritual Growth

'Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice'

If you don't know of a good guide for growth and spiritual maturity, Dr Dallas Willard's book 'Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice' is a great place to start.

Recently Dr Willard was in Australia speaking at ACOM (Australian College of Ministries) on how to practice spiritual growth as a disciple of Christ.

During his time; and in his most recent book, Dr Willard poses a great question for modern Christians: -, "Why does the Gospel, as it is taught, not relate conversion to spiritual growth?" He then goes on to make the point that people

sometimes simply fail to grow as Christians... a very real danger for us all.

Growth is a matter of choice and we are genuinely free to choose. He goes on to define the term 'apprentice' to describe our relationship with Jesus and explains how as followers of Christ we should be longing for the time when the Church is a collection of apprentices seeking first the

Kingdom of God as the only path to a sustained abundant life. (John 10:10)

We recommend 'Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice' as a valuable resource for you spiritual growth and journey as a follower of Jesus.

Dr Dallas Willard has also written several other books including 'The Divine Conspiracy' and 'Reformation of the Heart'. All of his books are available through your local Christian bookstore.



Dr Dallas Willard

