



Kairos

PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

*releasing lives into the love
and forgiveness of Jesus*



Newsletter Autumn 2011

Wonderful Breakthrough in Queensland

Just before New Year a phone call was received at the Kairos Support Office from a very excited Greg Trost. An agreement had been reached with Corrective Services and supported by the Chaplaincy Board that the Kairos Short Course and continuing Journey program was to be recommended to each Centre within Queensland. Approval was given by the Executive Board Committee that the agreement was to be signed by the Board Chair on behalf of KPMA.

This breakthrough came nearly 15 years after the first Kairos course in Qld. Through a great deal of prayer and perseverance a small dedicated team had persuaded the authorities to put on a second course in November 2010 at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in Brisbane. After a thorough evaluation both the Chaplaincy Board and Corrective Services

agreed that the Short Course and Journey could be run within the Qld Correctional Centres. There are 10 high security and 7 low security centres within Qld.

Under the agreement, in partnership with the Prison Chaplain each Centre is able to be approached by Kairos to negotiate how and when a short course may be presented. Already plans are under way to present 2 short courses at Arthur Gorrie during 2011. The Qld State Council is now preparing a plan to expand into other Centres. However the approach is a cautious one and the State Council is very aware of ensuring that each course operates as smoothly as possible. It is anticipated that within 2 years there will be courses in at least 3 Centres.

It can truly be said that this is God's special timing for Qld.

Kairos Outside for Women has been operating in Qld since May 2001 and currently has one centre in the Brisbane/SE Qld area and another in the Wide Bay Capricorn area. Plans have progressed to begin another in the Cairns area during 2011. With the expansion of Kairos Inside courses this will provide a greater opportunity to reach inmates, their families and supporters and enable more people to experience Kairos and the love of Christ.

The Qld team are to be congratulated for their steadfast faith and tenacity in gaining this wonderful breakthrough. Please continue to pray for all those involved and for the resources needed and especially for more dedicated Christian people to become involved in this great ministry.

Torch #2 in Adelaide

Scott Hutchinson headed a team into Cavan Youth Training Centre in October to conduct the second course in that state. The Centre's Chaplain Belinda Uppill invited nine of the 36 boys to attend. Scott found the experience of seeing "kids"

in a prison environment and working alongside women team members a very different and challenging experience. Some highlights were:

- The "mask" meditations/skits had a dramatic impact on the boys.
- Individually named birthday cakes for each boy brought forth big smiles – some never having a personal cake before.
- The powerful and emotional impact of team members' testimonies on Centre staff.
- Boys in their family table groups praying "thank you God for a second chance". Boys speaking at the closing ceremony of their experience of what family really is.
- A "not so young" team member relishing in the joy of service with enthusiastic and dedicated younger volunteers.

The week after the program, the Chaplain

reported "It was their smiles that said it all. The boys who often wear a frown were grinning and the other boys had smiles that took over their whole body. All the boys have continued to reflect positively on Torch. They shared their birthday cakes with the other boys and re-read their letters over and over."



During the Closing Ceremony, as an indigenous woman team member related her struggles of being adopted into a white family, she was overcome by emotion. One participant of African/American heritage moved out of his seat to put his arm around and support her. This act of compassion and standing in solidarity with a woman whose story of struggle he connected with moved and inspired team and participants. The Spiritual Director commented "God has really softened the hard hearts of these young offenders".

BIG HOLE BIG CHALLENGE HUGE REWARDS!

Kairos needs a national leader

Do you or do you know someone who knows and loves the Lord Jesus

- with great administrative and people skills,
- super energy, humour & leadership qualities
- fundraising guru (or willing to give it a go)
- experience in the voluntary/n.f.p. sector

Man or Woman –

Gen X Y or Baby Boomer – it's wide open.

The challenge of a lifetime – voluntary – immediate start

Interested applicants please email:

Reuben Rattray - Chair KPMA
chairman@kairos.org.au

I was in prison and you visited me... Mt 25:36

Tony's story

Hi! My name is Tony and I would like to tell you a little bit about my story, I was always in and out of jails for years because I could not get off the drugs and alcohol, as I was always looking for something to change my life.

When I was in Long Bay in 1998 we had a group from Kairos come to the jail to give us a talk on religion and how it had changed people's lives and they also gave away free Tim-Tams.

At that meeting half the jail must have turned up for the free chocolate biscuits, and soft drink. I had been to lot of jail talks on how religion could

change your life and to be honest they all sounded the same to me.

When I got out of Jail I went straight back to my old ways but this time I was lucky I had a job to support my drug and alcohol habit, but I lost that job as I would not get up in the mornings for work or I was too sick to go to work.

Then I met up with a good mate of mine, who had done plenty of jail. He said to me: "Tony would you like to come to an AA meeting with me?"

At first I said "No", but then he convinced me and I went along with him. It was not that bad, then he asked me if I would like to go to Church with him at Hillsong. I said: "No, I am not one of them religious types", but he said: "Just come". So I went and when I walked in the Church I thought the walls would cave in but they didn't.

Half way through the service I went outside for a smoke and that is when I heard the Lord talk to me. I was sitting outside the church having a smoke and the Lord said to me: "Tony what you have been looking for all your life is back through those doors."

So I put out that smoke and from that day I have never had another drink or drug or smoke - up to this present day which is now 5 years.

I read my Bible every day and pray every day [morning and night] and also go to Church every Sunday and some Wednesdays for Bible studies, as the Lord has given me a new life and what a great life it is.

Also my mate who got me to go to church and AA and NA is now dead through the disease of drug and alcohol, so today I am very thankful to my mate and Kairos because if they hadn't come out to the Jail that day and planted the seed I would have missed out on my changed life. Thank you Kairos.

Want to support us?

Help keep KPMA alive by
Donating via the attached slip.

Kairos Youth Alive and Well in WA

Rod Williams is a former chaplain with the DCS in WA and currently associated with Prison Fellowship. He visited Albany Regional Prison just before Christmas and sent Les Marshall (Kairos SC Chair) the following story.

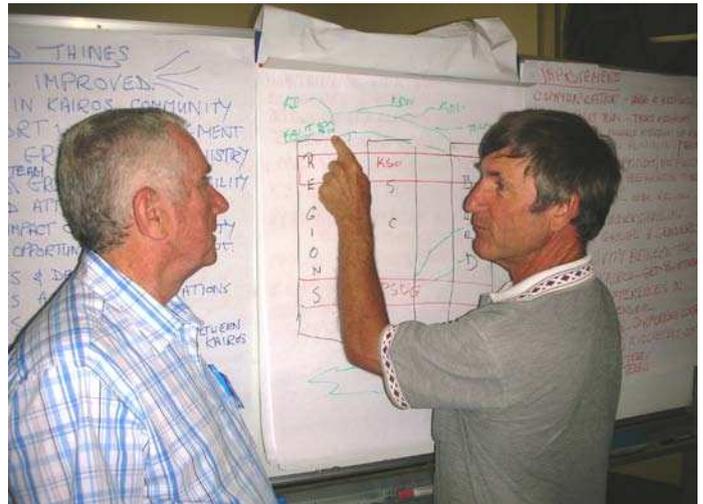
"I was invited to attend the Carol service about a week before Christmas. It was packed, 50 prisoners and equal number of staff and outside visitors. (There was a wonderful and generous supper provided). The Chaplain, Alan Taylor, led the service and introduced prisoners to read the scriptures and give a short testimony.

One of the speakers was a young man I remembered from his time in Hakea. I also knew his Dad from the same prison.

In front of many of his peers and a number of officers, he spoke clearly about the change that had occurred in him after attending the Kairos program at Acacia. He publicly stated that not a day had passed since then that he had not read his Bible and prayed. Normally a shy fellow, this was to my eyes a major change in him. Things are still hard and his relationship with his father is still strained – but by the grace of God his life is changing.

After the service I had the opportunity to speak with him and I am confident that the Holy Spirit is doing a work in him. And I thought you might like to know."

It's great news and we are really encouraged to hear this feedback. Let's keep on engaging with in-mates and showing them the love Jesus has for them. It's a privilege to be His channel.



South Australia gets the good oil....

Terry Clancy (KPMA treasurer) and Steve Bown clarifying aspects of the Trellis and Vine presentation to South Aust Kairos community with representatives from each of KOW, KI and Torch [Friday Jan 21st 2011]. Approximately 30 attended. Supper followed and there was much discussion and interaction.

KPMA Teams have visited each regional committee to listen to them and explain: The "good earth, fertile soil" is so important to the health of the Vine which represents the Kairos Ministry, which in turn relies on the strong and stable structure of the Trellis for support so that together, we as volunteers, can serve well so that the Vine bears fruit.

Unless the Lord builds the house... they labour in vain who build it.. Psalm 127:1

A change of heart

What a mess! How could I make sense of it all? My eldest son had just been imprisoned for the third time.

My husband was wrongly accused of trying to smuggle money into the prison as he had forgotten to check all the



pockets of some clothes he delivered for our son's court appearance and has not been allowed to visit him. This just added to our stress.

My son's partner was hurting and out of her pain she rejected our family and prevented our relationship with our grandson.

My middle son was recovering from a serious illness, which was made worse when he learned his brother was going back to prison.

Meanwhile, my youngest daughter was hurting, rebelling and blaming – and out of this making bad life choices.

A friend told me: "You need to be around people who understand what you are going through – as well as having some time out from your demanding family".

It is now a year since I was a guest on a Kairos Outside weekend. One of the best decisions I ever made. I felt special, cared for, accepted and very spoilt. I could relate to the talks and the songs touched my heart. My mother and daughter have since been guests – they also came home different people. There is a new confidence in my daughter.

I have known the Lord for a long time – to delight in His love in the depth of the despair and brokenness of my life was His gift to me in the shape of Kairos Outside.

I am now a team member because I want to serve, love and support women the way it was shown to me when I needed it most. My heart's desire is to brighten someone's life over a Kairos Outside weekend.

[Name withheld. Generic photo]

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.

Combined SA Christmas Reunion Dec 2010



Wow! 2010 has been quite a year in Sout Australia with two Short Courses, two Kairos Outside [Women] weekends and a Torch Program. Our Kairos community has been steadily growing and yet we still seem to find difficulty in manning all roles so we have KO women helping in the outside team for Kairos Mobilong and men from the Inside team serving in the dining room for Kairos Outside. Community members from KI and KOW were able to help out with Torch.

So what better way to celebrate our

year than to have a combined Kairos Christmas get together. The date and place were already set for a KOW reunion so it was easy to extend an invitation to all those who had been volunteers or guests in the wider Kairos family. Regional committee members brought salads and provided sausages for a sizzling afternoon. KO women provided ice-cream in a cone for dessert with a variety of decadent toppings and all 85-90 of us had a great afternoon of fellowship and in the Kairos tradition we all ate well.

There were a few formalities, Scott Hutchinson as State Chair (and Board member) spoke about the wider KAIROS family, we sang some carols and finished with linking and holding hands as we sang *In this Room*. What a great way to end the year and to remember that we are a community of God's people the active body of Christ demonstrating love to each other.

We look forward to doing the same in 2011.

Introducing the National Support Office

We are blessed that Joan and Kevin Llewellyn have joined the Kairos Support Office. Since they joined in late 2010 they have put a tremendous effort into getting to know the workings of Kairos. Kevin is responsible for maintaining the finance side including processing all the returns from the regions as well as looking after the Support Office finance. Joan is doing the administration work including responding to questions from the regions and the general public.

Both Joan and Kevin are mature

Christians who have used their skills in serving the Lord through working in various nonprofit organisations and know that it requires patience, tolerance and perseverance in getting to know the people, procedures and processes in this type of organisation.

Their contact details are Joan (operations@kairos.org.au) and Kevin (accounts@kairos.org.au) and both can be reached on 02 9683 6096.

We thank the Lord that He has enabled Joan and Kevin to become involved with

Kairos and look forward to a long and enjoyable relationship with them in the future.



From the KPMA Chair

As we enter 2011 Kairos Australia faces many challenges, but I am sure that with prayer and the strong support of all volunteers engaged in our mission we can make this year successful.

We are currently without a CEO/ED. With this leadership position vacant many things are sadly just not done. I am very grateful that our many volunteers, directors and others are doing many essential tasks. Identifying candidates and recruiting a CEO/ED is a big challenge for 2011. We also need to recruit additional dedicated and suitability qualified directors to serve on the board.

Without secure funding for the role we cannot recruit a paid CEO. Kairos Support Office relies substantially on donation support from the public especially our volunteers.

Donations continue to come; we were pleased with the response to our November - December 2010 Appeal raising around \$32,000. It is a continuing challenge for the board to establish

secure financial support for the ministry.

From November 2010 a board committee has been travelling to all parts of Australia to meet with as many volunteers as possible to discuss how Kairos works for them and to gather local feedback from each meeting to inform the board of the key issues being encountered. The board intends to act on this feedback to improve its communication and to work to unify our ministry.

Communication at all levels is such a vital part of supporting others. I encourage you to talk, email and phone to link with others as we serve. Improving communication is a major



aim for 2011.

I urge you to commit to attending the Kairos National Conference being held 15th to 18th July 2011 in Sydney. As the conference agenda develops, better communication and expanding the key themes from your feedback to the board committee will shape the conference content.

Throughout Australia the ministry continues to prosper. A highlight to end 2010 was concluding an agreement with Corrective Services Queensland in December. It represented the culmination of years of dedicated effort by Queensland volunteers. Their challenge now is to take Kairos into other prisons to build on their successful pilot course at the Arthur Gorrie Centre.

Let us face the challenges of 2011 with a readiness to be led by the hand of our God and a willingness to be open to his promptings in our lives.

God Bless, Reuben Rattray

Kairos Outside Weekends for Women

Date	Course	Contact Address	Leader
Mar 25-27	Hunter	PO Box 221 Kotara 2289	Donna Meehan
May 20-22	Adelaide	PO Box 242 Highgate 5063	Christine Crosby
May 27-29	Sydney	PO Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Roberta Tsai
June 3-5	Qld	PO Box 88 Morningside 4170	Cathy Wilson
Sept 16-18	Hunter	PO Box 221 Kotara 2289	Eunice Aldous
Sept 16-18	Adelaide	PO Box 242 Highgate 5063	Mary Howie
Sept 23-25	WA	PO Box 1359 Joondalup 6919	Jemana Drennan
Nov 5-7	Qld	PO Box 88, Morningside 4170	Annie Bashford
Nov 25-27	Sydney	PO Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	

Kairos Inside Short Courses

Date	Location	Contact Address	Leader
Mar 1-4	Goulburn	PO Box 637 Goulburn 2580	Barry Brown
Apr 5-8	Berrima	PO Box 2591 Bowral 2576	Sylvia Carless
Apr 12-15	Mobilong	PO Box 242 Highgate SA 5063	Mal Young
May 3-6	Fulham	9 Gordon Street Heyfield 3858	Dennis Kimberley
May 6-9	Parklea	PO Box 630 Stanhope Gdens 2768	Rick Earngey
May 9-12	Acacia WA	PO Box 1359 Joondalup 6919	Ben Bothma
May 10-13	Dillwynia	PO Box 3102 Rouse Hill 2155	Helen Leek
May 16-20	Emu Plains	PO Box 60 Emu Plains 2750	Susie Hirst
May 23-27	Arthur Gorrie	97a Hillview Road M. Cotton 4165	Paul Bryden
June 27- 1	Bathurst	PO Box 192 Orange 2800	Evan Harris
	Mid Nth Coast	PO Box 5065 Frederickton 2440	Romney Newman
Sept 13-16	Junee	PO Box 189 Junee 2663	Alan Crozier
Oct. 11	Mobilong	PO Box 242 Highgate SA 5063	David Medlock
Nov. 11	Arthur Gorrie	97a Hillview Rd Mt. Cotton 4165	Bob Joyce

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