



Kairos

PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

*releasing lives into the love
and forgiveness of Jesus*



Newsletter Summer 2012

Message from our CEO

By the time you get to read this we will be well into 2012, and yet this is the first chance for me to wish you all well for the coming Kairos year. Each new year brings challenges and opportunities and for Kairos 2012 has lots of both. But whatever the year brings we have to remain focused on 3 things:

1) Christ is at our head. This must be the prime focus in all we do. I know that you are faithful in this, but it always bears repeating. Our focus must remain on Christ and the sacrifice of self-interest. When we do this, when we go forward with servant hearts, the results are powerful beyond our imaginings. The challenge for us in 2012 is how to do this in a time of change, a time of increasing demands, a time of growth and a time of limiting resources.

2) Hold to the truth. The truth of our ministry is expressed in the Kairos model that we use. It is a very simple model, but as you are all aware, it is a very effective model. The challenge for us in 2012 is to maintain the truths of that model in the middle of a period of change. Encouraging and building on the energy and creativity of the volunteers who give endlessly of their time and resources. Building on all the great work done in the past

as our foundation for the future.

3) Live in grace. John 1:14 says "The Word became flesh and lived among us. We gazed on his glory, the kind of glory that belongs to the Father's unique Son, who is full of grace and truth." As Christ demonstrated, we are all called as Christians to not only hold to our truths, but also to live in grace. So the challenge for us in 2012 is to take up our daily cross and practically demonstrate Christian love, forgiveness and compassion, Christian justice and hope, Christian joy and peace. Our passionate and compassionate Christian witness to our fellow team members, volunteers and guests, defines not only ourselves but also determines the experience of those we are called to serve. Only by prayerfully sacrificing our self-interest and making ourselves vulnerable, can we create that safe place where our guests can share openly and perhaps be touched by God's loving hand. The challenge for us in 2012 is to continue to do this: To make the Ministry sustainable: To make the Ministry infectious: To inspire new people to commit



their time, effort and resources to support the ministry, in response to God's call.

On this note we have a number of immediate concerns. A significant number of positions across the organisation will become vacant during the year, as loyal volunteers come to the end of their season in various roles. I would like to ask all of you to seriously consider taking the next step and taking on some of these responsibilities. In particular we need a Company Treasurer, and we also need new Board members to replace those retiring, and new volunteers on the PSDG. In general, we all need to address how we can bring new people into the Ministry, and how we can encourage each other to take on some of the

many important background roles that need to be done in order to support the work at team level.

Please continue to hold the Ministry in your prayers. Have a great 2012. Thank you for all you do. God Bless.

John Bignall
CEO

KPMA TREASURER

Our current Treasurer's term expires in 2013. We are seeking a qualified accountant to be mentored into the position over the next 12 months. Preferably Sydney or regional NSW based. Ability to join the Board as a Director.

This is a voluntary position.

Could God be calling you to this?

Enquiries in confidence to John Bignall:

johnbignall@kairos.org.au or

Tel: 02 9683 6096

Bits and pieces

New possibilities Please be prayerful about Kairos Inside opportunities opening up in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria. We are grateful for the hours of negotiations which goes into exploring these new possibilities.

New Location Our relocation team is working hard to find a new venue for our National Support Office and some progress is being made. [See article back page]

Kairos Outside for Women Manual The Program Support and Development Group spent a recent productive weekend incorporating requested revisions into the KOW manual. The 2nd edition will be distributed to Regional Committees once approved.

Red Manual A new 'Australian' version of the Kairos Inside Manual is being produced.

Promoting Kairos You are encouraged to seek opportunities to promote the Kairos ministry. There are many resources available including short explanatory DVDs and brochures in a kit setting out how to make a promotion in your church or other group. Please advise Kairos Support Office about any public speaking opportunities and they can provide all you need.

Administrative support Besides being on a team we are always grateful for volunteers with administrative skills to support Regional Committees, State Councils, National Support Office and the Board. Please be prayerful about such opportunities to serve.

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

* Good one, Tony! *

We returned to talk to Tony, who gave his amazing testimony to us just a year ago. We met up just before Christmas and he was bubbling over with happiness and energy and shared with me what has been happening for him in the last few months.

Tony's mother became ill and she very quickly passed away. What a powerful witness to everyone as Tony was able to be with her and they shared good conversations. Tony prayed with her and for her before she died. This was a truly amazing experience for them both.

This time in his life presented some of his old choices – drugs, alcohol. He faced his

demons and thought about the years he has been clean. He acknowledged he was feeling low and sorry for himself - his mother's face flashed before him as he successfully resisted the old choices. He made the best choice – and said “no thanks”.

At his mum's funeral he saw how many dear friends came to celebrate her life. How many strangers spoke of the help she had been to them and how much she meant to them. He felt she was reaching out to him and told him “get off your backside and get your life back on track”.

So he started doing just that – to make his mum proud of her son.

Getting his papers in order, pursuing and resolving disputed payments of fines, getting his driving licence back – is a story in itself. Tony hung in there and took on the bureaucracy, even enlisting the help of his local member. He did all it took – and won. How good is it to have a win! We share in his victory. Tony you are a star and a winner – and we are so happy to hear that meeting Kairos “inside” has been a life changing happening for you. It's been 6 years now and getting stronger and more powerful all the time.

Good one, Tony!

Kairos Outside for Men

The KOM#3 course was held over the weekend 11-13 November 2011 at the Edmund Rice Centre at Mulgoa, just south of Penrith. Team formation commenced in September with a team BBQ and then four full Saturdays two weeks apart, concluding on 5 November. The team consisted of fifteen members, four of whom had previous KOM experience. Getting enough guests was a challenge, but after much prayer we had twelve guests. They came from the Newcastle

area, Central Coast, Sydney, Southern Highlands and South Australia. One guest had to drop out but all the guests mixed well and were supportive of each other. Although we started slowly, by Saturday afternoon and throughout Sunday discussions were good, though not long enough. The team encouraged and supported the guests, making them feel welcome. Some of the servant activity went well beyond the bounds of what was expected.

The guests set down goals for their next few months. These have been posted to them two weeks following the weekend. The family groups are keen to meet around three times over the next twelve months. We praise God for His faithfulness throughout the training and the weekend course and look forward to what God will continue to do in the lives of the guests and the team.

Greg Clarke
For KOM#3 Team.

Back in prison - to help

Adelaide man Albert Patrizi had spent a total of four years in custody and three on parole over drug-related offences before he took part in the ecumenical prison ministry of Kairos.

That was 10 years ago in Mobilong Prison, at Murray Bridge. Today he is one semester away from completing a theology degree and is next year expecting to be ordained a Minister of the Uniting Church.

Since 2006, Albert has returned to Mobilong as a volunteer in the Kairos program and is currently involved in field education as a trainee chaplain at Yatala Prison where he hopes to continue full time.

“Kairos is an incredible vehicle for prisoners to see and experience first-hand what a true and loving Christian community is like,” says Albert. “It restored, for me, faith in humanity and faith in the Church.”

Albert was one of the first prisoners to take part in the Kairos Prison Ministry's “Inside” program, which last month celebrated its

10th anniversary running in South Australia at Mobilong Prison. Since 2001, more than 300 prisoners have been involved in the Kairos programs. Correctional Services Department Chief Executive Peter Severin said organisations like Kairos were valuable to the prison system because they offered hope, helped some prisoners change their attitudes and behaviours, and helped reintegrate prisoners into the community.

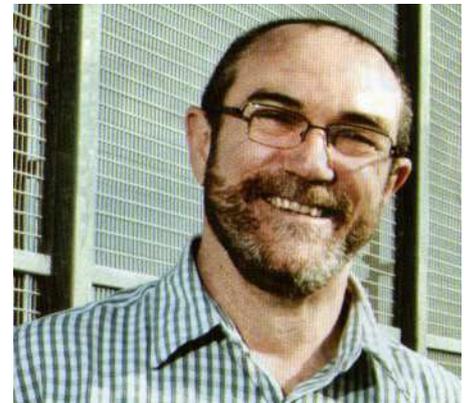
“In some ways it is as if there are two prisons - the first is the actual prison, but there is also the second prison: and that is the prison many offenders experience upon release, where they have no chances and opportunities for a fresh and better start,” said Mr Severin.

South Australian State Council Chairman of Kairos Prison Ministry Australia, Scott Hutchinson, said Kairos runs programs in SA for prisoners “inside” at Mobilong, Kairos Outside Weekends for women with a loved-one in prison, and Kairos Torch for young

offenders.

Each program runs for three to four days and all programs have follow-up opportunities. Kairos is served by volunteers from several Christian denominations.

“It's inspirational,” says Mr Hutchinson of prisoners' turn-around post-Kairos.



Albert Patrizi

[Reprinted from *The Southern Cross*. Article by Rebecca DiGirolamo, Photo: Christian Le Ray [Used with Permission]

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

Kairos SA Rocks!



On Nov 12th the KOW committee organized and held a Fundraising Dance – music reliving the feel good music of the 60's to 90's – all branches of the Kairos community in SA were represented and contributed to the evening. The music was provided by "Chocolate Rush", very appropriate as KO women in particular love to include the giving of chocolate in

the agape for their guests. Who doesn't love chocolate? We thank the band for donating their time which contributed to a successful fund raiser.

The dance was an opportunity to invite outside community to come along and join us in celebrating ten years of Kairos in SA. Ninety of us danced the night away with prizes for best dressed

–best Jive –lucky spots -silent auction – guess the jelly beans in the jar, to add to the fun of the night. We had tables of ten with attendees bringing nibbles and supper being provided. Scott and Jean provided a delicious punch for everyone on arrival (non alcoholic of course) to get

us in the mood. It was a great fun night and many went home with prizes. The evening concluded with cutting of a celebratory cake and more dancing.



What can I do?

- Volunteer for ongoing input to the National Workshop outcomes (contact John Bignall: johnbignall@kairos.org.au)
- Join the Kairos Prayer Network (email prayer@kairos.org.au)
- Consider a financial contribution.

Kairos 7 Tamworth

Billy (not real name), came to Kairos 7 at Tamworth this year. During the week he listened and talked about what was happening, yet there was clearly something bothering Billy. One morning he chose not to come to the day's session. He was told by the prison officials that if he didn't go, he would not be allowed to return later.

Billy said he didn't care and didn't want to go anymore. So he was excluded from the course. When the team heard what happened they prayed for him consistently over the coming days. On the Wednesday after Kairos finished we began the Journey program. A great time to have 10 of the remaining residents come and join in the time together. To our surprise Billy chose to join us (an answer to prayer – who should have been surprised?). As we shared music and a

short talk about Christianity, Billy was deeply involved in the discussions. He shared about how wherever he went, bad things were there before him. He hated the prospect of getting out as he would again be dumped into places where bad was all there was to be found. As the team listened to his situation, they shared with him that even in bad places, Jesus can be found. Toward the end of the time, Billy asked one of the team "If I become a Christian and my wife doesn't, what will happen?" Can you feel the shock the team felt at this point? To have Billy, who was so antagonistic at times, ask such a deep and searching question was, to put it simply, amazing! We did share a bit about the witness we can have for our wives and families and how important it was to make a decision for Christ and to share that with others.

Billy was transferred before we could follow him up, but we give thanks that the Kairos team, with its message and love of Christ had the opportunity to share time with Billy which helped him move along his journey with Christ. We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit is working to bring him into a living relationship with Jesus now and for all eternity and, through Billy's witness to his wife, family and friends, others will know the truth and reconciliation we have in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Emu Plains – Hope revived!

It has been an exciting journey at Emu Kairos since our Short course in May.

We have had an average of 25 women each week sharing with them the joy of having Jesus as our friend. At the end of each week great questions were asked

which led to further discussion by team members. We learnt about knowing the Bible better and how God always listens to us and encourages us. The Wednesday prior to Christmas we had a wonderful celebration of Christ's birth, when 32 inmates shared with us singing carols, listening to a special guest who spoke on the message of HOPE. Richard reminded us that as Jesus had a pretty tough start so we too need not be limited by our past, that in fact that "past" has the potential to make us stronger than we could ever have been without going through hardship.

Jesus gave us a truly wonderful gift each of us can freely receive.

A wonderful afternoon tea was provided in the Visits Centre which was transformed with tinsel and decorations. Several of the men from our short course were given special permission to come in to assist, waiting on our guests and Valda's husband accompanied our musician Alison on the keyboard playing saxophone. Being so close to Christmas there were 24 children in Jacaranda section with their Mums, so we took each of them a little book and each family also received a Colin Buchanan DVD. It was a privilege to thank Chaplain Yvonne for her support and assistance throughout the year.



Farewell ParramattaMoving Out - SOON

The moving out party has been had – BUT we are still there.

Two days before we were to relocate, word came from “on high” at NSW Corrective Services that perhaps they would be able to assist. Not that the officers of CS had not been helpful, they had indeed and had come up with some pretty good premises – but at Long Bay.

For those not local to Sydney, this really is not a good location for Kairos. The officers at the Prison told me the reason the prison was built there, all those years ago, was because no one else wanted the location. It’s the same today, transport to the area is limited, on site access for our volunteers and visitors would be fraught coming onto a working site – and the support base of Kairos live mainly in

the north western part of the city, as are the prisons. So Long Bay was not a good option, but at that time the only option. We were packed and moving in 2 days time.

I went out to Long Bay to meet the technician coming to set up the office computers etc. We were looking at up to \$10,000 to do this work. It was only to be short term. So I was feeling glum at the thought of “wasting” some of the hard won funds. I did have a grizzly/grumble prayer to God – thanking him for the provision of a place, but (always a but) it would have been better if the place was closer to where our Kairos people are – and the prisons.

Within an hour – an official from the government arrived to say they were on the case and looking for another home. We had

a reprieve. Now if that is not evidence of a listening, practical, caring God - I don’t know what is.

So we are still looking, inspecting, praying and waiting on the place God has for our Kairos home. Will you please join with us in prayer?

Mavis Hedrik



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.

Course	Program	Contact Address	Leader
Kairos Outside Weekends for Women			
23-25 March	Hunter #13	PO Box 221, Kotara 2289	Margaret Harkness
18-20 May	SE Queensland #23	PO Box 83 Morningside 4170	Lynda Dudman
25-27 May	Sydney #27	PO Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Sharyn Musgrove
25-27 May	Adelaide # 16	PO Box 945 Adelaide 5001	Mary Howie
15-17 June	Melbourne #8	c/- 149 Raglan St St Kilda East 3181	
7-8 July	Far North Qld #1	28 Couper Street Mareeba 4880	Gwen Thompson
3-5 August	North Coast NSW #5	PO Box Woolgoolga 2456	
3-5 August	Canberra-Monaro #13	PO Box 3961 Weston 2611	Sandy Moore
September	Perth #6	PO Box 1359 Joondalup 6919	Dale Pikel
September	Hunter #14	PO Box 221 Kotara 2289	Vicki Harding
2-4 November	Riverina #6	PO Box 189 Junee 2663	Deborah Brown
2-4 November	SE Queensland #24	PO Box 88 Morningside 4170	Pam Tupe
16-18 November	Wide Bay Capricornia #6	1/77A Walker Street Bundaberg 4670	Glenda Craig
23-25 November	Sydney #28	PO Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Ruth Chaffer
Kairos Inside Short Courses			
19-23 March	Goulburn #17	PO Box 637 Goulburn 2580	David Browning
17-20 April	Mobilong #15	PO Box 242 Highgate 5063	Greg Thomson-Austring
30 Apr-4 May	Emu Plains #19	PO Box 60 Emu Plains 2750	Fay Camplin
1-4 May	Fulham #13	9 Gordon Street Heyfield 3658	Mick Piening
7-11 May	Mid North Coast #9	PO Box 2604 Pt Macquarie 2444	Eddy Merzlikoff
7-10 May	Acacia WA #3	PO Box 435 Bentley 6892	Charles Smith
15-18 May	Dillwynia #12	PO Box 3102 Rouse Hill 2155	Maureen Fenwick
22-25 May	Mannus #7	8 Vista Ave Batlow 2730	Garry Van Emmerik
21-24 August	Junee #25	PO Box 189 Junee 2663	Brian Grewal
24-27 August	Parklea #5	PO Box 630 Stanhope Gardens 2768	

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