



Kairos

PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

*releasing lives into the love
and forgiveness of Jesus*



Newsletter October 2012

KPMA Support Office has moved



The old office served us well

After nearly 17 years the Kairos Support Office (KSO) has moved from the building which was provided by Corrective Services NSW. The building was located immediately behind Parramatta Correctional Centre and had previously been a periodic detention area and later an area used by the correctional officers during break times.

For about the last 15 years the Support Office had sole occupancy. During that time the building has served us well enabling the administration for Kairos throughout Australia to be located in the one place as well as providing a meeting room for the Kairos Board, the NSW State Council and regional committees located within the Sydney area. Further it enabled team formation meetings as well as providing a store for the equipment required by the Sydney regional committees. Corrective Services allowed Kairos to use the building rent free and we praise and thank the Lord for that provision.

However, over the years the building has been infested with white ants, possums and vermin. It reached such a state it was

considered a risk to those who worked in it. With the closure of Parramatta Correctional Centre last year the KSO became very isolated and was unsafe for people to be there alone.

Correctional Services NSW did offer an alternative site but this was not suitable as it was located within another correctional facility far from the majority of the volunteers involved with Kairos. The Board then made a decision to seek alternative accommodation. After discussions with many benevolent groups, no suitable premises were found. A hard decision was then made to seek a commercial rental property that could be leased on a short term basis until a suitable permanent home could be found.

A small office was found near Hornsby, which is about 20 kms north east of



But fell into disrepair

Parramatta. The lease costs for Hornsby were about 30% lower than similar property around Parramatta.

The Hornsby site is sufficient for the administration and to hold small meetings but does not offer team formation facilities or storage of regional equipment. Further, with the expected growth in the number of regions in Australia it is anticipated larger premises will be required in 3-4 years.

As a result of moving from Parramatta the Board has considered the purchase of a permanent home for Kairos which will cater for the administration, team formation meetings, large meeting such as for the



Our current rental property

NSW State Council, equipment storage as well as properly equipped training facilities. This will enable Kairos to establish a stable Support Office that will fully provide support to the ongoing regions and the new ones in the future. It is planned that a fund will be established to raise approximately \$500,000 in tax deductible donations by mid-2014. The proposed premises are seen as an investment for the stability and growth of Kairos.

We ask that you commit this to prayer and provide your feedback on our vision. Without your support we will not be able to achieve this important step for Kairos.

Office: 5/30 Leighton Place Hornsby
Mail: PO Box 169 Hornsby 1630
Phone: (61) (02) 9987 2016



A new home for Kairos?

STOP PRESS
Mark your diary now!
KPMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
12-14 July 2013 [tbc]
Watch this space!

STOP PRESS
PREPARATION FOR KAIROS
15-17 March 2013
Register by 28 February 2013
Merroo, Kurrajong \$150

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

Kairos Outside Sydney #27

A Kairos Outside 27 guest writes: My experience at Kairos Outside #27 was a bit of a roller coaster. It started out very much with trepidation and scepticism. What did a bunch of strangers know about me? How much did they want to pry into the story of my brother?

But mum was going and I wanted to support her. So I went, not expecting to get much out of it for myself. The first shock was to learn that my driver to the campsite was not staying. She and her husband drove me just to bless me.

I was pretty determined not to let anyone in. Then I met the lady who had phoned me

leading up to the camp. The ice started to melt just a little. What a delight she was! I felt like I had just found a long lost aunty!

I was shown to my room and was pleasantly surprised to find "agape" on my bed. The ice melted a little more.

The ladies slowly but surely chipped away at the hardness around me. Constant agape, both in physical gifts and service quickly made me see that they not only cared but UNDERSTOOD. They offered me HOPE, both in terms of my relationship with my brother and my walk with God.

I struggled with guilt over being there

because my husband was unwell and I had three children at home. But I came to see that I too need help for myself.

I believe I went home a stronger person, although it was still a bit of a culture shock walking back into the house. Nothing had changed there while I had changed so much.

Holding onto that hope in everyday life has been a challenge. But seeing the agape gifts remind me of what I experienced that weekend.

God has always been with me but He felt especially close that weekend. I am grateful to all the ladies from the bottom of my heart.

Goulburn KI #17

Goulburn # 17 started with a team of 15. Then one was admitted to hospital and another was flat on his back with an old injury for part of the course, so we were down to 13 for much of the time. However I was blessed with a very godly crew and some of the chapel meditations were the best one long standing Kairos member had ever heard!

The initial 18 men were unsettled and two inmates preferred very unusual names. However those two reverted to Christian names by the third day. All showed signs of

increasing self esteem. A chaplain noted evidence of a new warmth as they now greet each other in the compound.

One man came with anger against a former friend. He vowed he would do him some serious damage for dobbing him in. By the end of the four days he had found it in his heart



to forgive the friend.

Another had anger over the death of his two year old child two years ago. He anger dissipated during the course.

A third man had arrived in this country as a baby and after 41 years now faces deportation. He is now at peace over the issue. Two others showed very definite growth in Christian faith. Praise God!

KOW #13 Canberra

In August, KOW#13 Canberra Monaro was held. It is impossible to describe the mighty Love which held us, the amazing and undeserved Grace that flowed around and through us, the miracles we saw as oppressed souls found freedom, and the transformation of not just the guests - but team as well. God was at work in a most powerful way.

The team of 36 came from different Christian groups, generations, ethnicities and backgrounds. Our prayer vigil was supported from such places as Ireland, Texas, Arizona and even the Democratic Republic of Bukavu in Africa. And God listened, smiled, and blessed us with many wonders.

Our guests usually arrive with great apprehension. This was particularly so for one lady, who, due to her painful circumstances, never felt wanted or welcome anywhere. When she saw the 'Welcome' sign on her bedroom

door with her name on it, the pain inside her simply broke. Love entered in, and began a work of transformation that was wonderful to witness. One guest had not been anywhere outside her home in two years. She had chronic asthma, but listening to her breathily singing a love song to her Lord at the end of the weekend had us in tears.

Several women stated this had been the best weekend of their lives. They left knowing they are not alone. God is with them, and the Kairos community is now their community. Sixteen women had their lives touched deeply by the Holy Spirit, and some of the younger ones were astonished to connect with the aunts, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

A particular joy, for me was helping create the wonderful *Garden of Love* we made together. The banner had a definite 60's feel

and we had fabulous fun with fascinators at the elegant dinner.

Having been on a KO weekend a decade ago, to see now this beautiful ministry still flowering and seeding makes me so grateful for all He has done.

Our theme this year was taken from Psalm 30: 11-12, " You have turned my sorrow into joy, and my mourning into dancing". In both the training and weekend, the team lived this scripture alongside the guests. The father of one of our table leaders died during the team training weekend. Another team member received news her mother was dying just after she finished her talk. There were several cases of emergency surgery among the team, an eviction, and the usual winter illnesses to endure. Mission is never easy, but the rejoicing at the end is still reverberating in our hearts. There was hardly a dry eye when the leader announced to the gathered community at the closing "These are your new sisters in Christ."

These are
your new
sisters in
Christ!

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

Wolston KI #1

God's spirit was at work as the team gave their talks and shared how God's love and friendship has healed and restored their lives and given them purpose and joy. It was a delight to witness the inmates actively involved in the discussions about the talks, sharing and praying for each other as the week progressed. They were also delighted and overwhelmed to see Agape coming from the world wide Christian community as well as from many other prisons in Australia and overseas.

'New life, hope and purpose for the future' – these were a few of the positive things the inmates shared about at the closing ceremony. One man explained how so much

Berrima closed

In March 2012 past teams, friends, supporters and former residents gathered to praise God, share memories and stories and bid farewell to Berrima Correctional Centre. Some praiseworthy statistics:

- 17 teams
- 300 team members
- 306 women impacted for Christ
- more than 250 journey visits

Lives wonderfully impacted by God's unconditional love - not just residents, but team and staff too! At the celebration of the closing five former residents shared how they are now living lives full of hope and expectation for the future.

Despite the sadness at the cessation of this Kairos work, God has taught us all humility, obedience and flexibility and to depend on His timing to deliver the right message at the right time.

As we listened one final time to "Amazing Grace: being played on the bagpipes, we all thanked and praised our Lord Jesus who made all this possible.

theological knowledge he had gained through years of study had moved from his head to his heart during his Kairos week. An Arthur Gorrie #2 participant was our Closing speaker and he testified to the mighty power of God in his life as he continues to walk with Him each day. He is a giant of a man and well respected by other inmates so his testimony was a great encouragement to all others present, including the Prison management. He and one other prisoner who had previously done Kairos served as 'green servants' throughout the week with such enthusiasm and joy. This spoke volumes to the residents.

After an assessment the following week the Management was pleased to set dates for two programmes next year and approve monthly Journey meetings. Please pray

that the Journey programme will change to fortnightly.

Oh how wonderful is our God!! He never fails us and Wolston #1 was yet another occasion when we saw His Glory!

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.

Dear Christian associate,
Just finished Kairos number one at Wolston Correctional Cnt Qld:
The Skeptics, gave their life to Jesus Christ.
The weak and brokenhearted, were refreshed.
The Prisoners were showing care & respect to inmates and officers alike.
We are so thankful to you our brothers & Sisters in Christ, for such sacrifice!
May such Peace, Joy and refreshing come to you all in the name of I AM.
God Bless!

[Name Withheld]

An unsolicited letter received from a resident of Wolston - Used with permission.

Mid North Coast KI

The other day I was fortunate to be able to sit down for coffee with one of our ex-residents who was visiting Port Macquarie at the time and I could not help feeling like a proud parent (which I share with all of you) at the gains this man has made in his life since renewing an earlier commitment to Jesus that had gone cold. What an awesome God we serve, who can turn around a person hell-bent on self-destruction and restore him to family! (some of whom were with him as we talked). He now leads a bible study group each week, takes part by leading periodic evening services in his church and continues to be a good leader to his family after an absence of

some years.

He talked of their plans and aspirations and it seemed to me that as each week passes it enables him to be stronger in his resolve to be that new man and with it the joy of seeing life through new eyes. The leader, in his Journey report, tells of a similar change to another man now transferred elsewhere but whose life is no less significantly changed through what God has done in him.

Once again we have that chance to make changes in (trustingly) 24 residents in May (this always amazes me!) and it never ceases to excite me how much change we see in the faces and hearts of the men in just 5 days, so

we must trust and lay our requests before God, each one of us, that those changes will be lasting and produce great fruit in others in the Centre. And let's not stop at the men in green, for we are served within by a large group who watch us closely but are mostly impressed by who we follow and who shapes our lives.

To our new team members of Kairos # 9 I share your excitement and anticipation at this great work you are about to do; your reward will be to witness change as you have never seen it before and to experience personal growth and closeness to Jesus in a new and exciting way.

Message from our CEO

The KPMI Summer Conference held in St Louis, Missouri, USA taught me we are indeed not alone. There are now over 320 prisons in the United States with Kairos Inside programs, with over 600 courses a year; 60 Kairos Outside communities and 2012 will see 28 new Torch programs; a total of more than 30,000 volunteers nationwide gives us the bigger picture of the power of God at work through the organisation.

But inmates in fact often feel very alone, and so we can bless them in their isolation through our Christian witness.

John O'Donohue writes that "A Blessing is from a soul, to a soul. When you bless someone you need to first collect yourself, to reach below your surface mind and personality – down deeper within, to your soul. When one person takes another into the care of their heart, they have the power to bless. To bless someone is a beautiful gift. A blessing is a form of



grace and can be the start of a journey of transformation."

In showing Christian compassion to a prisoner or their family, we are setting a blessing in train – small actions that touch people who desperately hunger for love, acceptance and human warmth. The kindness and love shown by Kairos volunteers can calm and touch the most hardened. We know that

God's love knows no limits, and that He loves all of us more than we deserve, irrespective of which side of the prison fence we find ourselves.

Each Kairos course or weekend is covered in prayer. Many guests are simply amazed that people around the world, who do not know

them, will pray for them and their situation. So may I ask all Kairos volunteers to support prayer rosters wherever possible? We can't have too much prayer! If you look at the Kairos Kalendar on the www.mykairos.org website

you can see all the Kairos activity worldwide. It can be really helpful to take a timeslot in the middle of their night which is difficult for an American course or weekend to fill.

Please ask other Christians to pray, and so provide an opportunity for them to become involved and support Kairos without having to face the challenge of actually going into the prison.

Here in Australia we have new KI programs at Wolston (QLD) and Port Augusta (SA), and new KO weekends at North Queensland (Cairns) and New England (Armidale).

In 2013 we have been invited to run four new KI courses at the Silverwater complex in Sydney. This will require us to recruit over 100 additional team members to make this happen, so I ask for your cooperation in approaching any people who you believe would be suitable and willing team members, as well as including this in your prayers.

Thank you for your commitment and hard work. God Bless. *John Bignall*

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 Men			
9-11 November	Mulgoa #4	PO Box 169 Hornsby NSW 1630	Peter Benson
Kairos Outside Weekends for Women			
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
16-18 November	Sydney #28	PO Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Ruth Chaffer
Kairos Inside Short Courses			
12-16 November	Grafton #22	PO Box 1816, Grafton, 2460	John Bradshaw
16-19 November	Canberra #3	29 Hyndes Crescent, Holder, ACT 2611	Tony Jurd
20-23 November	Cessnock	19 PO Box 371, Cessnock, 2325	Stuart Bell
7-11 January	Wolston #2	8 Malcolm Street, Beachmere, 4510	Peter Law
15-19 April	Arthur Gorrie #5	PO Box 52 Lutwyche, 4030	Charles Lawrence
29-3 May	Emu Plains #20	PO Box 407 Emu Plains, 2750	Frances Connon
6-10 May	Mid North Coast #10	PO Box 2604, Pt. Macquarie, 2444	Ross Tingle
14-17 May	Dillwynia #13	PO Box 3102, Rouse Hill, 2155	Lyndall Nixey
1-5 July	Wolston #3	8 Malcolm Street, Beachmere, 4510	TBA
14-18 October	Arthur Gorrie #6	PO Box 52, Lutwyche, 4030	TBA
Advanced Kairos Training Courses			
9-10 February	Essentials Kairos Inside	PO Box 169, Hornsby, 1630	Greg Pankhurst
15-17 March	Preparation for Kairos	PO Box 169, Hornsby, 1630	Les & Marg Padroth
22-23 June	Essentials Kairos Inside	PO Box 169, Hornsby, 1630	tba

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