



*releasing lives into the love  
and forgiveness of Jesus*

Newsletter June 2013

## *Launching Kairos in Port Augusta*

The first Kairos Short Course at Port Augusta Prison was held from 24 – 28 September 2012. Port Augusta is over 300km north of Adelaide (about 4 hours drive) at the head of the Spencer Gulf. Getting a course up and running in a region with a relatively small population, around 13,000 people, and far from the support of the existing Kairos community had its challenges.

In mid 2011 the South Australian State Council appointed a Committee to start publicising Kairos amongst the churches in the Pt Augusta region. That committee identified all the churches within 100 km of Pt Augusta and achieved a large number of speaking opportunities late in 2011.

Other meetings and presentations were held with interdenominational ministers' fellowships in Whyalla and Pt Augusta and with individual clergy and prison chaplains. Peter & Belinda Dick and Kairos members from Adelaide and beyond spent many weekends in the area, speaking at churches and explaining how Kairos operated and its potential, if enough team members could be found.

To give people from the area a taste of Kairos in action, in October 2011, the South Australian State Council chartered a bus to take over 30 people from the Pt Augusta

area to the Closing Ceremony at Mobilong Prison – 80 km east of Adelaide. Departing at 10 am from Whyalla it was after 3 am when the bus returned after the Closing Ceremony. Another bus was chartered to take a further 25 people to the April 2012 Closing Ceremony at Mobilong.

*Using this model of launching a new Kairos community – is there an opportunity in your area? Put forward your ideas to: [operations@kairos.org.au](mailto:operations@kairos.org.au)*

Attending a Closing Ceremony led to many volunteering to become part of the first Kairos short course inside Pt Augusta Prison.

An initial meeting with the General Manager of the prison took place in November 2010 – nearly 2 years before the first program. A follow-up meeting in June 2011 gave encouragement to the State Council to commence preparations in earnest. Negotiations with the Prison on timing and facilities continued, and after a very positive meeting in February 2012, the SA State Council was in a position to assure the KPMA Board that a short course at Port Augusta would be viable both in terms of people and financial support. The Board gave its approval and an Ad Hoc Committee was established to make preparations for the first course.

In April 2012 a number of team members for the Mobilong Kairos Course were drawn from the Port Augusta area, so that experienced team members would be available locally. In June 2012 a "Preparation for Kairos" (PFK) program was held near Pt Augusta, as most of those interested in Kairos hadn't attended a Cursillo Weekend or Emmaus Walk.

The team that Peter Dick (as Leader of Pt Augusta # 1) called together therefore had

some team members who had been part of one Short Course at Mobilong and several who had attended the PFK; it was also supplemented by four experienced Mobilong team members. So the pre-planning was validated with a strong core, ready to serve.

The constraints of the prison meant some changes to the course format. The prison's timetable made it impossible to hold the course in the usual 3½ day format, so the course was redesigned to fit into 5 shorter days. None of the constraints compromised the Kairos message.

A total of 14 guests completed Port Augusta # 1. The Journey Program continues to meet each Wednesday night.

The comments made by the guests included:

- Kairos has saved me from death, it has freed me from a spiritual prison within a physical prison.
- Since I came on this course my life is changed and I am different, I hope I never go back to my past.
- I had so much hurt in myself and no one to talk to or turn to, now I know I can turn to God. Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, indeed!

### *What can I do?*

- Join the Kairos Prayer Network (email [prayer@kairos.org.au](mailto:prayer@kairos.org.au)).
- Share the great news of all God is doing in Kairos with your friends.
- Consider a financial gift.



### *A new home for Kairos?*

We have a vision to purchase a permanent office for Kairos...  
learn more from:  
[www.kairos.org.au](http://www.kairos.org.au)

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

# Kairos Inside Dillwynnia

[We have permission by the recent fourth day speaker at Dillwynnia, to reprint an excerpt from her talk].

I thank God and the Kairos community for giving me the opportunity to speak to you and share my experiences since my own journey with Kairos last year.

All of you ladies have just experienced a life changing event in your lives. What these wonderful Kairos ladies have shared during the journey is that if you want to embrace and engage in God's plan for your life and really live it, you have to start being faithful and act on that faith.

Surround yourselves with positive words, thoughts and people that support you and say YES you can do it, you are good enough.

Don't dwell on hurtful things that people have done in your past that have resulted in low self-esteem.

Since coming into custody and having to leave my children, not experiencing the end of their schooling and their formals, I believed for me, it was the end. I knew I had to build my strength, if my family saw I was strong, that would help them get through every day.

I received my strength through the journey; it gave me more knowledge of how to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

I am not saying that I am perfect, but I am trying very hard to live the life that God wants me to live. Since my Kairos journey, my family has seen the change, the strength and calmness within me.

The wise words spoken to me by a special woman, Trisha, which have stayed close to my heart up until this very day and while I was waiting for a result from my appeal, she said that "I (God) will not leave you or forsake you", this still remains in my head. The courage, strength and prayers on our walks each and every day got me through it, I believe now that I was being tested.

My Kairos journey never really ended, it is actually a lifetime journey, but the first step is the first 4 days that you have taken part in. It has made a major impact on my life. The experience of learning much more about God's love has given me the chance to bring other people into the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

## The Seven Dwarfs of Emu Plains

Once upon a time there were seven Diligent Dwarfs who visited an idyllic place called Castlereagh Academy tucked away among rolling green fields and leafy trees. The seven Diligent Dwarfs (in order of height, and no particular reference to characters and talents) were called; Phil, Brian, Stuart, Michael, Les, Sol and Ben.

One beautiful Monday afternoon in May, along came Veronica, with beautiful snowy white locks, this was the beginning of 4 days of meaningful work but also fun, laughter and the formation of new friendships. The seven Diligent Dwarfs under Veronica's direction cooked, cleaned and served meals to the ladies of Emu Plains Prison at the Kairos Short Course # 20.

More importantly, they also prayed for the Ladies at Emu Plains.

For Snow White and her seven Diligent Dwarfs, it was clear to see what a difference their diligent hands and willingness to pray for participants of Emu Plains # 20 had made. The closing ceremony was a very moving and humbling occasion.

The NSW Attorney General attended. His and the General Manager's speeches, combined with the testimonies - nobody in the room could walk away without being inspired. The Fourth Day speaker shared her real life story as how God is working in her life, even though she continues to experience up and downs.

On the morning of the last day, the team of Kairos Inside Emu Plains # 20 was treated by a special send off from the seven Diligent



Dwarfs and their gentle leader Snow White. In true dwarf style, the seven diligent men entered the room carrying their gear such as mops, trolley, broom, and bucket marched in singing the song, "Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it's off to work we go....."

We went home with uplifted hearts and a renewed enthusiasm for the Kairos Ministry.

## A Torch Challenge

Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre located in the Sydney suburb of Lidcome has a capacity of 44 young females.

To date Kairos has not been able to reach these young women through a Torch course.

However our Chair, Jeff Herbert, and some ladies have it in their hearts to remedy this and present a Torch course together with the associated mentoring program at this Centre.

Please join Jeff in praying to seek God's guidance on making this vision a reality. Email Jeff on chair@kairos.org.au if you would like to be involved.



## An encouraging word

Ridley (my husband) and I were visiting friends in Wilmington, North Carolina, USA when on business there a few weeks ago. On Sunday we went with them to Church, and as I walked into the building I saw a large poster on an easel with a sign on it "this is our agape poster". This made me quite curious and I wondered who else uses the word "agape".

When I checked, sure enough there was a sign 'KAIROS'. A few people in the church were getting names for the short course that was going to be held soon in a nearby correctional centre. Of course Ridley and I added our names to the prayer vigil and they were excited to meet fellow Kairos people.

I just want to encourage you that God is using this great ministry in many places.

Mieke Bell – Kairos Outside for Women –  
Mid North Coast

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

## *Kairos Outside for Women Sydney # 29*

After a cold and wet lead-up to the weekend, God kindly turned on perfect weather for the guests who attended Kairos Outside for Women Sydney # 29 held at Kurrajong at the end of May. These guests were in great need of support as, together, they reflected on the many concerns associated with the current imprisonment of family members. As a result, they fully embraced every aspect of

the weekend and were greatly appreciative of the opportunity to attend. Phrases such as 'overtaken by love', 'eyes opened', 'letting down walls', 'overwhelmed by honesty and openness' were used to express the impact of the guests' Kairos Outside experience. Many committed to inviting others to join the Kairos Outside community to benefit from the love and care they received.

The team of KOWS # 29 is so thankful for the Lord's favour and protection during team formation and the weekend itself. Please join with us and other Kairos Outside volunteers across the nation in praying for guests to move forward in life with renewed strength, courage and hope.

*Gill Begbie*

## *A tribute to Helen Kemsley*

After several years of ill health, on April 1st 2013, the Kairos community lost a wonderful friend and supporter when Helen Kemsley went to be with the Lord.

Helen's long association with Kairos began in 2000 when she served as a team member on Kairos Outside # 1 in Canberra. Living in Junee, this involved significant travel – a sign of her deep commitment to the support of women impacted by another's imprisonment, that continued as a lifelong focus.

Additionally, Helen served on many Kairos Inside teams, helping to prepare meals for men attending short courses at the Junee Correctional Centre.

With the unwavering encouragement and



support of her husband, Alf, in 2004 Helen took on a key role as leader of the first Kairos Outside for Women weekend in the Riverina. She went on to chair the local Regional Committee and, in 2007, became a member of the national Program Support and Development Group (for KOW) where she provided helpful insight into the special challenges of Kairos Outside rural communities. Helen made a significant contribution to the group's understanding of effective ways to minister to Aboriginal participants.

Helen Kemsley was warm, loving and generous - larger than life and a devoted follower of Christ.

## *KOW-SE Qld*

It is so amazing the roller coaster ride God gives us leading up to these weekends. Our weekends are at Luther Heights Campsite Coolum on the Sunshine Coast. We meet for lunch before we go to the site and we had so many God moments we could share together. The miracles don't start at the weekend but in the weeks leading up to it.

The weather the day before was wet, cold and miserable. Prayer requests were sent out and we had magnificent weather. Wonderful sunny days and starry nights!

We were expecting 17 guests and due to health problems we had the smallest team we have had, BUT, we had a very important member on our team who pulled it all together - GOD!

Led by Sue, the theme was 'Refresh my heart'. Guests agreed their hearts were refreshed and all were impacted by the weekend.

Despite last minute changes due to ill health God provided alternative entertainment that had guests and team up dancing and a Congo line!

As usual God put the right guests at the right tables and our table leaders did an amazing job.

Kairos is a ministry like no other as the friendships are so strong, truly sisters and brothers in Christ. Nothing would break the bonds we form together.

*Robyn Teese*

## *A "singalong" at Fulham*

We were blessed with twenty guys in green including around four or five "with influence" out in the yard. We faced many challenges and restrictions during the three and a half days but to God's glory He turned every one of them around to build and strengthen the relationships between the team, inmates and even with some of the prison staff as well.

Everyone was blessed by the music during the course including one special moment when the guys stood side by side with their arms around each other's shoulders and sang their hearts out with a female prison staff member who came and played a few songs for them.

The honesty and openness of the guys was truly humbling and the team did a fantastic job of encouraging and supporting them. The faith and friendships that were formed have continued and spread out into the yard with the guys regularly catching up, booking the Chapel once a week to come together to support and pray for each other, as well as inviting their mates along. We are praying God will build upon this foundation so that every inmate, prison guard and visitor will know that "surely the presence of the Lord is in this place".

*Luke McCord*

## *Goodbye to an 'old' friend*

We were saddened to learn of the death of a Koori brother, Phil J, who passed away from cancer – having had a foot removed well over a year ago.

Phil was a likeable guy who was a leader in the prison, due to his strong personality and sometimes forceful manner. General Manager, Jack Pavlovic, in his address to the closing of Kairos No 7 in Mid North Coast Correctional Centre (near Kempsey, NSW) at which Phil was graduating spoke of the incredible transformation in Phil since he had first met him some years before, when he

was considered almost uncontrollable. That he had not only tempered his behavior, but completed the Kairos course as a changed man spoke not only of the Kairos program but of his own struggle to change his ways. Subsequently while he was at Mid North Coast having to undergo surgery on his foot and rehabilitation in Sydney, Phil continued to connect with the Kairos journey team and endeared himself to many of the men.

Until we meet again in Jesus' arms old friend.

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## Changes in the Treasury

Terry Clancy after having served 6 years on the Board and 5 years as Treasurer has stepped down from the Board. Integral in the constitution of Kairos are fixed terms ensuring refreshment in all areas of the ministry.

Terry and his wife Barbara became involved with Kairos over 13 years ago. Both have led Kairos courses, Terry at Silverwater Correctional Centre and Barbara for Kairos Outsider for Women – Sydney, as well as



*Terry and Barbara Clancy*

being involved in many Inside and Outside teams. He was the first to use Ezra in Australia for the Inside Course.

Terry has served on Silverwater Regional Committee and NSW State Council. He

joined the Governance Committee in 2007 and is currently the Chair of that Committee. He was involved in the formation of Kairos Outside for Men and part of the team that set the groundwork for the future of Kairos in Australia. He is now the Chair of the group that is designing and implementing a data base for use by all areas of Kairos as well as re-designing the Kairos Web site.

In an epiphany moment, Ken Peters was asked by Teri Kempe at St James Anglican Church Turrumurra (not far from the Kairos Support Office) to pray for the Kairos' need for financial leadership. After talking with the Lord, Ken, has taken up the challenge to continue the great work established by Terry.

Ken blends an English and Scottish heritage. He came to Australia in 1958, finishing his education at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He and his wife Carol have two sons, Andrew and Richard and a daughter Sara and four grand children. He has a great love of music and a long career in banking and finance. Any "spare" time was planned on writing a book as a tribute to Felix Mendelssohn, but that may have to

wait a while. He currently presents a course on retirement preparation to various groups around Australia as well as taking on the Treasury role at KPMA.

Ken we welcome you and Terry we are greatly indebted to you more than words could possibly convey. In Ken we are certain that the great financial systems and procedures that you have established are in good hands

The Lord continues to bless Kairos providing the best people to shepherd the ministry into the exciting future.



*Ken and Carol Peters*

*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
<b>Kairos Outside for Women</b>			
5-7 Jul 2013	North Queensland 2	P O Box 883 Atherton 4883	Gwen Thomas
19-21 Jul 2013	Canberra/Monaro 14	P O Box 3691 Weston 2611	Sunshine MacDonald
23-25 Aug 2013	North Coast 6	P O Box 814 Woolgoolga 2456	Jenny Beaumont
13-15 Sep 2013	Hunter 16	P O Box 221 Kotara 2289	Brooke Nelson
27-29 Sep 2013	Wide Bay Capricorn 7	16 Bayrise Drive Urangan 4655	Patricia Gorman
11-13 Oct 2013	Melbourne 9	P O Box 1010 Mitcham Nth 3132	Susan Newcombe
18-20 Oct 2013	Adelaide 18	P O Box 242 Highgate 5063	Sibylle Walker
1-3 Nov 2013	SE Queensland 26	P O Box 88 Morningside 4170	Cathy Wilson
8-10 Nov 2013	Riverina 7	P O Box 189 Junee 2663	Nola Baker
<b>Kairos Inside</b>			
1-5 Jul 2013	Wolston 3	8 Malcolm Street, Beachmere 4510	TBA
27-30 Aug 2013	Dawn de Loas 1	PO Box 169 Hornsby NSW 1630	Jon Hale
8-13 Sep 2013	Tamworth 9	7 Shiraz Road Tamworth 2340	Glen Grosser
1-4 Nov 2013	Goulburn 18	20 Symers St Kambah ACT 2902	Peter Cullen
14-18 Nov 2013	Arthur Gorrie 6	PO Box 652, Lutwyche, 4030	TBA
15-18 Nov 2013	Cessnock 20	TBA	Rod Thomson

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