

A PARTING WORD FROM JOHN

PRESS ON

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.



But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

As I write this I am very conscious that my season as CEO of this ministry is coming to its close, and that even by the time you read this it will be well into a new year, and many things will already have changed.

So I would like to leave a message of encouragement, a message of future hope for the wonderful work that you all do in response to Christ's challenge in Matthew 25 v39-40 (ERV) "When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you? Then the king will answer, the truth is, anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me."

As you know I am reliant on the great works of many other Christian writers, and this time need to recognise the work of Dr Ray Pritchard of Calvary Memorial Church in Oak Park, IL, USA.

In Philippians 3 v12 -14 Paul writes:

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect" (v. 12a).

The truth is that there is no perfection in this life.

Whenever we face a difficulty in life, we need to begin by saying, "It is what it is." *That's not easy to do.*

Often we would rather play games, make excuses, cover up, pretend, ignore the obvious, and live in fantasy land, in order to avoid dealing with reality.

But, you can't start to get better until you come to grips with reality. "It is what it is."

It's hard to admit your marriage is in trouble,
your career is on the rocks.
your dreams are smashed.
your children are struggling.
you're broke.
you have a problem with alcohol.
you've got a critical spirit.
you're filled with anger.

But there is no getting better until you say, "It is what it is." And then by God's grace we move on from there.

In our better moments we know the truth about ourselves:

We know that we're not as smart as we think we are. We're not as clever, wise, good, or as strong as we think we are.

The only thing that keeps us going is this. *Jesus is a wonderful Saviour, and he is everything we are not.*

He is strong, wise, good, holy, righteous, loving, and merciful.
He is the way, the truth, and the life.

And He is all these things all the time far more than we can imagine.

"But I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me" (Phil 3:12b).

The challenge that Paul reminds us of, the one that we must all face every day, is to remain focussed on the simple truths that:

Christ found us.
Christ saved us.
Christ has a purpose for our lives.

"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead" (Phil 3:13b).

But this new purpose is future focussed, not backward looking. Paul says we are to 'forget what is behind'.

This includes:

Our worries.
Our fears.
Our failures.
Our victories.
The attacks of our enemies.
The praise of our friends.
The accomplishments of the past year.
The good things we think we have done,
All the things we brag about.

As the football coaches like to say, "Last year means nothing." *How right they are.*

If we lost, it means nothing.
If we won the Grand Final, it means nothing.

Whatever happened in 2013, you've got to let it go.

As long as we're looking back, we can't move forward.

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:14).

No one can say with certainty what this new year, these new times, will bring.

To all our worries the Lord says quite simply: "Fear not."

Will things get worse?
Will I lose my health?
Will I keep my job?
Will I run out of money this year?
Will tragedy strike in my family?
Will my children disappointment me?
Will others ridicule my faith?

Continued on page 2

A parting word continued

Will my dreams turn to ashes?
Will I face death this year?

The answer is always an unequivocal
"Fear not".

We of all people ought to be optimistic
as we face a new season. *We have a
great future because we have a great
God.*

So chin up, children of God. Pull those
shoulders back. Put a smile on your face.
Take your troubles, wrap them up, and
give them all to the Lord.

We launch out with great faith into our
new season. We'll have our share of hard
times, but overriding it all is the promise
of God who said, "I will never leave you
or forsake you."

Lift up your head.
Be of good cheer.
The Lord is with you.

Fear not and Press on!

May the Lord continue to bless you and
all of the work that you do in support of
the Kairos Prison Ministry in Australia.

John Bignall

Port Augusta #3

The team base was the Catholic All
Saints' Parish Centre situated close
to the Port Augusta CBD. Monday
January 13th also marked the com-
mencement of five continuous days
of 40 degrees plus heat. The inside
team worked in air-conditioned
comfort but the outside team
suffered valiantly.

The maximum number of guests
for a Port Augusta Kairos is 18 due
to the size of the available rooms.
Twelve attended on the first day.
Ten guests graduated from the
Short Course on Friday, January
17th. Guest feedback commented
favourably on the singing and the
letters. All ten guests attended the
Instructional Reunion or Journey
Program on the following Wednes-
day. The Closing Ceremony speaker
was a graduate of the KPA#2
Course.

Graham Buchanan KPA#3 Leader

Kairos Outside for Women Riverina No 7

The theme "Where Healing Can Begin" and the song of the same title by
Carey Landry the composer, was used on the weekend. Our scripture verse was
taken from Psalm 147:3 "He heals the broken in heart and binds up their
wounds". How do you describe in a few words what happened at our very
special Weekend! The Spirit was certainly very evident and I was just so
aware of the presence of our awesome God within each of our guests who all
joined in the activities of the Weekend with great enthusiasm. There was lots
of laughter over the Weekend as well as some very special quiet and healing
moments in our Chapel, some tears, wonderful sharing and a real sense of
togetherness a place where healing certainly did begin!

Nola Baker Leader

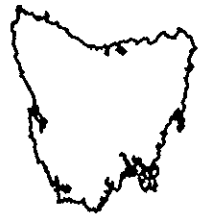
CEO UPDATE

The board has appointed a committee to seek a new CEO. The committee
meets via Skype each Tuesday evening and discusses and prays for the new
person. We have approached people we know and people we think might
know of a suitable candidate. Some people have taken the documents de-
scribing the position and one person is still considering. The committee will
seek a resume from applicants interested, interview the candidate and if all
agree will present the person to the board and the whole board will make a
decision.

ACROSS BASS STRAIT

Kairos is currently established in each state except Tasmania.

In February Mavis Hedrik and Jeff Herbert went to Tasmania to meet with
interested people to seek to form a Kairos community. Public meetings were
held in Hobart and Launceston and appointments had been
made with interested people. We hope to gather a community
and get some potential leaders to observe the Kairos Course
and then start ad hoc committees and run Kairos. If you know
of potential Kairos people in Tasmania please speak to them
and pass on contact details to the Kairos Support Office.



The next area will be the Northern Territory where we hope to start late in
2014 or early 2015. That will not complete our expansion as we have
New Zealand, Singapore and Fiji on our borders.

Glen Innes #4

We began on Monday morning with 18 participants. The inmates showed a
great range in backgrounds, skills and qualifications, but they quickly melded
into 3 supportive family groups. They worked well together and showed a very
good understanding of the content of the talks which was well demonstrated at
the poster party. They were greatly touched to see the large number of people
supporting them in prayer as they examined the Prayer Vigil.

The men were amazed that people from all over Australia and overseas were
sending posters to them. The ones from other inmates had special significance.
Each "Family" spokesman spoke of their joy and thankfulness to God for His
"Special Time". They were 'blown away' to see so many visitors at closing.

Garth Skinner GI#4 Leader

A VISION FOR A HOME



We have approached our bank regarding a loan for a permanent home for Kairos.

To finance a \$500,000 property, Kairos would require a substantial deposit. We would then pay off the balance over 15 years. The rent we are now paying would be a significant part of the repayments. We currently have about 22% of the deposit required in a high interest account. If you are in a position to contribute to our building fund please do so, all contributions over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Electronic funds transfer would be a suitable way to donate.

BSB:032075 Account: 147046 Account Name: Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

Is there more than one call?

Hurricane Carter, was a young man whose rise out of a New Jersey ghetto to the level of contender for the 1964 title of middleweight champion of the world was meteoric. Three years later he was convicted of murder and sentenced to three life terms in prison for a crime he did not commit. It was twenty one years later before the sentence was finally overturned.

He once "boxed to make a living", he says, but since his release from prison he has been fighting for the release of others whose cases are tenuous but ignored, because "innocent people in prison rarely have anyone in their corner".

Carter was a fighter who used his physical abilities to overcome the racism of his time. Now he uses his moral and spiritual gifts to fight for the rights of others.

Prison, Hurricane Carter wrote, is what helped him realise that his destiny could lie in lacing up his gloves to fight for others.

*Permission to reproduce given by
Joan Chittiser*

Database Training coming to

NSW North Coast 2-3 May 2014

NSW Nthn Tablelands 31 May-1 June

Sydney 28-29 June

NSW Hunter 20-21 July

Reflections on Closing Ceremony Arthur Gorrie #6

Yes, to be available for taking part in the Closing Ceremony there are forms to fill out and rules to be followed. But, surely a few minor inconveniences are worthwhile when balanced against the joy of seeing changing lives and hopeful hearts in such a forbidding environment.

The atmosphere in the room prior to the entry of the participants was electric with expectation. Then in they came! Smiling and bouncing, full of joy tinged with some apprehension and then really grinning at the sight of more people than they expected to be there. Just to see these men, with all the emotion on their faces and the wonder of "what is coming next" as we sang them in brought a lump to my throat.

Just to listen to men sing their pleas asking for God to bring change to their lives and to hear their voices as they testify to their renewed sense of forgiveness and unending love of God is so rewarding.

We heard testimony from one man who is sure he will be in prison for the next 20 years. He does not claim innocence, but now believes he can make a difference for others by living for God where he is.

Pray earnestly for these men and indeed for all men who have had the good fortune to experience the Kairos programme. We may never know the extent of the effect the ministry has, but we do know that the effect is positive and everlasting for those who take up the challenge to accept the forgiveness and freedom the love of God offers.

Annie & John Wacol North Queensland

An excerpt from the pages of the Mid North Coast Newsletter

I am not sure how I got involved in Kairos, but remember being sceptical at first. I believe I have a good relationship with the Lord and said "if you are not in this, make it clear". He did, and after meeting the team at the short course and experiencing what God is doing, here I am. I didn't doubt what Kairos was doing, but I like to check every spirit. I hope I can encourage other people to follow the Lord throughout their life and they get the same realisation, that He loves us all.

Rex Chapman

'Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe'.

Proverbs 29:25

