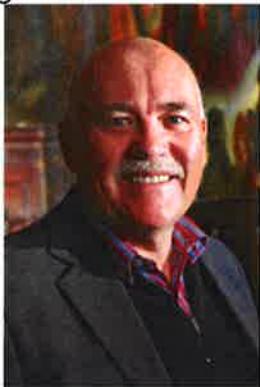


Welcome to our interim CEO Alan Soden



KPMA welcomes Alan Soden to the community of Kairos. During his 30 years in the workforce, Alan has enjoyed a diversity of roles. His experience includes management, marketing, sales, finance, journalism, engineering and trades. He enjoys being part of a team. For the past 12 years he has been a member of the CEO Institute, as well as serving as General Secretary of the Baptist Union of NSW.

Following is an interview that KSO had with Alan that reflects his life work balance.

When did you become a Christian? My mother told me about Jesus and I made a commitment to Him when I was a small boy at 4 years old.
Where did you grow up? When I was a young boy we lived in Newcastle. My family moved to West Pennant Hills in Sydney in the early 1960s. I went to the local public school, attended Sunday School and youth group the local Presbyterian church. I met my wife at Pennant Hills High School. We were both profoundly influenced by Inter School Christian Fellowship (ISCF) which was very strong at our school. We saw many young people come to faith there. We married young and built our home in Hornsby where we lived for 35 years.

Who makes up your family? My wife Janne, daughter Alison and granddaughters Sarah and Lucy, and my son Nick, his wife Phoebe and grandson Julian. Our parents are no longer living.

What do you like to do to relax? Walking in remote places... perhaps a quiet beach, or even better in the bush where there's virtually no one around. Riding my motorcycle in the hinterland around Port Macquarie.
What is your favourite restaurant if any? Love food and fellowship but I can't really say I have a favourite restaurant. We enjoy the variety that modern day Australia now offers. Even where we live in Port Macquarie there is food from all over the world. We do have a favourite local café called Bitter Sweet. It generally forms part of our morning routine of a long walk with the reward of a good coffee. Naughty cakes only rarely.

Which sporting teams do you support? None really. If I was pushed I might say the Wallabies because I played Rugby Union when I was younger. Although playing sport, rugby, tennis, squash, golf etc. when I had the time was great, I've never really liked watching it. I try to have a broad knowledge of what's happening in sport so I can relate to people in a society that's sports obsessed but you won't find me seeking out the sports section in the paper.

What attracted you to the role at Kairos? I have a good friend who has been involved with Kairos for many years and I've heard many stories of lives being changed. Some years ago I assisted with music for a Kairos program held at Long Bay. It was an amazing experience. The testimony of some of the prisoners still has an effect on my Christian walk.

Alan looks forward to meeting members of the Kairos Community.

'I was in prison and you came to visit me' Matthew 25:36

A Word from our Chair

Greetings to all the Kairos family of supporters and thank you for all you do for Kairos.

It has been a busy year and lots of wonderful things are happening. Recently at the Wide Bay Capricorn Reunion in Maryborough there were about 35 people attending including past and future leaders. I asked a past leader how many of the people were guests and how many team. She looked around and informed me that each person there had been a guest. Kairos had moved in a full circle with the guests bringing Kairos to future guests.

When Kevin Resnover left Australia he was going to a Torch closing. The Torch course was being run by the incarcerated men in the jail for the juveniles in the same institution. It will be wonderful when this happens in Australia.

We are in the end days, and Jesus said "go into all the world and make disciples". Our world is the gaols and those affected by gaol. Some gaols have many sections and we need to explore opportunities to run more than one course in the same institution. I look forward to the day when one committee is running many Kairos Courses in the one institution like Mid North Coast Kairos Inside for Men and Kairos Inside for Women.

Kairos is growing in Australia and where there is unity God blesses this ministry.

Jeff Herbert

KAIROS NATIONAL CONFERENCE MARK THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY 3-5 JULY 2015

Come and celebrate 20 years of God's blessings on Kairos at the National Conference in July, 2015. The venue will be St Mark's Residential College University of Adelaide, 46 Pennington Terrace North Adelaide South Australia.



Bring your wife,
bring your husband,
bring a friend.

Evelyn Lemly executive director of KPMA will be among one of the special guests.

Testimony from an inmate

Since doing the Kairos short course and starting the journey, my life has become so very different. I could never trust anyone, not even myself. I always believed that I was a bad person, who didn't deserve anything good in my life. Not family, friends, wife or children. I pushed everyone away, I just didn't care anymore.

Then I came to gaol, I was full of anger and hate. I never believed in any higher power, I thought it was all cow dung. Whilst I was at a NSW CC my life changed in a way that I never thought was possible. I met the guys from Kairos. At first I was very skeptical about them, why would anyone want to spend time with the likes of me. I thought that there was ulterior motives to why they were there. Over the next couple of weeks I kept going for the biscuits and good coffee.

I started to get to know the guys and I realized that they came in to see us because they honestly cared. For the first time I felt I was cared about, I started to understand the readings and the questions had such meaning to me. The enjoyment, warmth and trust that Kairos gave to myself was a potent medicine to my overall thoughts, feelings and emotions, to not only others and myself, but most importantly our Lord Jesus Christ. When I was invited to attend the Kairos short course in 2011 I was excited and felt wanted, as I wanted to learn more about God. I prayed for the first time out loud, in front of other people, I asked our Lord for forgiveness and I know that on that day I opened my door to Jesus and was forgiven. I also had the chance to apologise to one of the Kairos guys that was there, whom I had done wrong by in the past on journey. I know that we were placed there together by Jesus for that reason.

Since leaving that centre I have maintained contact with a lot of the Kairos guys by way of letters. I have enrolled and have been doing Bible studies through the Emmaus Bible College. I know that the Lord is with me always. My beliefs have changed so very much, I can now trust myself and others. I know I am a good person who cares and is cared about. Without the help of the guys from the Kairos team I would never of let Jesus into my life. My life has a new meaning and I will always live the rest of my days with the warmth of our Lord's loving, shining light beaming down on me. My faith gets stronger every day and in every way. I also want to be baptised in our Lord's name. Without Kairos I would still be the same person whom I was before we came together. I believe that they are unsung heroes, who come to places like these to shine God's light onto people who feel that they don't deserve it. Bless them all.

Used by permission of an inmate.

Former Spiritual Director's book hot off the press!



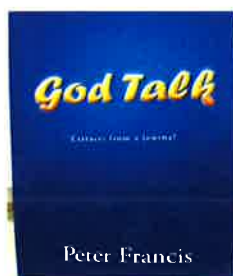
Those who have been involved with Kairos for some time, would remember Peter Francis. Peter's book 'God Talk extracts from a journal' is now available and can be ordered and pre-paid for through the KSO. \$20.00 + postage \$2.10

Peter will kindly donate a percentage of the sales made through KSO to the

building fund.

Peter's treks in Spain have given him more time to meditate on God's word and go deeper into the understanding of Scripture which he shares with the reader. It is a book that you dip into and not necessarily read from cover to cover.

Our chairman Jeff highly recommends the book 'as a good read' as does Mavis Hedrik.



Poem from an inmate's son in appreciation of Kairos

Sent to the world
Born was a King,
There laid a child,
The world would trust in.

A life laid before Him
A life not His own,
To live for His Father
And to please Him alone.

Innocent was He born
Innocent did He die
To carry the cross of man's sin
God's gift to you and I.

Now I hold to this King
And He's holding you
Only to find
He's holding me too.

He's holding our failures
He's holding us strong
With holes in His hands
His strength carries our wrongs.

So I look to my Mum
To judge not one spot
But to worship a King
Who covers the lot.

Now there's no road too long
No fence too high
No matter the mistake
Or great the divide

Nothing can stop
This message to you
"Merry Christmas Mum"
I'll always love you.

Written by Matthew P
Reprinted here with permission

The resident wrote " Thank you for the love of Jesus you bring to us in prison."

Update on the Data Base Training

Each of the regions, the regions who have been trained are in the process of updating their information within the system. Those trained at the earlier dates have now almost completed all their updating and are now exploring ways in which they can use the data to assist their region.

The User Group has continued meeting every 2nd Wednesday evening. This provides an opportunity to consider problems that they have experienced and to release new functionality.

Feedback from Riverina training:

"This database training which we are in the process of is absolutely fantastic. Terry and Jon are great and we have learnt soooooo much."

If Regions are interested in further training please contact the office 02 9987 2016.

A VISION FOR KPMA HEADQUARTERS

The Board decided that it would be beneficial for Kairos to acquire a property so that a permanent home can be provided. The current office is not large enough to provide for the growth of Kairos as new programs are established nor provide an area for team formation or training courses. Considering that a large number of Sydney volunteers are in the north-western catchment area, it is proposed to locate in that region.



Photo on this page show a property at Castle Hill which would ideally suit the needs of Kairos. It comprises a two level building, in an industrial estate, it has a good workable office fit out and is air conditioned throughout. The property could be utilised as is, plus the additional benefit of reconfiguration opportunities. It offers 6 parking spaces on site and street parking available. Out of hours when Kairos training may occur, there would be ample parking for team formation and other meetings. A regular bus service passes the site. Currently as at 30 September there is \$189,000 in the fund. We are thankful for the generous donations and hopeful of more so we can find a permanent home.

The property is currently for sale at an asking price of \$510,000. If you are in a position to contribute to our building fund please do so, all contributions over \$2.00 are tax deductible and a gift receipt would be issued. Electronic funds transfer or through the Kairos secure website or by credit card and cheque, would be suitable ways to donate.

BSB:032075 Account: 147046 Account Name: Kairos Prison Ministry Australia or www.kairos.org.au

Thinking of leaving some of your estate to Kairos, it would be most welcome as a legacy.

Testimonies from KOW Melbourne #9

- ◇ Got me through the hardest time in my life. I felt all the love from the women at Kairos. I have 3 families, Home, Church and Kairos. I could not get through without them.
- ◇ Somewhere to safely let out and share how I have been hurt and affected by someone who has committed the worst of the worst crimes. Where else can you express something so deep and painful without shirking away from you because it is too big for them to understand. Finding comfort and help from others who have been in similar situations and be able to cry without shame.
- ◇ Kairos gave me the experience of unconditional love and acceptance. It gave me a weekend away filled with encouragement without wanting anything in return. Gave me a new song to sing and gave me new friends.
- ◇ Kairos through SWAP (Share With Another Person) and personal friendships has a significant role in giving me a sense of belonging, understanding and love. I am looking forward to being part of supporting other women through Kairos. Thank you.

Goulburn #19

It was a wonderful experience watching God at work in the men. We ended up with 17 guests. They were there for many and varied reasons, but again an encouragement that among them were genuine "seekers" alongside those who come because of the food! One such inmate who spoke at the Closing admitting that he came only for the good food but was leaving with spiritual food that he hadn't expected! One from overseas came wanting to learn so much more than what he was taught and he went away rejoicing. Having been incarcerated for three years and never having a visitor he now has a Christian family both inside and outside – and the outside family will visit once a fortnight!

Two of the men had been struggling with grief over the loss of a child. Both ended up on a table together with a team member who also lost a teenage daughter recently. God works all these things out for us. Praise Him.

One had spent 13 years inside and at the Closing he couldn't wait to leap to his feet to share his story of what God is now doing in his life. He is an older man and very talented musically. We look forward to sharing more in fellowship with him.

We had an inmate with a PhD, another who wrote poetry and another with art skills. All three were touched by the Spirit. We'll never know the full extent of God's work in their lives but now we pray for His Kingdom to have more than just a foothold in X-wing, more that the Holy Spirit will so work in the lives of these Christian men there that the darkness will be lifted and more will come to see Jesus.



NAIDOC AT Emu Plains

Coinciding with NAIDOC celebrations two ladies at Emu Plains responded to an opportunity to contribute to a community initiative. The Campbelltown Church of Christ has opened a Community Pantry called "The Hub" and



the art works depicts the theme of "meeting place". Anne Willott of Emu Plains RC told us the theme resonated very strongly with the large Koori population in the local community. This is the artists' first major work – and they were greatly encouraged by the prison and to capture the very purpose of the new Centre in the artwork.

Transforms you from the inside-out—Paul's recollections of Kairos Inside from the Outside

The bible says in John 3.16 that God so loved the world that he sent his son – great words but they are even more powerful when men go as the representatives of that Son into prison to visit and share their life's story. This demonstrates to inmates that they are of value and that God has not forgotten them and that he still loves and cares for them.

How do they know this?; well every week these men of worth give up their time to come and visit them – they are not paid to do this. The Corrective Services Officers and staff, even those dedicated and caring are there because it's their job, they are paid to do it. But the Kairos guys travel sometimes from hours away and give up the best part of a day to get there for the weekly get together. They could be with family, playing sport, at work making money etc but they choose to give it all up to visit inmates. They don't get paid for that – that says volumes to inmates. It shows and tells them they are of value and not worthless that the condemnation, stigma and guilt of crime can be overcome and that someone believes in them. God's love **in action** is powerful and life changing and transforms you from the inside out.

Since my release I have been blessed with the love and support of my wife, family and friends plus good employment. My wife would tell you that I am a better person now than I was before my prison experience more confident, open and honest and accountable. This mainly because of the practical ways my spirit/soul was impacted by my days in Kairos. However I am still a work in progress.

When I look back it's hard in a few words to put down the effect the Kairos week had on me as an inmate.

While serving several years in prison I participated in several, both as a participant, then as a helper and as an observer of other inmates who attended the week. Several factors consistently stuck out –

The singing; what causes of group of hardened, wary, emotionally guarded inmates to throw themselves into singing hymns and choruses with real gusto?

The biscuits – hundreds of packets of biscuits baked by people we do not know and who don't know us personally but know we are crooks locked up and doing time for doing crime. Sure it's open to some abuse – people being stood over to get the biscuits, people being greedy etc. But in spite of that the message is profound - somebody has lovingly prepared these and wants you to have them – free no strings attached. Why? because your worth something!

The letters – When you read 60+ letters written to you personally it causes heart and mind to be impacted and softened. It breaks down the strong holds of resistance that inmates place around their emotions to protect themselves from hurt, disappointment etc.

The Kairos team – how is it that 25-30 people (plus the background support team of 10 you never meet) all from different areas, professions and work backgrounds and denominations are prepared to spend months in preparation and then come together for an intense week of long hours and work as a unified coordinated team sharing different sessions and leading small workshops etc. The unity, effort, time and teamwork displayed is amazing.

Across my years of incarceration I did many courses, successfully completed them all and I can't remember the details of one of them. It's four years since I was released (fully employed the whole time) and could make this article four times longer with the details I recall from my Kairos experiences.

From the above factors I can only conclude that this program can only be a God thing!



Open Invitation to our Volunteers to attend our Christmas Afternoon Tea and to meet Alan Soden

When: Tuesday, 2nd December 2014

At: 3:00pm

Where: Kairos Support Office—street parking

RSVP by 28 November to the Office.



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. Building Christian Community.

Course	Program	Contact Address	Leader
Kairos Inside			
29.12.2014—02.01.2015	Wolston 5	P O Box 652 Lutwyche 4030	Paul Bryden
Kairos Outside for Women			
14-16 Nov 14	Riverina 8	P O Box 189 Junee NSW 2663	Jeni Bedding
14-16 Nov 14	Sydney 32	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst NSW 2076	Wilma Prountzos

Kairos Prison Ministry Australia ABN 55 081 496 175

Office: 5/30 Leighton Place Hornsby 2077 Mailbox PO Box 169 Hornsby 1630

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