

**CEO Alan Soden**



In May I was again privileged to be at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre in NSW as part of Kairos Inside Number 12 (KI#12). Most of you reading this newsletter know the euphoria of being there when God is so obviously moving in the lives of both participants and team members. Twenty one men attended the reunion day and at the conclusion we saw half of them commit to join a small group for regular prayer and support.

It is a cliché but nevertheless appropriate to describe such times as a mountaintop experience. Mindful of this I hesitated to write about something so mundane as money but felt that I must.

Having been through team formation and served alongside my brothers and sisters with a clear mission in mind I understand that it is much easier to give your time and your money when you are personally involved and can see the results firsthand. Healthy local support is evident in the financial position of the Kairos Prison Ministry Australia (KPMA) company. The balance sheet of the company is strong but it hides an underlying problem that our cooperative ministry is resourced in a piecemeal way. With more than 3000 volunteers we are a large not-for-profit organisation. Unfortunately however we struggle to think of ourselves in that way.

Amongst other things the company structure allows us to use the Kairos program under licence, to comply with relevant government legislation, to provide insurance and even have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status which lets people obtain a tax deduction when they donate to the ministry of their local Kairos team. We also have obligations when it comes to record keeping for our volunteers. To some this may seem overly complex when viewed through the lens of local ministry.

From time to time your Support Office receives generous donations from both individuals and local Kairos communities. This is wonderful, however without a regular income it is very difficult to plan ahead.

When I began in the role of CEO we had a vision to establish new Kairos ministry in Darwin and Tasmania, and to reinvigorate Kairos in Victoria. Recently we were told about a new large prison that is to be built on the outskirts of Melbourne. At the same time we were invited to be there when it opens in two-years. We can't do these things without funding.

Kairos in Australia has had amazing growth over the past twenty years. To continue to grow we need healthy local communities but we also need to develop a cooperative approach to fund our centralised work. We must be able to plan ahead to develop new ministry and to support existing ministry when it is struggling. Psalm 24 verse 1 reminds us that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Everything we give to Kairos already belongs to God. We are not the owners but we are to be wise stewards.

Former board members have told me that this is not a new issue. Would you please give prayerful consideration to this challenge. Local communities have an income budget for each course. KPMA needs an income budget for its Support Office. The board is obviously giving its attention to the issue but for those of you who are so inclined and who may have suggestions as to how to approach this please write to me.

Warmly in Christ,  
Alan Soden  
CEO

## ***June #27***

Kairos June Short Course ran from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of April at June Correctional Centre, with 24 participants and an Outside Team of 22. The overwhelming response to the Course from both the participants and the Team was very positive. This was illustrated in particular by two instances:

The Closing Ceremony was attended by a number of visitors who had been supporting the participants by prayer, writing letters and providing biscuits. They were very impressed by the way many of the participants spoke of the positive impact the Course already had on their lives.

At the Reunion Day held ten days after the Course, all 24 participants were present – a positive indication of the benefits already gained by them from the Short Course. This was the start of the Journey program for them, which will be available every Wednesday afternoon for about two hours. Also the process of developing Prayer and Share Groups within the Correctional Centre has begun.

Success for a course of this kind is very hard to quantify but experience over the past 16 years at June Correctional Centre has shown that the lives of many Kairos participants have been changed for the better and the Management at the Centre recognise the value of Kairos by their continuing support for it.

Colum McGovern

## ***North Queensland's First Essentials of Kairos Outside for Women Training***

Kairos Outside for Women North Qld, are praising God and giving thanks for our wonderful trainers, Gill Begbie & Sylvia Kelvin. Our training was held in Atherton, on the beautiful Tablelands, God's country!

Thirty people attended, mostly Team members for KOW weekend #4, some travelling long distances, from Cairns 90 minute drive, from Tully over 2 hour drive, Townsville 5 hours drive and Charters Towers a 6 hour drive.

We all learnt lots and now have a much better understanding of why certain things are done and their timing. 22 were available for all the sessions and received their certificates.

Training was held in a private home, for which we are very grateful. It was lovely on their back patio, with fresh air.

Sunday morning worship service was held in the garden. A inspiring time of sharing and Sharon gave a challenging message.

The Tableland members billeted those who travelled including Gill & Sylvia. Meals, morning & afternoon teas at EKOWT were supplied by members. So no cost to members, but a donation box was available. Over \$400 was collected. A really great result. Looking forward to the next one in a few years time, probably in Townsville.

Gwen Thomas

## ***Another First — Kairos Inside Southern Queensland***

.It was a pleasure and a honour to lead the first short course in Southern Queensland Correction Centre.

We had a great week and we were blessed to see the Residents open themselves up to God's love and grace.

It is always a blessing to be part of a short course

I never come away from a week inside without being blown away by what the Holy Spirit does through the program, in the residents' lives. But also in us, the team, seeing them grow in their love and acceptance for the Residents.

We had a few hiccups logistically, and my Advising Leader did an amazing job liaising with the administration, as the Talks and the Meditations and the Schedule made it inside with the Team and we have the residents, God will do His thing.

The Journey Program is being well attended and all the feedback from the Chaplains and the Staff has been excellent. We have seen the Residents open themselves up to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the level and depth of sharing has been awesome.

Looking forward, we are excited about the future of our region, with the possibility of a Women's Short Course in the near future. As well as a continuing Men's Short Course. It is truly a Blessing to be involved in our awesome Ministry.

Pat Forrest

## ***Kairos Outside for Women Hunter #19***

God was certainly in charge from the moment at the beginning when I agreed to lead this special time, through to the finish of the weekend. From the moment I asked Him to send the special guests He wanted there. I felt 15 ladies would be great, however, just seven days before the start we only had four and it looked like the weekend would be cancelled? But no, through prayer in just three days, we ended up with the 15 special guests that God selected. At the closing, the majority of guests expressed very positive comments of trust, friendships, unconditional love and new beginnings. This weekend once again showed that this program is so valuable in showing that our guests are very worthy strong women and God loves them unconditionally and invites them to a new start in life with Christ as their friend.

Billie Baillie

## Mid North Coast #12

Every participant received an explanation of God, Jesus and Christianity as well as an all-to-brief experience of living in a Christian community – unconditional love; trust; prayer; forgiveness under God's grace; and the love of the Body of Christ. All the participants reported their lives were touched in some measure. Many reported life changing experiences including returning to a previous Christian life and, for some, rescue from despair. Under the call of the Holy Spirit some committed their lives to follow Christ. Around half of the participants had some previous experience of Kairos through the Journey Program. The others were new.

Over the 105 hours of the Short Course more than 750 people, including some from overseas, prayed for the team and the participants. The snacks and two meals per day were well received. The gifts of biscuits were so generous the Chaplain was able to supply biscuits to the Women's Section.

As always, we must recognise this Course would not be possible without the approval of the General Manager of MNCCC and the officers who were responsible, in particular, the Chaplain Gerard Byrnes, under whose auspices Kairos is permitted to enter MNCCC.

Vern Harvey



### Pam's Journey

Pam was a guest on KOW 14, and she had many questions about God in her heart. After the guest weekend and first reunion Pam enthusiastically joined the Tuggeranong Coffee group. In 2014 Pam agreed to come on committee to be our chocolate sales coordinator. Pam did an exceptional job and sold in excess of 100 boxes to family friends and members of the Kairos community. So much so that Cadbury's recently gave KOW Canberra Monaro a grant for \$350.

In late February this year Pam was baptised at Pine Island. Her Kairos friends were there with flags waving. Still she wanted more. She felt called to be ministering to children in a less advantaged community. In early March Pam flew out of Australia on her dream mission - one she felt called by God to undertake. She is spending the next 5 months in Samoa working with women and children who are part of the Samoan Victims of Domestic Violence Community.

Deb Poulton

### Frank Baxter— Torch #16

The Kairos Torch Program at the Frank Baxter Juvenile Correctional Centre at Kariong went ahead on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April as scheduled, despite the uncertainty leading up to the Program as a result of the illness of the Chaplain.

A special thank you to all those who prayed for the recovery of Father Ramsay and for the Program to go ahead.

We were blessed with a team of 23 faithful men and women who displayed great serving hearts coupled with a deep love for the boys. The presence of four indigenous ladies was a special blessing, as they related wonderfully well to the Aboriginal boys who formed the majority of the 18 boys that were present. In addition to the team, we had 4 observers present who were experiencing the Program with a view to possibly starting a Kairos Torch Program in gaols close by to them. Two were from Grafton, one from Canberra and the other from Tasmania.

From the reaction of the boys, the Lord was challenging the hearts of the boys and we pray there will be a long term positive response from the boys to the Lord's love that will change their lives and give them a brighter future.

On behalf of the boys, we would like to thank the Kairos Community for their prayer cover, upon which whole Program is based and the supply of biscuits and slices. Over 200 dozen biscuits and slices were donated and they prove a real treat for the boys.

Rob Williams

## Emu Plains #22

There was wonderful testimony from the women of now knowing God's love in their hearts – of lives changed – of steps taken in knowing God better and choosing now with His help to live lives that please and honour Him. We saw evidence of a care and love for one another and a desire to encourage one another. There was an openness to learn from God and a readiness to seek a deeper relationship with Him.

Many of those women had been coming to the journey program for some weeks beforehand and so for them particularly it seemed easier to 'settle in'.

Over 30 men delighted the women on Friday morning as they loved them in song, reminding them of God's grace and love for each one. The closing ceremony that evening gave the women an opportunity to share their own journey in knowing God better, affirming each other and publicly looking forward to the time ahead inside/outside in continuing knowing Him more and more. Some spoke of their intention to meet together to pray, read the bible and talk each week on the compound.

Peita Rienits

## New KPMA Board Member

Glen Banks is a stalwart of KOW in WA and passionate about Kairos, having been involved in many different roles. We welcome her.

## Peter Francis' Book



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 prepaid 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.

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.

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.

## A bouquet to Kairos

This week, preparing for Mother's Day, I have spent a lot of time thinking about what my mother has taught me. As in many families, my mother is the ballast in the bilge, the central force that has long enabled the rest of us to function, the strongest and wisest one. She is one of those remarkable people who possess both sense and kindness. She laughs at pomposity and self-importance, has little interest in money and is simultaneously sharp-eyed and forgiving.

Mum has taught me so many crucial lessons. First, that grace – showing generosity and forgiveness even to those who do not deserve it – is not weak but extraordinarily powerful. Second, that kindness is not an aspiration, but a daily practice, a muscle that, if exercised can grow strong and become a habit or a way.

Once my mother was working in Mulawa prison, as she did for many years, with a Christian group called Kairos. She was reading the Bible with some prisoners when one was told to recount the story of the women who saw Jesus after he rose from the dead. The inmate jumped to the task, ending: "Well, then the woman turns around and says: 'Jesus, where the f--- have you been?'"

An extract from an article "A Mother looks beyond a Mirror" by Julia

***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
<b>Kairos Inside &amp; Torch</b>			
24-28 August	Bathurst 19	P O Box 192 Orange 2800	Evan Harris
7-11 Sep	Goulburn 20		Wayne Scott
21-28	MNC Women 2	P O Box 2604 Port Macquarie 2444	Pauline Turnbull
28-30	Adelaide Torch 1	P O Box 242 Highgate SA 5063	Andrew Battersby
29—2 Oct	Mobilong 22	P O Box 242 Highgate SA 5063	Jim Natt
26-30 Oct	Arthur Gorrie 10	1/3 Erindale Close Wishart Qld 4122	Damien Kinnear
<b>Kairos Outside for Women</b>			
10-12 July	North Queensland 4	P O Box 441 Tolga QLD 4882	Joan Comino
21-23 Aug	NSW North Coast 8	P O Box 814 Woolgoolga NSW 2456	Marty Steltman
11-13 Sept	Perth 8	P O box 1359 Joondalup WA 6919	Gwyne
18-20	Hunter 20	P O Box 221 Kotara NSW 2289	Margaret Mildenhall
25-27	Wide Bay Capricorn 10	16 Bayrise Drive Urangan Hervey Bay QLD 4655	Val McJannett
23-25 Oct	Adelaide 23	G P O Box 945 Adelaide SA 5001	Linda Forsyth
23-25	New England 4	PO Box 195, Tamworth NSW 2340	Mariette Duns
6-8 Nov	South East Qld 30	P O Box 88 Morningside QLD 4170	Ange Wilkinson
20-22	Riverina 9	P O Box 189 Junee NSW 2663	Sharon Coleman
20-22	Sydney 34	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst NSW 2076	Deni Harden
<b>Essentials of KOW training</b>			
29-30 Aug	South Coast		
<b>Preparation for Kairos</b>			
21-23 Aug	Sydney	P O Box 169 Hornsby NSW 1630	Roberta Tsai
<b>VMS Training</b>			
18-19 Jul	Sydney	PO Box 169 Hornsby NSW 1630	Terry Clancy Jon Hale

Kairos Prison Ministry Australia ABN 55 081 496 175

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

Tel: (61 02) 9987 2016 Fax: (61 02) 9476 6258 Email: [operations@kairos.org.au](mailto:operations@kairos.org.au) [www.kairos.org.au](http://www.kairos.org.au)