

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. A great Christmas stocking filler!

How good and pleasant it is when brethren live together in unity!... For there the Lord bestows his blessings even life forevermore. Psalm 133

Kairos Outside North Qld #4

This year's Kairos from the point of view of the 12 guests that God bought along, was, I believe, very successful. From the beginning the guests seemed settled and willing to contribute thanks to the good work of the guest contacts and other team members connecting with them prior to the weekend, and meeting them and making them comfortable. Having the indigenous team members with us helped settle the 6 guests who were either Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islanders or from New Guinea. It was a pleasure and a privilege to witness the guests settling well into Saturday's program, contributing in the discussion groups and obviously becoming comfortable with what was happening.

The great decorations in the dining room for our special dinner – it looked lovely, and the guests were once again very impressed to be escorted to their tables by such a good looking lot of servant hearted gentlemen.

It was encouraging to see both the Bishop of the Anglican Church and the Chairperson of Presbytery of the Uniting Church attend the closing ceremony, and it is hoped they will be able to encourage others to attend in the future, to see for themselves what God is able to achieve in such a short time.

Joan Leader #4

kairos BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

Welcome our new KPMA CHAIR Ian Saunders



It's been an eventful few months since the last Newsletter. Jeff Herbert was forced by ill-health to step down from the role of Chair and the Board elected me to take his place. I'd like to express my thanks and that of the Board to Jeff for his unfailing service to Kairos and our hopes and prayers go with him for a good recovery. Jeff is continuing to serve on the Board until his term finishes next year and he is also supporting me on the Executive team.

My first major task as Chair was to attend the National Conference in Adelaide. This was great timing (Kairos time, maybe) as it gave me a chance to get to know more of the Kairos community. The Conference was a great success, bringing together Kairos volunteers from across Australia and also visitors from the USA: Evelyn Lemley, the CEO of Kairos Prison Ministry International and also Jim Hankins, the Chair of the KPMA Board, and his wife Beverley. I was really impressed by the positive atmosphere of the Conference, with a real sense of enthusiasm for the Kairos Ministry. This was aided considerably by the encouraging messages from Evelyn about the developments in the US and plans for continuing growth. I'd like to thank the organisers for a job well done.

Alan Soden, our CEO, decided that health and personal issues would make it impossible for him to give the necessary attention to the role and presented his resignation shortly after the Conference. Alan has subsequently joined the Board and so we will continue to receive the benefit of his experience and wisdom.

One of the issues that has been a concern to the Board for some time is the ongoing financing of the Kairos Support Office (KSO) activities. The work of the KSO is essential to keeping the ministry operating, but is largely behind the scenes and not attracting the same attention as the central activity of delivering Kairos Courses. After much discussion, including with our US counterparts at the Conference, the Board decided it was necessary to ask all Regional Committees (RCs) to directly support the KSO on a regular basis by introducing an Affiliation Fee. I have been very encouraged by the positive response from the majority of RCs, and we are now in a situation where the KSO activities can be sustained at their present level.

There have been some concerns raised about the procedures and impact of the Affiliation Fee and these will be taken into account by the Board in considering how to proceed in 2016.

A couple of events in recent months have confirmed for me the importance of providing clear policy guidelines to protect the Kairos ministry from breaching legal requirements. The Kairos practice of requiring a turnover of

leaders at all levels is essential to the vitality of the Ministry but it has the danger of losing "corporate memory", so the documentation of policies and procedures is a necessity. The new KPMA Style Guide and Workplace Health and Safety Policy are available in the Members area of the KPMA website and others will be joining them as they are developed and approved by the Board.

The Board will continue to seek ways to ensure the financial stability of the Ministry. Among the ongoing initiatives is seeking a permanent home for the KSO. The costs of this, including mortgage repayments, would be less than the current rental costs and so would free up funds for expanding the ministry.

A challenge for many Regions is attracting new volunteers to join our teams. This is key to our continuing ministry. We will be looking for ways to support each other in presenting Kairos to others so that they will make the commitment to join us. My main hope is that we can engender a sense of Kairos as a single body, with the Board, the KSO, State Councils, RCs and individual Teams working as partners. We must always remember that our goal is to grow God's Kingdom and to build up both guests and volunteers as members of His Kingdom.

Kairos Outside for Men—Sydney #5

KOM Sydney #5 was held over the weekend 12-14 June 2015 at Castlereagh Christian Conference Centre. The team of fifteen men was led by Geoff Mourade. Seven guests attended from the Sydney and Newcastle areas. The team worked very well together and were a blessing to the guests. This was the first KOM weekend that was self-catered and John Jenkins and Greg Tebbutt prepared wonderful food that was appreciated by the guests.



Some excellent testimonies were given on the weekend and great encouragement was received by team and guests.

Initial planning is underway for KOM Sydney #6 set down for 3-5 June 2016. This weekend will be held at Castlereagh Christian Conference Centre in the western Sydney area. Interest has been expressed by other regions to have a KOM operating in their areas. The possibility of having volunteers from other regions sit in on KOM Sydney #6 as Observers is being pursued so that the Observers can take the course back to their own region with assistance from KOM Sydney volunteers.

If you have any contacts with men aged 18 years and over who have relatives or close friends who either currently are in gaol, or previously have been in gaol, please send their details to komsydney@kairos.org.au and we will be keen to follow them up with an invite.

KOM Sydney Committee



Open Invitation to our Volunteers to attend our Christmas Morning Tea Please visit if in Sydney
When: Wednesday, 9 December 2015
At: 11:00am
Where: Kairos Support Office—street parking
RSVP by 2nd December 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 & Torch			
28 Dec 15—01 Jan 16	Wolston 7	P O Box 652 Lutwyche 4030	Bob Joyce
18-22 Apr	Arthur Gorrie 11	PO Box 652 Lutwyche 4030	Michael Frawley
26-29 Apr	Mobilong 23	P O Box 242 Highgate SA 5063	Peter Hill
02-06 May	Emu Plains 23	P O Box 407 Emu Plains 2750	Lynne Noble
02-06 May	Mannus 11	8 Vista Ave Batlow 2730	John Keogh
06-09 May	AMC Canberra 5	P O Box 176 Deakin West ACT 2600	Tony Jurd
10-13 May	Dillwynia 16	P O Box 3102 Rouse Hill 2155	Tammy Holder
Kairos Outside for Men			
03-05 Jun	Sydney #6	P O Box 169 Hornsby 1630	Michael Hardiman
Kairos Outside for Women			
22-24 Apr	Hunter 21	P O Box 221 Kotara 2289	Karen Fogg
27-29 May	Sydney 35	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Debby Shelton
19-21 Aug	North Coast 9	P O Box 814 Woolgoolga 2456	Bec Kerton
23-25 Sep	Wide Bay Capricorn	TBA	Samantha Gorman
14-16 Oct	Hunter 22	P O Box 221 Kotara 2289	Sue Hodges
25-27 Nov	Sydney 36	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Carmelita Mitchell

Goulburn #20

Monday afternoon after setting up in the Visitor's Centre at Goulburn Correctional Centre there was excitement in the air. The team, both inside and support, were well trained and eager to go. We had done all we could to prepare and it was now over to God to do His work.

11 of the 18 scheduled residents arrived. Naturally we were disappointed. Some quick adjustments were made. In hindsight this was all part of God's planning.

The whole course was more intimate and manageable and that engagement, trust and relationships developed more quickly. It was noticeable that in the family groups, deep and meaningful sharing started to happen more quickly than normal and bonding took place faster. We soon realised that God is not in the numbers game. He wants quality relationships not quantity. We had been praying before the Course that the residents God wanted to attend would be there, and they were. An example was Chris who arrived angry and questioning whether there was a God and who left full of peace and believing that God loved him and wanted a relationship with him.

Another example of how God was in control happened mid-morning on the Thursday, there was a lock down of all the other prisoners in the wing. Senior officers came down to have a look at what was going on in our program and to decide whether to take our participants back to their cells and lock them down as well. They saw how respectful and how controlled the situation was within the Kairos Short Course, and so allowed us to continue without interruption. At our closing ceremony, particularly during the talks by the guest speaker, Noel and the Kairos Outside for Women representative, Deni, showed that they were impacted and this had been something of importance in their lives. Perhaps this was best summed up by Alex who said "thank you for showing us the way to God".

Wayne Leader #20

"Then I heard my Saviour speaking, draw from My well that never shall run dry." KOW North Coast #8

Just some words from our theme song "The Woman at the Well" which was also our theme for K.O.W. # 8. (John 4:7 on.) Wow what an awesome weekend and the well never did run dry.

Marty said from the first team member that it was God's team and it was proven over and over again that without God in our team and our lives that we could not go forward. Without giving too much away the poster party on Saturday night proved a great hit with some very serious posters and some really funny songs. Then we were blown away by a couple of songs from four beautiful Maori Women, One on our music team and three guests. They sang in their own language and one of the ladies interpreted for we Aussie ladies. Once again tears were flowing, but this time tears of joy. Who does not love forgiveness, as we sat in the Chapel on Saturday night you could sense God's presence among us and so many burdens were washed away.

Once again our Saviour was with us as we heard some more talks and the guests were astounded to hear so many blessings that the team had received in our time of need and they felt so much hope for their own situations. One of our wonderful guests said she could not believe how she could laugh so much in such a short weekend when she had not laughed in quite some time.

Marty S Leader #8

Bathurst #19

Praise God for an amazing Short Course in the last week of August. The 23 participants began to feel comfortable from the first morning and their trust and acceptance with the team and each other grew as the week progressed.

There were mixed emotions throughout the week, with some tough times as many struggled with their past, but also moments of relief and joy as burdens were lifted as they responded to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Also excitement at feeling good as they experienced a safe place for a while and delight and appreciation for the next enjoyable meal provided by the outside support team.

At the closing ceremony some shared specific issues that had changed in their lives over the course of the Kairos week. Support from church communities was a blessing also to the participants in many ways – including over 600 dozen home cooked biscuits - which were also shared among the Centre's staff.

At the reunion day held 2 weeks later, 20 participants returned and continued to build relationships as they learned more about, and participated in, small group sharing.



Evan Leader #19

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

Kairos Inside Mid North Coast Women's #2

What an incredible experience and great honour to lead KIW Short Course # 2 at Mid North Coast Correctional Centre. We saw God do amazing things. Dry bones came to life, blinded eyes were opened, bondages were broken, prisoners set free. It was evident from the start that Holy Spirit was moving amongst the women.

A number were keen to learn more about God, with a couple saying they had seen peace on the faces of Christians and wanted to know how to find it. The ladies responded well to chapel time. It was wonderful to have our new to Kairos CC Chaplain spend quite a bit of the day, and subsequently the week, with us.

Families continued to bond well and it was evident that the Holy Spirit was present as they gave poster summaries and shared deep family insights at the first poster party. It was another great day and again we promised a better tomorrow. The atmosphere was calm and relaxed throughout the week. The prayer room received a continual stream of prayers over the next few days. Families continued to bond well with us hearing such comments as we used to pass each other in the corridor but did not speak or we never said more than hello to each other. The Spirit was stirring the hearts of the participants to love and good works.

God was moving amongst them and we could see visible changes taking place. Joy was replacing gloom, beauty for ashes. We are especially grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the management of the Centre.

To have the privilege of witnessing them wrestle with themselves and God throughout the week, of seeing seeds sown, grace and truth take root and grow, see them receive and extend forgiveness, watch God open blinded eyes, break bondages and set captives free.

Most acknowledged new found or renewed faith, love, friendship with God and each other, some an understanding of Grace that they had not previously known. They enthusiastically acknowledged individually and corporately that they are a part of the Body of Christ, The Church. Several voiced great joy in having found what they had come looking for, peace with God and a strong sense of His presence.

Pauline Leader #2

An extract from a Greeting from the Inside

There are certainly some blessings in the transit process. In transition I'm glad I carried my bible in my 'carry on bag'. Through it all I have continued to pray for victims. They may have gained a little satisfaction out of this but I doubt real peace. Without God in my life, as an angry man, I would have crossed every boundary. Thankfully for their sake they haven't crossed lines that once crossed can be soul destroying. Please keep them in your prayers.

I am able to draw strength from my faith but a lot of men have nothing I can only give thanks to God for what I have experienced in minimum security. The blessings were countless!

It was such a strange experience to stand in the yard. Looking around and had flashbacks to years ago. I stood in the yard remembering old friends and acquaintances and accomplices. Many have died. I stood there wondering if any of them came to know God. Did any of them cling to the redeeming cross of Christ before they departed this world? Did they come to know him before they stepped into eternity?

As I stood there I recalled the ungodly deeds I indulged in. But my eyes welled with tears and I couldn't stop thanking God because although the surroundings hadn't changed; although I found myself in exactly the same location all those years ago—it was a **new man** standing there. How my friend could you not thank Him for that! And that's something they cannot take away. THANK YOU LORD!

I am finding great comfort in God's assurance that I will never be tested beyond what I can endure. I continue to do business with God and for God wherever I find myself. I have found in the past that adversity has refined my character and only strengthened my faith.

God bless and watch over you as you continue to minister to the men. May His Spirit continue to direct you in all that you do. Thank you for all the cards and letters of support sent to me over the years.

Your friend and Brother in Christ.

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