

Kairos Mission Statement

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all imprisoned individuals and those who work with them, along with the families and friends of current or past inmates, thus assisting in their transition to becoming productive citizens.

A Word from the KPMA CHAIR Ian Saunders



Kairos Prison Ministry Australia is part of an international network of Kairos Ministries. The USA is the largest, with Australia second and there are also active Kairos organisations in the UK, Canada, South Africa and several Latin American countries.

Last July, Kairos Prison Ministry International held a conference to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first Kairos course, which was held in Rainford, Florida. The original prison has had some name changes, but Kairos is still active there and has held a course twice a year for the last 40 years, so has just held course number 80.

David Beck and I attended the conference representing Australia. It was great to see so many enthusiastic Kairos volunteers and hear about what is happening around the world.

One of the highlights of the trip was our meeting with Richard Glau, who is responsible for promoting Faith-based services throughout the global GEO network of prisons. There are 87000 "beds" in GEO prisons worldwide (compared with a total of 36000 prisoners in all Australian prisons). Four Australian prisons, Junee, Fulham, Arthur Gorrie and Parklea are GEO operated and Kairos is active in all of them. Richard is a great enthusiast for Kairos, though not of course involved himself, and it was most encouraging to hear his positive comments.

Richard emphasised that the reason for his enthusiasm for Kairos was the integration of KI and KO. He sees the role of KO very much as building family support for the inmates, which will encourage them to change while incarcerated and also improve the chances of avoiding recidivism after their release. Hearing this from a representative of the prison system was very exciting and has encouraged me to seek better integration between the arms of the Kairos ministry in Australia.

GEO are opening a fifth prison in Australia, at Ravenhall in Victoria, west of Melbourne. The Victorian Department of Corrections website quotes a data at the end of 2017. Richard is very enthusiastic about Kairos involvement there, and this would include KO as well as KI.

Getting Kairos up and running in the new prison will be a challenge, but it is also an opportunity to further build up the Victorian Kairos community, with close integration between KO and KI. Given that Kairos currently has only a relatively small presence in Victoria, this may need support from other States in the effort needed to attract new volunteers and supporters in the west of Melbourne. I am working with the Victorian State Council to see how we can progress this.

I hope too that all Kairos volunteers will see the value of cooperation between the arms of the Kairos Ministry. We can seek to use opportunities for KI to promote KO for the families of our guests and for KO guests to be actively seeking to encourage incarcerated family members to join the Christian communities within the prisons. Thus we'll be helping each other to grow and above all seeing more people inside and outside prisons added to Christ's Kingdom.

Thanks for your service to Kairos and God bless you.

Expanding the ministry of Kairos into Northern Territory & Tasmania

Hopefully in our last newsletter, you read of our desire to push the ministry of Kairos into new areas; firstly Northern Territory and Tasmania.

In direct response, we had a call from a newly retired couple. They would love to be a part of a small Kairos team to go for two or three months, to Darwin in the next winter season with the express purpose of promoting the new ministry to churches, pastors, groups and other key people.

If you would like to know more about this exciting venture contact the Kairos Support Office

Telephone 02 9987 2016 or email info@kairos.org.au



**Kairos Outside for Women
Canberra – Monaro #17**

It was a most blessed time for both our beautiful guests and for the team. The weekend theme was 'Love and Encourage each other' and our Song was 'Come As You Are'. We were also very blessed with paper Agape with words of love from all over the world. Over 80 messages from Inmates and other Kairos Communities lined the walls of the community room.

Some of the comments from the guests were:

- * we are so glad we came we have never experienced such a weekend.
- * can we take these wonderful women home with us?
- * we have never meet such a loving and non judgemental group of women.
- * the chance to forgive has lifted a great weight from my heart.
- * I am not a Christian but I feel I need to reassess my life and my future choices.
- * I don't want to leave this place.
- * I have never had such an emotional time – loved every minute of it.

Sandy Moore

KOW North Qld #5

One of the things I learnt being a leader requires discernment and a listening ear. Discerning where a person will fit into the team and who they will fit with. In a team of 38 people you have a lot of personalities to think about and deal with. Harmony is only achieved by fine tuning. This requires diplomacy, patience and encouragement of each team member to use their talents to glorify God. If you try to laud it over people they will fall away very quickly and reject your authority leaving you with gaping holes that are very hard to fill. If it is not the will of the Holy Spirit you may find yourself with an almost impossible task of bringing the KAIROS together. Once the first cracks of disunity appear you need to recognise what is taking place and rectify it very quickly. If every link in the chain is willing to fulfil their job and is willing to allow the next link to follow on from where they left off, God's purpose will be achieved and you will have a great weekend.

It is so important to have a very strong prayer team and I thank God for the girls I had. They took their roles very seriously and their main focus was on disunity and keeping all the team members under the covering of the Holy Spirit. I commend them on their wisdom. At all times I felt myself being upheld by prayer and witnessed many times prayer being answered, leaving me amazed and chuckling! *WHY DO WE EVER DOUBT WHAT GOD CAN DO AND DOES?*

We had twelve guests and we could see from the time they arrived it was going to be a positive weekend. They were willing to be part of the activities and made a conscious effort to connect. I was amazed with their inter-actions in their table groups – they were in such in-depth conversations and worked so enthusiastically on their activities.

Well...what can we say about the closing?? I am sure that all will agree with me that it was magnificent! I felt that the team, guests and visitors left on a high and may very well have been humming those songs we sang for the next week. Feedback from the guests was also very positive so we felt God's mission was accomplished!

Jenny Poggioli
Leader

**Kairos Outside for Women
Sydney #35**

God is our Shelter and Strength:

Psalm 46 v. 1



The theme for KOW Sydney #35 was 'Strength to Stand in the Storm' and the scripture verse was from Psalm 46 verse 1 'God is our shelter and strength.' The weekend logo which I chose was a lighthouse, standing firm on the rocks, sending out its rays of light in the middle of a storm. For me this represented the strength we can know in the midst of life's storms when God is our shelter and strength.

Saturday morning as the team serenaded the guests bright and early, two rainbow arcs were visible in the sky which was a real sign of God's love over us for the weekend.

At the Closing it was very special to see the guests come forward to share in their table groups without being prompted to do so. This immediately showed a real connection between the individual members of the three table families. Particularly moving was a guest of Maori heritage who sang Amazing Grace in Maori after she had shared what the weekend meant to her.

Some of the guest's written feedback from the weekend included comments such as 'Words fail to express my gratitude for all you did last weekend.' 'I am no longer alone.' From the very first time I was contacted up to the end of my amazing healing and uplifting experience with KOW I have been blessed a million times over.'

Praise God for all that He did in the lives of the guests (and the team) over the weekend. It was such a privilege to be used by God to bring His blessings into these precious ladies' lives.

Debby Shelton
Leader KOW#35

**Diarise the following dates
20-22 October 2017
for the
Kairos National Conference
to be held in the ACT**



CANBERRA—AMC #5

All 20 of the AMC residents listed turned up. Despite our fears about fitting 35 people in the small rooms, we made it work.

We had great fun singing, eating a lot (perhaps too much), having good fellowship together and learning to share ourselves with the Christ in each other. Some great posters were made to illustrate the talks. In the chapel times there were meditations and prayers about how we can approach God and what he expects of us – nothing really except heartfelt repentance. We also thought about our forgiveness of ourselves.

The meditation about the walls we build around ourselves, an open mike session, and finally we offered our forgiveness lists for burning as a symbolic act. Tears have been shed (and not just by the team) and tissues used freely, sometimes in happiness and joy, sometimes in release, and sometimes in repentance.

There were some amazing witnesses to the work of the Spirit in the open mike as the AMC residents talked openly about what has happened to them so far. Several of the statements by the residents included:

- “This has been a life changing experience”
- “With pride behind, and love on all sides, we move onward to hope”
- The AMC is a dark place, but the darker the place, the brighter the light of God shines.
- The following descriptions were used: uplifting, spectacular, emotionally draining and an emotional high.

The table families held prayer circles which provided an opportunity for each member of the group to pray for every other member individually.

The closing was an opportunity for the AMC residents to see that there are members of the Christian community outside the prison who do care for them and who are prepared to offer support. Several of the residents spoke of what they had experienced during the Kairos, and what they would take away with them. Most spoke of fresh or new hope, and the chance to make a new beginning.

Several of the residents have plans to start bible study groups, and your prayers to support these efforts are really needed.

One participant said that his cellmate John* refused to join him in the Kairos program and was fairly negative about Christianity. But John had been asking questions about what happened in Kairos, and the participant said that he had been sharing the talks and meditations with John each night. He then said that on the last night John asked if they could pray together

Members of the Kairos team will return to the AMC with the Journey program on a regular basis to encourage the residents, but their real need is for continued prayer.

*not his real name

Tony Judd Leader

Kairos Outside Women Nth Qld #5 From a Guest's perspective



Faith can be a wonderful thing. It can lift you up in times of need, make you strong when you need it most and lead you on adventures that you couldn't even conceive of. That happened to me recently.

"Come to a Kairos Weekend" my fabulous friend suggested.

"Whats that?" I asked.

"Just trust me" was her reply and so I did just that. My friend had never steered me onto the wrong path yet so I put my faith in her word and off I blindly went, to a Kairos Weekend. With absolutely no idea of what kind of weekend was in store for me.

Kairos is not an event, not 'just' a weekend. It is a life changing experience.

We all have a back story. Each 'guest' came from a different background, a different economic situation and even different cultural viewpoints, but I can guarantee that each of us found something that weekend that will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

It might sound clique but never have I been in a place surrounded by people where you could literally feel the love and acceptance of every person there. It totally blew my mind. The feeling of safety, of being understood and meeting others in similar situations is an indescribable feeling.

Living with fear and isolation is exhausting. To be able to let down your walls and actually take a breath brought out such raw emotions in all of us. Many of us never have the chance and to do so in such a safe and loving environment, began a healing process that I believe quite a few of us didn't even realise we needed.

I can only imagine the amount of time, energy and funding it takes to provide these weekends. I want the organisers to know that their time was not wasted. The appreciation of myself and others, could never be described with words, but I reckon that Kairos just might have saved a few lives during its time.

A heartfelt thank you to the exceptional people that organised and participated, from the front lines to the wonderful people in the background. You are exceptional.

I have to say a special thank you to my wonderful friend. Thank you for recognising and leading me along a path that I never knew I even needed.

Finally a big thanks to those that provided all those tissues.....I get why there were so many boxes now.

Used with permission



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
The unfolding of your words gives light, it give understanding to the simple.

Psalms 119: 105, 130

Port August #6



There were three family tables with thirteen guests eventually arriving. Just days earlier we discovered some names had been double registered, leaving only 17. As we moved in, we found that 4 more had been transferred to other prisons or had reduced security levels. So much for the plans of men.

God's plans went very well. The majority of guests were aboriginal, one Melanesian, one Asian Muslim and three Caucasian. All were attentive and polite. There were more than usual who could not read and some found it difficult to understand English but their fellow brothers interpreted for them.

Music was very important to many of the Aboriginal men, gladly continuing the songs during breaks and enjoying the team's instruments. It was fascinating to watch barriers disappearing as brotherhood developed. Respect and appreciation were obvious between all our guests. Poster time and breaks would often be marked by deep discussions of cultural and religious backgrounds linking with the scriptures.

I believe the guests received a deep spiritual understanding of the Christian faith and the counselling type talks had a great impact on every member. Some men sought specific counselling, others responded positively to prompting by team members who had received a word from the Lord concerning them, grateful to have prayer. Even some the letters from strangers linked to unspoken prayers by guests.

"I opened this envelope and saw a card with the exact same tree I had seen in a vision as I prayed last week. It was the same colour, same shape...everything!" He met the writer at the closing ceremony as well.

Several men had never received a personal letter in their whole lives. These meant far more than any number of cookies.

Journey Program has also blossomed since the course. Most are continuing regularly, plus a growing welcome by the earlier members. We practiced the "Spiritual Listening" exercise of the Instructional Reunion among the whole group. It went well, but at the finish when given the chance to spontaneously respond to a question in groups of three, the room went quiet as they truly listened to each other.

Cooperation from the prison was excellent, with even a surprise evacuation drill not interrupting the program. The closing ceremony allowed the kitchen to show off their catering skills and our guests to mingle with many of the names on the prayer vigil.

Stewart Hoseason-Smith
Leader

A very BIG THANK YOU to all who uphold the Kairos Ministry in Prayer

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Alfred Tennyson

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" Mark 1:35

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 2017			
02-06 Jan 2017	Wolston 8	P O Box 312 Springwood 4127	Michael Ferrar
Kairos Outside for Women			
04-06 Nov 2016	South East Qld 32	P O Box 88 Morningside 4207	Dorothy Dare
11-13	Riverina 10	PO Box 189 Junee 2663	Alison Wells
25-27	Sydney 36	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Carmelita Mitchell
2017			
28-30 April	Central West 2	P O Box 192 Orange 2800	Susan Jolliffe
26-28 May	Sydney 37	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Margaret Hudson
Kairos Outside for Men			
02-04 Jun 2017	Sydney 7	P O Box 169 Hornsby 1630	Greg Tebbutt
Essentials of Kairos Inside Training			
February 2017	Melbourne	To be confirmed see the website	