

### **A Word from the KPMA CHAIR Ian Saunders**



Some things don't change. I started the first Newsletter of 2016 with the following paragraph and 12 months on it remains true.

*Above all, my main hope is that we can engender a sense of Kairos as a single body, with the Board, the Kairos Support Office, State Councils, Regional Committees 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 faces both opportunities and challenges in the coming year and we will need to be pulling together to address them. The first challenge is to find a CEO for Kairos Prison Ministry Australia. An energetic person in this role will enable us to grasp fully the opportunities that God is placing before us. We hope to be able to advertise actively for this very soon after this Newsletter appears.

Ravenhall Prison in Victoria is scheduled to open this year and we have members actively developing links in the Northern Territory and in Tasmania, so there is no shortage of opportunities for growth. It will be great to see more people hearing the Gospel message – as Ian describes in the article adjacent to this.

Kairos depends on your support as we seek to grow. We have financial needs, but also need volunteers to take on the roles that allow the organisation to operate. Service on Regional Committees, State Councils and the Kairos Board is less glamorous than working face to face with Guests on a Kairos team, but is essential to making Kairos work as a unified ministry. If you're invited to take on one of these roles, please remember Isa 6:8: "Look, I'm here! Send me!"

Thanks again for your dedicated service to Kairos and God bless you in 2017.

From prison, Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus and reminded them of the importance of unity.

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. [Ephesians 4:1-6](#) ESV*

### **The impact of Kairos to change lives**

On the inside, It means very little unless you have spent a few years there. You see there is a chain of events we have no power to battle, no freedom or funds to fight for the most cherished of Gods gifts we eventually lose. Sadly I am one of the many who lost the houses the cars the boat but the most painful loss was that of the woman I love and those she brought into our lives, those no longer a part of my life yet forever in my thoughts, my hopes and dreams.

When I think back my last visit from the kids was at the end of 2009 and although I wrote and sent birthday and Christmas cards there was no reply. The last words spoken uttered the painful truth 'Look what you've done to Mum, look what you've done to our family' All I could ask of my sons was to look after your Mum and your sister for me.

That was the last time we spoke and the last time or saw them.

I arrived at the Junee detention centre in April 2010 another victim of blind justice now penniless and still hoping for a retrial that legal aid would not fund point I knew I finally hit rock bottom. A couple of years went by and by the grace of God and a wonderful chaplaincy team I was given the opportunity to attend Kairos 25 and yes life changed spiritually and emotionally. For the first time in years I was in the company of people who gave a damn about a person not just an inmate. After struggling to come to terms with being convicted for a number of crimes I did not commit the Kairos team were the ones who lifted the weight of my shoulders. I was given parole and left Junee jail on Wednesday the 3rd of November (Kairos night) Junee chaplaincy I trust passed on my farewell, sadly I was taken to the Villawood Immigration Detention Facility to await probable deportation to a country that doesn't speak our language (England).

Far too long story short, I guess it doesn't really matter where I am anymore because the memories of Kairos and the team will remain with me always on my next journey. I know we are asked not to say Th?nk y?u but every song we sang every cup of coffee, every bite of the veritable smorgasbord gifted to our group, every topic of interest, every moment of friendship shared and every prayer taught me to be humble. I don't use the love word that often that was reserved for my wife and children and even then I didn't say it often enough. It was a word I never heard from my parents so being six foot three and a hundred and thirty kilos this is a first. To everyone who shared 'God's Special Time' my love is with you always. Ian

The email above is replicated with permission from the former inmate

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



## Kairos Outside for Women Perth #9

The Kairos Outside for Women in Perth Western Australia held their ninth weekend from 9 to 11 September 2016 at St John of God Retreat centre.

The Retreat centre offered excellent food, luxurious ensuite accommodation and practical facilities. A real treat and comfort for the KOW#9 guests.

We received generous donations to cover the cost, not only for the KOW#9 weekend, but also for future Kairos Outside activities. KOW Perth is grateful to all who donated and helped to make this possible. We are also grateful for all the support and encouragement we received from the Emmaus and Cursillo communities.

A couple of guests commented that the Saturday night skits were a highlight for them as it *'encouraged participation'* but was also *'enjoyable and enlightening'*, whilst one guest felt that participating in the skit was *'a bit of a stretch for her'*. Activities that they most related to was the Anger talk and following anger activity, the poster and how they see themselves and most of all the personal sharing and talks. Some comments from the feedback included: *'the weekend was spiritually empowering'*, *'I received amazing, practical support and realised I am not alone'*, *'I did a lot of soul searching and received spiritual guidance'*, *'the weekend has helped me so much to reconnect with people again'*.

The KOW#9 weekend was off to an uncertain start on the Friday night as I was in hospital and not certain when or if I would be able to attend the weekend. A fitting analogy since the KOW#9 weekend theme was *'One Day at a Time'*.



The Advising Leader with the assistance from our interstate Observer did the last minute preparations and led the team on the Friday night. I am grateful that I was able to join the team and guests very early Saturday morning and was able to lead the rest of the weekend activities. The weeks leading up to KOW#9 was in God's hands as I lay in the hospital bed not able to do much, trusting that our Heavenly Father will take care of the situation and relying

on the team to step in, and most of all being blessed by the prayer, care and support shown to me by our communities across Australia. Our Heavenly Father's plan prevailed as I left St John's hospital on Friday night and arrived at St John's retreat centre Saturday morning feeling well enough to be part of the weekend activities.

Since the KOW#9 weekend the ladies has Shared With A Purpose (SWAP), attended the Reunion Group, and have stayed in contact to support each other; taking just one day at a time. Friendships have deepened and formed a strong foundation for KOW #10 in 2017.

Jenny Bothma, KOW #9 Leader

## Kairos Outside for Women Sydney #36

We were overjoyed with the number of guests we had 14 in all. The Guests embraced the weekend and the feeling of love and care that was shared amongst them was very apparent.



The talks and meditations were powerful and touched the guests and inspired them in ways I cannot describe. The reviews were well thought out and creatively presented.

It was wonderful to see the ladies' expressions when they were served the special dinner. They enjoyed the dancing and really started to relax.

The guests' responses to the weekend:

*I had no expectations – an open heart. I was coming for a reflection time. I thought it would be boring. I was lost, lonely and nervous. I had anxiety and excitement. I came to support a friend.*

*I felt special straight away. Everything was taken care of. Welcomed with love. Better than I wished for .*

*Encouraged us to participate in everything and gave us strength if things got worse. She was loving and kind. Very flexible and professional attitude. Reassuring. They were excellent. With love.*

*100%. Awesome. Lots more dancing. You can't improve on perfect.*

*I was so blessed. Because its fulfilling and rewarding. Because I gained a lot. Yes – the love of God is demonstrated.*

I feel awesomely blessed and very humbled by the outcome of the weekend. I think the guests heard the right stories of other women and that they left KOW#36 having found Joy for their Journey.

Carmelita Mitchell, Leader #36

**Diarise the following dates  
20-22 October 2017  
for the  
Kairos National Conference  
At Eaglehawk Hotel NSW  
See more details on page 3**



## **PARKLEA 4**

On Monday 10 October 2016 the team of Kairos Parklea Main #4 assembled in the visits area of Parklea Correctional Centre ready to commence the Short Course.

I want to say from the start that the Parklea staff and officers were incredible. They were helpful, obliging and understanding. Their commitment to Kairos laid the foundation for this Short Course.

At the appointed hour 22 residents and 3 resident servants arrived. It was kick off time. We broke the ice with team/resident introductions going around the circle, part of which included why they came to this Kairos. The answers varied from boredom, doing something different, meeting new people, inquisitive, food and reigniting their faith.

These men had been primed by the Holy Spirit who used one of the resident servants to basically recruit the residents for this Short Course. It generally takes until the third day before there are visible changes in the residents as they relax and begin to be vulnerable. Well, mid-way through day two the place was jumping. These men were on fire. The Holy Spirit worked on these men. Their masks cracked, their walls began to crumble and some walls smashed as all were affected by the Holy Spirit.

The clergy and team were very busy as residents sought private prayer. Recommitments resulted as every resident was visibly challenged by the Holy Spirit and all responded in varying degrees.

All residents who volunteer to attend a Kairos Short Course, for whatever reason, must be considered a hero. To be willing to be different and stand out in such a hostile environment takes courage – guts. We saw heaps of that on this Short Course.

Pride is not generally part of the Christian ethos but I must say that on this Short Course I was proud of the team God had assembled, proud of the residents He chose to attend the Short Course plus the fact that not one single resident dropped and I was humbled to be a servant of God in that place.

Ken Moore Leader PM #4

## **Kairos Outside for Women North Coast #9**

Well what a weekend we had!! It was amazing and such a blessing to see God at work, the breakthroughs and blossoming of our guests were awe-inspiring and an honour to witness.

Our prayer team did an amazing job praying for our guests and we ended up with 18!!

Unfortunately, 4 of our guests were unable to make it but I feel God thought it not their time and will keep them in my prayers for next year. The unity of and work put in by our team was amazing. Never did I expect to be so blessed by a truly terrific team, the Lord guided me well in selecting them.

Our theme for the good weekend was “Sing Unto the Lord a New Song” Isaiah 42:10 and oh wow could these ladies sing, even encouraging us to sing more songs. Watching these ladies blossom through song was such a rewarding experience. All our ladies expressed how humbled they were that so many people who didn’t know them could care so deeply and

give so much love through all the wonderful gifts they had received. The forgiveness ceremony was also a turning point in so many of the guests’ lives.

This weekend really solidified my faith in the Lord Jesus. Jesus really is in control and oversees all. For me the defining moment, that we were truly doing God’s work and that the Kairos ministry itself is worth it, came when at our special dinner I was pinning the corsages to our guests. This moment was so powerful; I could feel the Lord’s presence all around us.

To be able to give to these ladies something they had never been given before rang true as to why we do what we do

1 Corinthians 15:58: *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

Bec Kerton Leader #9

## **National Kairos Conference 20 -22 October 2017**

Yes, it’s that time again. The next Kairos National Conference will be held in Canberra from Friday evening 20 October 2017 until mid-afternoon on Sunday 22 October 2017. The Conference will be held at the Eaglehawk Ibis Styles Hotel which is close to the ACT/NSW border in a pleasant and peaceful location in bushland just off the main highway to Sydney. The hotel offers a range of accommodation from rooms with a queen bed to rooms with 5 single beds, there is also a caravan park next door ( an easy walk).

Set these dates aside in your diary now and plan on being there. There will be opportunities for worship and fellowship together with the wider Australian Kairos family, as well as time to discuss our ministry work within Kairos with others who share our passion.

There will be more information in the near future about costs, transport options and the program.

## Kairos Week 29 May — 04 June 2017



We have some wonderful opportunities to expand Kairos's Godly ministry particularly in The Northern Territory and Tasmania. Victoria and Queensland need support with new opportunities opening this year.

The intention is to share the work that God is doing in changing the lives of individuals and so to touch the hearts of others who may be able to give financially or want to be part of Kairos.

Over the past twenty years Kairos has built a strong foundation of quality Christian prison ministry and has the expertise to make a significant impact for Christ in the future.

If you would like to participate in Kairos Day please let the Kairos Support Office know.

Email [operations@kairos.org.au](mailto:operations@kairos.org.au)

Tel: 02 9987 2016

## Food for thought

God calls us to live in unity with each other, but just like in the Garden, He wants us to start by being united with Him first.

*I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.* [John 17:21 NLT](#)

Then, we can destroy division and demonstrate unity with the help of the One we serve.

*Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.* [1 Peter 3:8 NIV](#)

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.* [1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV](#)

*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.* [Romans 12:16 NIV](#)

***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>			
04-07 April	Mobilong 25	P O Box 242 Highgate 5063	Timothy Minahan
02-05 May	Emu Plains 24	P O Box 407 Emu Plains 2750	Ros Watson
08-12 May	Arthur Gorrie 13	P O Box 312 Springwood 4127	John Agnew
09-12 May	Dillwynia 17	P O Box 2102 Rouse Hill 2155	Rosalie Rofe
09-12 May	Fulham 18	P O Box 150 Churchill 3842	Luke McCord
22-26 May	Mid North Coast Men 14	P O Box 2604 Port Macquarie 2444	David Livingstone
10-14 July	Port Augusta 7	P O Box 242 Highgate 5063	Gerald Whitefoot
25-29 Sep	Mid North Coast Women 4	P O Box 2604 Port Macquarie 2444	Shirley Patmore
<b>Kairos Outside for Women</b>			
28-30 April	Central West 2	P O Box 192 Orange 2800	Susan Jolliffe
19-21 May	Adelaide 26	PO Box 63 Balaklava SA 5461	Margaret Manuel
26-28 May	Sydney 37	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Margaret Hudson
10-12 Nov	Riverina 11	P O Box 189 Junee 2663	Marlene Collins
10-12 Nov	Adelaide 27	36 Grundle St Whyalla Norrie 5608	Kathy Moore
<b>Kairos Outside for Men</b>			
02-04 Jun	Sydney 7	P O Box 169 Hornsby 1630	Greg Tebbutt
<b>Essentials of Kairos Outside for Women Training</b>			
28-30 Apr	KOW Canberra Monaro		Info - Gill Begbie
27-29 Oct	KOW Wide Bay Capricorn		Info - Gill Begbie
<b>National Conference</b>			
20-22 Oct	Eaglehawk Hotel North ACT/NSW Border		