

God's Special Time

C.I.M. Chino

C.M.F. Vacaville

F.C.C. Victorville

F.C.I. Dublin

F.C.I. Terminal Island

F.P.C. Victorville

Kairos Outside Desert

Kairos Outside S.F. Bay Area

Kairos Outside Sacramento Valley

Kairos Outside San Diego

Kairos Outside South

Ironwood State Prison

R.J. Donovan State Prison

San Quentin State Prison

U.S.P. Lompoc

Terminal Island

Kairos at Terminal Island was once again put on hold while we wait for a new chaplain. Our Christian chaplain, Nick Barnes, transferred to USP Atwater about a year ago, and recently, Head Chaplain Abdul Hafiz transferred to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Detention Center. It was a well deserved promotion for Abdul, but we really hate to see him go.

Our next weekend is scheduled for October and Rector Phil Bemis is ready to go. Phil is attempting to get into the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest serving rector of a Kairos weekend. The weekend has been put off twice so far, and we are running about a year behind right now.

We held a picnic that was attended by about 30 Kairos/Kairos Outside members. It was a great time, with great food and was probably the only picnic in the park with it's own TROMBONE player! John Sutton planned the whole affair AND brought his trombone. It was a lot of fun.

At the last Terminal Island Volunteer Banquet, Kairos won the Award of Excellence for the second time. Even with no weekend for a year (we do still hold monthly reunions) it is nice to be recognized.

The Kairos #22 weekend at FCI Terminal Island, California has been rescheduled for 11-14 October, 2002. Phil Bemis remains as Rector .
God Bless, Alan Selmanaj

Leadership Training

Having attended a recent Advanced Kairos training session, I've been asked to summarize my thoughts about the weekend, i.e., the content of the training and the significant thoughts about the Kairos ministry.

Perhaps the most important message the participants received lies in the Kairos mission statement itself: "The mission of Kairos is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition to becoming a productive citizen." Concomitant to this goal is building a strong Christian community "inside" in hopes that the prison environment overall will be positively affected.

The course particularly reinforces the unconditional and unqualified love that team members must possess to create an open and sharing environment for each candidate. Our (the team's) vulnerabilities hopefully manifest themselves in feelings of honesty and trust, not experienced in the predatory environment of the prison. "The Christ in us calls us to meet the Christ in them." Our life experiences permit them to see us in themselves, since we both struggle day to day, whether as incarcerated or as free. The instructors emphasized that "love brings on changes," and that "you can't con cons." We've all experienced that "love, love, listen, listen" is the most important opener to their hearts.

The course also differentiated Cursillo (and other similar Christian-based programs) with Kairos in a positive sense. And, (cont'd. Pg. 2)

Deadline for articles for the September newsletter is August 15. Please e-mail submissions to Jack Seybold at

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although both have similarities, from the weekend on a "short course on Christianity," the reunion and periodic get-togethers (fourth day groups and prayer-with-share times), we must keep in mind that they are not the same. As mentioned above, the residents are not returning to a loving environment after the weekend. And, a Cursillo, for example, tends to be more unrestricted vis-a-vis the rules, regulations and security issues of an institution. The residents, in many cases, have avoided "churchy" relationships most of their lives. Obviously dress, logos and outside communications, other than what is approved, are not permitted, and violations of same could endanger the Kairos program.

Other points of emphasis were: organization, planning and discipline. National Kairos continues to strive for organization, from a national level to state level, to develop a standard of program and presentation. The idea [of the training weekend] is to share common problems and provide a disciplined approach to solution. The resources available to the regions are very complete, including not just the weekend manuals, but the manuals on continuing ministry, Kairos Outside, and organizational manuals, etc. The course stressed the importance of adherence to content in meditations and talks; the when, how and why and purpose of each. One could not help to think how much time and effort had been expended in this "building block" approach.

The bottom line: variance from the program can eventually dilute the overall goal of Kairos - but discipline and conformity preserve it.

Each participant of the weekend saw the value of the training and felt it invaluable to prepare for a leadership role. Vic Perrella [Reprint from San Quentin newsletter May 2002]

CMF VACAVILLE

During the first summer three-day weekend, May 24-27, 2002, Kairos 20 was held with Al Stice as rector. Throughout team formation he was intentional about the process of, and advantages of, community building and table leader facilitation.

Prior to the weekend, a gentleman who had attended Kairos 19 in November expressed excitement about being an inside server on the upcoming weekend. At the closing this writer asked him about his experience. With a bright beaming smile, he said it was great. He said he was tired, but it was a good tired.

At open mike during the closing, Stice stepped away from the podium into the audience and gave the new members of the Kairos family an ample and unpressured opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about the weekend. He didn't return until it was evident that all who wanted to talk had had their turns.

The council's annual retreat at Silver Penny Farm in Petaluma was June 14 -16, 2002.
The Publicity Committee

Kairos....That Was Then....This Is Now!

[Originally published in 1997 - still relevant.]

In 1985, KAIROS came to California through the efforts of Dick Angel. Dick was told about KAIROS by a woman in his church whose grandson had experienced the weekend in the South. Dick was tireless in his dedication to bringing this exciting ministry to inmates in California.

Dick and an ad hoc committee approached Chaplains Paula Gold and Manuel Martinez at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin to get permission to bring KAIROS to the inmates. Shortly after that meeting, the first teams began formation for the weekends to be held for women late October and two weeks later for men (the institution was co-ed). I remember the many phone calls Dick made to me to get me on the team..."Just try one meeting," Dick would say. After weeks of fighting my unknown fears about entering a correctional institution, I finally relented and took the plunge...a step that would change my life forever. The moment I walked through the gates for the first time, I knew that I had met the enemy...and the enemy was me!

I look back at that first weekend and know that "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in this Place." What an experience! What a discovery! The transformation that took place for some immediately and later, both inmates and team, was a remarkable event. KAIROS has been proven time and time again to be a powerful experience with long lasting effects and possibilities for those who experience the unconditional love and acceptance on that weekend and the months of follow-up through prayer and share groups and reunions. (Remember, KAIROS is about the follow-up...the weekend is just the introduction!)

Two years after that first weekend at FCI, I was elected to serve as the chair of the then District Board of California. My own personal mission and that of the Board was to move KAIROS into more institutions. Les Keeler from Southern California had been in constant contact with us to get something going in that part of the state. KAIROS experienced a period of stagnation for several years as we waited for the right opportunity. Through prayer, diligence and community, KAIROS exploded into San Quentin, FCI Terminal Island and CMF Vacaville in 1989 - 1990. Chaplain Earl Smith from San Quentin (who had just attended Cursillo), Jim Dalton and I observed a weekend at Ferguson Unit in Texas as a precursor to starting at San Quentin. Paul Kupras, who had been working with HIV inmates at Vacaville, with encouragement and the support of Fr. Pat Leslie, led the first KAIROS there based on a version from Alabama for AIDS patients. Terminal Island was opened with Fr. Bill because of his experience through Cursillo in prison in Arizona. CIM Chino was initiated shortly after with the efforts of Chaplain Robert Palmer and volunteers who had experienced Terminal Island. R.J. Donovan, under the
(cont'd. On Pg 3)

guidance of Chaplain Buzz Brewer, joined the KAIROS family after starting with a similar model used in Nevada. KAIROS OUTSIDE began in 1990 at the behest of Chaplain Earl Smith and with the vision and efforts of Jo Chapman. Folsom, now CSP-Sacramento, came into being under the wing of then Program Administrator Julio Valadez. Mr. Valadez and Chaplain Pena were inspired by inmate "Gator" Lanphear, who had been on the inmate planning committee at San Quentin prior to transferring to Folsom. U.S.P. Lompoc joined the fold as the word worked its way around the penal system where Chaplain John Burke and many volunteers have worked tirelessly to keep the program strong. Haven't we all! That WAS THEN!

THIS IS NOW! Since KAIROS began in California in 1985, the number of prisons and the number of inmates has doubled! The state system now holds 160,000 inmates in 30+ prisons. KAIROS has an incredible task before it. We have spent many well focused years in building up and refining the programs at our institution of choice. KAIROS has done extensive research which indicates that less than 30% of inmates who experience KAIROS recidivate (return to prison, once released), and that less than 20% who actively participate in the program recidivate. Institutions which have active KAIROS programs have fewer problems than others. I listened to warden after warden attest to that at the National Conference this summer. We are charged to spread the word..."I was in prison and you visited me." KAIROS is blessed with the same kind of volunteers who were responsible for starting the ministry in eight prisons in California within a few years. The need for KAIROS is greater than ever because of the burgeoning prison population. Let us share our stories with each other and with new folks to build enthusiasm. Let us get our resources aligned and broaden our vision to include the thousands of inmates who could benefit by the KAIROS ministry. THE CHALLENGE IS BEFORE US! You can make a difference in the lives of many more inmates in many more prisons. I ask for your prayers for the KAIROS Ministry. I ask for your new vision and redoubled efforts.

I ask for your support when you are called to step onto the path of entering more prisons to share the KAIROS ministry.

Tom Chapman

Kairos Does Make a Difference

We know that Kairos is valuable. The men in blue who have experienced Kairos know that it is life-changing. But what do other folks think of this program? Following are reactions from three sources:

One of our number was chatting with a Correctional Officer who said, "I just love your group. They're so pleasant and easy to work with."

A female Correctional Officer who saw the men in blue outside the chapel and knew they were part of Kairos was

impressed by the mixture of races and wanted to know more.

Friends in England do a spiritual reading each morning. One such reading was written by a supporter of Prison Fellowship International. He wrote that Kairos was one initiative that has proved to be life-changing.

We are not out to win a popularity contest, but when people are impressed with our efforts, especially Correctional Officers, then our presence at San Quentin is more secure.

The real proof of God's work in our midst is in the lives of those whom we changed by our Kairos. Some are outside and making IT - some are inside and making IT. How fantastic to be part of a program that God used to make a difference.

Murray Hammond

[This article is reprinted from the Kairos San Quentin Newsletter of May 1, 2002]

Address Corrections?

Those who have address corrections for the Golden State Kairos database should send them to:

Bill Donaldson at his new e-mail address:

journewj@sbcglobal.net

If you do not have access to email, then send the address change to Bill at the return address on the back page of this newsletter.

Electronic Newsletter?

The cost of mailing this newsletter is considerable. At its January meeting the Golden State Kairos State Committee entertained the idea of asking recipients of the newsletter to send in their e-mail addresses if they are willing to receive the newsletter online.

At the time of publishing of this newsletter, there have been thirty-nine requests for email distribution. This amounts to a savings of \$8.00 in postage alone (a savings of \$32.00 per year).

The newsletter would no doubt arrive much sooner after publication if it were mailed electronically, and at a greatly reduced cost.

If the idea appeals to you, send your e-mail address to database coordinator Bill Donaldson at:

journewj@sbcglobal.net

Please include keywords "Kairos Newsletter" in the Subject line.

Due to a lack of timely input to the editor, this newsletter publishing was delayed by one month. Won't you please consider submitting articles of interest concerning your area of participation or the experiences you have had or observed on the weekend or other Kairos activity ?

Know your Golden State Committee Members

Committee Officers:

Name	Position
Denham, Robert	Chairman
Logan, Guy	Asst. Chairman
McDougal, Sharon	Secretary
Brown, Bill	Spiritual Director
Williams, Fred	Regional Rep. To Kairos
Seybold, Jack	Newsletter Editor/Publisher
Boucher, Chuck	Kairos Expansion South
Donaldson, Bill	Database Manager

Council Representatives:

Beaver, Jim	CMF Vacaville Council
Ereth, John	FCI Terminal Island Council
Geter, Marie	Kairos Outside San Diego Council
Hernandez, Pat	FCI Victorville Council
Hogan, Hope	Kairos Outside Area Committee
Langston, Cathy	Kairos Outside Southern Cal.
Matthews, Dave	USP Lompoc Council Rep.
McMahon, Sr. Thomasine	FCI Dublin Council
Olson, Bill	RJ Donovan Council
Ryan, Pat	Kairos Outside S.F. Bay Area
Topolinski, Gary	Ironwood SP Council
Ward, Lee	San Quentin SP Council Rep.

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