

God's Special Time

Kairos Prison Ministry

Quarterly Newsletter of Golden State Kairos

March, 2003

Calipatria State Prison

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

Ironwood State Prison

Kairos Outside Desert

Kairos Outside S.F. Bay Area

Kairos Outside Sacramento Valley

Kairos Outside San Diego

Kairos Outside South

R.J. Donovan State Prison

San Quentin State Prison

U.S.P. Lompoc

Splitting 2-Day Retreat Between 2 Week Ends Works Well at Vacaville

Kairos activities at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville are usually held in the Catholic Chapel. Generally, this arrangement works-out beautifully; however, with the two-day retreat we lost some smoothness on Sunday. No sooner had the day begun than it was time to break so that services for the general prison population could be held. This cost the retreat some two hours to cover moving Kairos tables and chairs, Mass, camaraderie, and moving the tables and chairs back to their Kairos locations.

In August we experimented with a new model. Instead of conducting the retreat on two consecutive days, we held it on two consecutive Saturdays. Sixty-seven inmates arrived on the first day, and every one of them returned a week later! And when they returned they were hungry to continue what they had been thinking about for the intervening six days.

The small group discussions on the second day seemed more spirited when they had extra days to think about the general topic. Another benefit appears to be increased interest of the new Kairos men. More newcomers are attending the weekly small groups than normally do after a two-dayer made on a Saturday-Sunday when time is lost for church services.

It worked so well, we are going to continue this practice in 2003.

Mike Walker

Kairos Outside Sacramento Valley

Kairos Outside Sacramento Valley is busy fundraising and also training personnel for a Speaker's Bureau to get the Sacramento churches and related organizations supportive to our cause. The training for the May weekend is starting on March 1st and Kim Gould, our leader, has put together a good group for Retreat. We will continue to use Camp Paradise in Northeast Yuba County until we find an affordable closer site.

Anne Conway

Ironwood State Prison

We are in the middle of preparation for our Kairos weekend K-9 which will be held on April 10-13, 2003. I feel blessed to have been chosen Rector. We currently have 31 team members, with one coming from Spokane, Washington. He hopes to pick up knowledge from our weekend which will help them in the Northwest (Walla Walla). It is great to see the program expanding. Also, several on our team are also working the weekend at Calipatria State Prison on March 6-9, 2003.

We have a very spiritual and strong "Inside" team at Ironwood, and they have started candidate selection. They really provide a lot of support for us on the weekend as well as active leadership for the Saturday reunions.

We look forward to a God-led weekend as God changes all of our lives.

Dick Williams

KAIROS and KAIROS OUTSIDE ADVANCED TRAINING

Golden State Kairos and Kairos Outside are holding an Advanced Training Weekend in Southern California on Friday, April 25 to Sunday, April 27, 2003. The training will be held at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Pomona, located at 676 N. Gibbs.

An Advanced Training Certificate is required for any future Kairos Rectors and Kairos Outside Leaders; however, the training is not limited to only those who have been chosen for those positions. Anyone on an Advisory Council should complete the training whenever it is possible, since those members are likely to also be future leaders.

The Pomona weekend will start at 5:00 on Friday, with dinner served, and end by Noon on Sunday, with the last meal being breakfast. The cost of the weekend is \$100 per person, which includes meals and training materials supplied by the Trainers, who will be sent from National Kairos. Detailed information is on the Registration Forms included in this newsletter, including Contact Names.

Winter Board Meeting, Orlando, FL

February 13-16, 2003

I attended the Winter Board meeting in Florida. Friday, February 14 (Valentine's Day) was devoted to committee meetings. I attended and participated in the Region 6 meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee meeting, part of the Program Review-Kairos Outside Committee meeting and the Development Committee meeting.

On Saturday I attended the Board meeting. The Board undertook several major items. I'll summarize the key items.

The Treasurer reported that the financial situation has improved from prior years. Last year the National Office had a profit of about \$48,000. The organization's auditors, Graham, Cottrill, Jackson, Batts & Hostetter, P.A. have audited the Kairos national office and issued their draft reports. The primary accountant, Michael Batts, C.P.A., gave an oral report to the Board. He stated that in the big picture they found the corporate structure of Kairos to be confusing and unclear. The fundamental issue of understanding the corporate structure, e.g., one entity with many affiliates, is required for the tax and reporting requirements of Kairos. Legal council has been engaged to verify and correct any structural problems.

Mr. Batts indicated that upon request by Kairos, the IRS has just issued a letter that our tax-exempt status is still in good standing.

The draft auditor's report identified several matters of concern. Eight were primary and are being addressed or will be addressed in the near future. These concerns are due to the limited national staff (inability to segregate accounting duties and control of assets, the lack of controls of state and local operations and need for software to track donations. All these take money for staff, additional volunteers at National, etc.

The proposed Revised By-Laws returning Kairos to the one-state, one-vote system were approved. We no longer have the Regional Representation system, although Regions will exist for networking and other matters. After the approval of the Revised By-Laws the new Board members were seated.

The chair of the Nominations Committee moved for elections of the at-large members, Ex-Officio members, Officers and the Executive Committee. The nominations were approved. Ross Anderson remains as national President and Judy Shaw is Vice-President.

The meeting then moved to the Committee Reports from the prior day's meetings. The major reports include:

The Finance Committee reported on the financial turn around from the prior year. It noted that several states had voluntarily contributed extra funds to help in the turnaround.

The Long Range Planning Committee noted several issues of concern all related to "training of volunteers." It was moved that, "Effective as of 12/31/2003, all persons serving in positions of leadership at the national, state, area and advisory levels must have attended either a Kairos or Kairos Outside Advanced training to so serve." After discussion, this motion was withdrawn and the President transferred the matter to the Training Committee for a report to the Board at the Summer 2003 Conference.

The Training Committee reported that there is a national trainers meeting in Ft. Worth on March 29 and 30, to consider changes in the Purple Manual and to address the decrease in trainings last year.

The Resource Development Committee moved the approval of the five-year development plan by the Rev. Robert A. "Skip" Hansen. After discussion the motion passed. Skip asked for help in meeting donors. The Texas Board member then announced the initial contribution of \$34,000 to the endowment fund contained in the five-year development plan. Texas has held funds contributed by one of their donors

The Program Committee reported it was currently reviewing the Purple Manual for needed updates and changes. It reported it had reviewed the proposed revised Kairos Outside manual and it then moved the adoption of the revised Kairos Outside Manual, subject to changes required by the committee. The motion passed. A new KO Manual will be printed.

A motion from the floor was made to review and update the Kairos Organization Manual. It was referred to the Program Committee.

The Kairos Outside Committee reported that is has increased to 19 states and that two more are in the process. The members put in over 1000 hours to draft a revised Manual.

The Conference Committee reported on the upcoming Summer Conference at the College of William and Mary in Old Williamsburg, VA on July 30-August 3, 2003.

John Thompson reported for the Music Committee. The national office has purchased a blanket copyright license through CCI for each state to use the CCI songs.

The Treasurer moved for adoption of the 2003 Budget. After discussion it was adopted. It was then moved that the revised and updated State Chapter Agreement be accepted. The motion passed. The new State Chapter Agreement will be sent to each state for signature by its current and all future members of the State Committees.

Fred Williams

Bob Denham on the Winter Conference

In early February I attended my first Kairos Winter Conference in Orlando. This particular conference was significant because the Board made major decisions about the representation states have. Instead of regional reps, each state now has an official Board member. This means greater representation and a much larger Board to do the work of the ministry.

I found that the Winter Conference is very much a time of work. It features committee meetings as well as the board meeting. While there are opportunities to fellowship and pray together, this is very much a time to conduct the ministry's business.

Having Fred Williams as our state representative means we have an individual who stays on top of what is taking place. Fred is well informed and is very faithful in his role as the Golden State board member. We are also fortunate to have Hope Hogan working at the international level on behalf of Kairos Outside. California is clearly well served by those we send to work for the ministry at the international level.

Bob Denham

Address Corrections?

Address corrections for the Golden State Kairos database should be sent to Bill Donaldson, e-mail address: journewj@sbcglobal.net or mail to the PO Box on the address page of this newsletter.

Lompoc Rector's Invitation

Brothers,

I hope this e-mail finds you all in good health and positive spirit. It has been four months since God completed His work on Kairos 18. What a blessed weekend that was! I've been thinking...one of the most significant aspects of the Kairos ministry is its perpetuity. It is not a one time event, a flash in the pan. Rather, it is constant and on-going. Through each weekend, reunion day and every letter exchanged with a resident, the work of God remains in continuous motion. It is a blessing and honor to have been chosen to be a part of God's work behind those gray walls.

Did you ever imagine that you would be called to prison ministry? When your old Aunty Martha pinched your cheek as a child and said, "What are you going to be when you grow up?" did any of you answer, "A member of a Christian prison ministry group"? I don't think any of us could have envisioned our individual calls to minister to the criminal because, well, that's just not a natural human thing to do. Our human nature, and just about every commercial on television these days, calls us to be self-centered, to gratify the needs of the self. God, however, calls us to turn our energy outwards to provide for the hungry, the sick, the naked and the imprisoned. As he began his ministry, Jesus went to the seashore and called His disciples one by one to join Him, to be fishers of men. It is important to note that Jesus did not command them to follow Him. No, He made the call and they chose to accept it. I'm sure those twelve original followers must have had other plans for their own lives, their weekends, their free time. It was probably not convenient to become a follower of Jesus, and some material sacrifices would have been necessary. For some, following the Son of God meant leaving behind their family and friends. Can you see the parallels to your own personal call and involvement with Kairos prison ministry?

For those of us that have accepted the call and worked a weekend or two at USP Lompoc, we have been blessed beyond the description of mere words. We have witnessed miracles occur right before our very eyes. We have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit burning brightly in our hearts. We have laughed, cried, hugged and most importantly loved God's children behind bars. Through this experience we have come to know and love God more deeply. Some of us have even experienced personal salvation through involvement in this ministry.

We all know the challenges that the Kairos commitment brings to our lives, but just as the original twelve apostles found out, the blessings of working for God are beyond measure. Soon there will be another opportunity to join God in His work as He leads us through a new Kairos weekend. I find myself humbled to tears to be serving Him as the rector for Kairos 19. When I look back at my life ten years ago I find it to be a miracle that God has brought me to the place I am at today.

And so it is with great expectation that I invite the members of the Kairos community to spend some time in prayer with God, asking Him to reveal his will for your life, specifically as it pertains to Kairos 19.

In closing, I want to leave you with an excerpt from a letter written by Michael Fay in January of 2000:

"...I will be leaving prison ministry for the time being to pursue other kinds of service. Serving in Kairos has led me to a new kind of closeness to Jesus that has irreversibly changed me. If you are reading this and have never served on a Kairos team - pray about it. I don't know of any other ministry that offers the intensity of experience or

meets such a great need. It will not be easy. But it will be awesome. I have to smile as I reflect on the wisdom of Jesus in challenging me to visit the prisoner. Yes, he knows more about me than I do — So what else is new?"

It is a blessing to say that Michael Fay will be back, serving the Lord on Kairos 19. If you too feel called to participate in the K19 weekend, please consider the following dates:

Team Meeting 1: Sat., April 5, 8am-2pm - St. Mary's in Lompoc
 Team Meeting 2: Sat., April 26, 8am-2pm - St. Marks in Santa Barbara
 Team Meeting 3: Sat., May 10, 8am-2pm - St. Mary's in Lompoc (badged members leave at 11:30 to attend reunion)
 Team Meeting 4: Sat., May 17, 8am-2pm - St. Marks in Santa Barbara
 Kairos 19: May 23-May 26, USP Lompoc

May God bless you and keep you always,

Rich Antles

Poem: "A wonderful Kairos Outside Experience"

I came to Kairos, the Holy retreat, and was gathered to the fold, they came to me.

A lonely battered heart, they seemed to make whole again.

So many things in my life were missing.

Things I could not understand,

but there came along my friend who gently took my hand.

The room filled with people.

Our thoughts were much the same.

My eyes were filled with tears; hearts were filled with shame.

I felt the solitude of pain and loss, then I took the floor.

I was meant to speak.

There was a sound of heavenly music and a melody only I could hear.

Then God spoke in words so sweet and clear.

I spoke God's words exactly as my heart gave me the song.

I have such sweet, sweet memories of that day.

The song, "Change my heart oh God".

I know that coming there that day was a mission in God's will.

I have such precious thoughts and this simple heartfelt prayer.

I thank the Lord for Kairos and those who only came to care.

These things I will remember.....

the lonely mother who received a letter from her son,
and that included everyone before the day was done.

But most of all the mission, its strength and holy love,
and the holding and releasing of a little snow white dove,
its journey into freedom, into the sky above.

Kay Horvath

What is your Advisory council up to? Encourage your Council members to share with our readers by submitting articles to the newsletter!

Deadline for articles for the June newsletter is May 15. Please e-mail submissions to Jack Seybold at gael63@charter.net

ONE WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE OF KAIROS OUTSIDE

When women come to a Kairos Outside weekend, the most touching thing for them is the unconditional support and acceptance they get, not only for themselves, but for their loved ones as well. Women, I think more so than men, are judged according to their partners. A woman who is married to a doctor will be accorded more respect and tolerance than a woman married to a pipe fitter. A woman involved with a murderer will be judged more harshly by our society than a woman married to a CEO who burgled \$100,000 from the company checking account, no matter who the woman is or the level of her education or social status. Women often are not seen for who they are, so when a woman comes to a Kairos Outside weekend, and is shown the unconditional Christ-love we share with one another, there is a profound sense of relief. It doesn't matter who her loved one is, nor what her loved one has done, it is enough for her to know that she is unconditionally accepted for who she is.

It is from this sense of being accepted, therefore, that a Kairos Outside guest will often begin a journey of faith that is deeper and more profound than any she has experienced before. Thus it is always with dismay when I observe a Kairos Outside team member or board member judge another Kairos Outside sister with harshness, perhaps for her choice of lifestyle, or for her religious preference, or even for her choice of any alternative lifestyle, such as living with someone out of wedlock, or for being involved with someone of her own gender. To me, we are all sinners. We all have something we have ended up doing by making a mistaken choice. That is what our ministry is about: learning how our choices have affected us, our loved ones, our families. We teach, as Christians, that we are always on the journey towards enlightenment and a more perfect union with our God. None of us are

perfect; we know only God is perfect.

I have to remember the things I talk about on a Kairos Outside weekend: we are imperfect, we are human, and God loves us just as we are. We teach this to the women who come to our weekends, and we teach them by being Christ to them. I would wish that my Kairos Outside sisters would love me with the same unconditional love I have for them. Part of my faith journey is to continue to open my heart in love to those with whom I disagree, whether it is their religion, their interpretation of Scripture, their way of looking at things, or my sisters' ways of living their spiritual traditions. I am not here on earth to judge others, but to learn to walk in the Way of the Lord. And my Lord is continuously teaching me to love more, to open my heart wider, to be more loving with Him as He accompanies me in my walk through His Kingdom.

Monica Greene

Weekend Calendar

Calipatria #1 March 6-9, 2003

Kairos Outside SF Bay Area #29 Mar 14-16, 2003

Kairos Outside Sac. Valley #2 May 2-4, 2003

Victorville FPC #6 May 15-18, 2003

Victorville FCC #6 May 15-18, 2003

Kairos Outside South (Pomona) #25 May 30-June 1, 2003

Kairos Outside SF Bay Area (Spanish) #30 June 13-15, 2003

FCI Terminal Island #23 June 19-22, 2003

Kairos Outside SF Bay Area #31 Aug 15-17, 2003

Victorville FPC #7 Oct 2nd-5th (2003)

Victorville FCC #7 Oct 2nd-5th (2003)

FCI Terminal Island #24 Oct. 9-12, 2003

Kairos Outside SF Bay Area (Spanish) #32 Nov. 7-9, 2003

Kairos Outside South (Pomona) #27 Nov. 7-9, 2003

Kairos, Inc.
P.O. Box 813
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**Registration Form
Kairos Outside Advanced Training
April 25-27, 2003**

**Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, Pomona, California
(map will be sent after registration is received).**

Cost: \$100 per person

Training will begin on Friday (April 25) at 5:00pm. Dinner will be served that evening. Training will end by noon on Sunday with breakfast being the last meal served. To be certified as completing the training you must be present for the entire time.

Mattresses will be provided, but you will need to bring your own bedding, toiletries and a towel. If you are traveling by air, make your reservations for Ontario International Airport. If you are coming in by air, and would like to arrange to have a sleeping bag lent to you at the church, please notify the contact person below.

Make checks out to Golden State Kairos and mail them along with the form below to:

For Kairos:

**Bob Denham
813 Nottingham
Redlands, CA 92373
(909) 798-4189
Robert_denham@redlands.edu**

For Kairos Outside:

**Cathy Langston
402 Carpio Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(909) 861-9615
forevercat@adelphia.net**

Name(s): _____

Address (including zip) _____

Phone number _____ **Email:** _____

Amount enclosed (\$100/person) _____

Do you need an airport pickup? _____

Arrival Information: _____

Departure Information: _____