

# God's Special Time

Kairos Prison Ministry

Quarterly Newsletter of Golden State Kairos

March, 2004

**Calipatria State Prison**

**Chowchilla Valley 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**

## **F.C.I. Terminal Island**

We are two months away from Kairos 24 at Terminal Island and Rector Ben Benson has had his first team meeting with close to 100% attendance. He has ten first timers and 28 seasoned Kairos Veterans. Our new Chaplain Fr. Mike has done everything he can to make this weekend a success. We are grateful for his presence.

We bid a fond farewell to Volunteer Coordinator Kay Coulson at a gala farewell. There were close to 100 people in attendance to wish Kay well.

Our monthly reunions continue each month with eager enthusiasm and we hope to add to our numbers after the next weekend. About a year ago virtually EVERYONE who had gone through Kairos was transferred after a disturbance and so on this next weekend, all of the inside team, with few exceptions, will be from the prior weekend. Look here next issue for a glowing report from Rector Benson. God Bless, Alan Selmanaj

## **New Kairos Members, Ironwood**

Eight new men completed a Friday night-Saturday Introductory Weekend in Palm Springs, CA, in late January, and once clearances with Ironwood Prison are completed, these men hope to join the team for the full Kairos weekend in April. The Ironwood Council conducts these Friday night-Saturday mini-weekends in Big Bear City (6,000 feet elevation) in August and Palm Springs in the winter, usually in January. Rector Jack Fox expressed his congratulations to the men, who come from as far away as Riverside and San Bernardino. Ironwood Council has also discovered an interest in the ministry among Hispanic churchgoers in Coachella, and is discussing the implementation of a Kairos weekend in Spanish on C Yard at Ironwood. D Yard will have their weekend, in English, April 15 through April 18, 2004.

## **Recidivism Research**

The website of the Kairos Prison Ministry in the U.K. says, "Continuing studies being carried out in United States indicate dramatic reductions in the return rate among those residents who have experienced Kairos." The following conclusion of research by Alfred Himelson, emeritus professor of sociology at Cal State, Northridge, is cautious, and might ring a bell with experienced Kairos volunteers:

"Expectations for what criminal rehabilitation can accomplish have ranged from the grandiose optimism of the 1950s and '60s to the limited optimism of the present. Many rehabilitation programs do have success, but it is likely to be limited to 10 to 15 percent when compared with similar prisoners not exposed to these environments. Many sorts of programs seem to have some impact.

Traditional efforts such as academic education and vocational training often produce positive results in well-conceived projects. Research evaluation of secular-oriented programs indicates that the cognitive-rational-emotive efforts appear to be the most successful in reducing recidivism. The evaluation of religious programs shows some positive results. Further research and methodological refinement are necessary before a more definitive answer can be given on their degree of importance.

A final note. One problem in assessing results from all rehabilitation programs is in comparing volunteers with nonvolunteers. While every attempt is made in competent studies to find a matched comparison group not exposed to the program--no matter how well the match is made--the fact that inmates volunteer for a program may indicate some real difference from nonvolunteers. The best way to deal with this dilemma is to use random assignment of inmates who volunteer into an experimental group and a control group. Lacking this resource, the alternative is to arbitrarily place inmates in the test groups. Requiring participation and using coercion to accomplish this may drastically reduce the program's effectiveness."

## **2004 Winter Board Meeting, Orlando, Florida January 30-31, 2004**

Attending the meeting were Bill Donohoo, GSK Chair, Hope Hogan, KO Area Chair, Cynthia Izzi-Wagner, KO, and Fred Williams, GSK National Rep. Tom and Jo Chapman also attended.

## **Resource Development Committee**

Bill and I attended the pre-meeting breakfast of the Resource Development Committee hosted (continued on page 2)

by Paul G. McGlone, the new Kairos Development Director, Denny Fryman, IN, Chair and John Thompson, Executive Director. Paul and Denny led the meeting and discussed some of their views of future needs of Kairos. Among them were the needs for a Kairos International Headquarters building, and traveling part-time regional representatives. During the discussion of fundraising, Jack Revell, Former Texas Chair, indicated that Texas now has state committees to assist the Advisory Councils, including a state fundraising committee that works with the councils and assists in weekend sponsorships.

#### **KO Committee meeting**

I attended the morning session of the KO Committee. Hope and Izzi represented GSK. Included in this session were the announcements of several KO #1's and states forming ad hoc committees. Congratulations KO's! A proposal for a new KO cross was put before the committee. Two models were considered, both having the KO symbol at the crossing. The model with the smaller KO symbol was adopted as the new KO cross. It was also determined that use of the new cross was optional as many KO councils use different crosses.

#### **Finance Committee**

After the lunch break I attended the Finance Committee meeting. Jim Vaive, OH, Chair of the Committee, led the meeting. John Thompson attended. The meeting was devoted primarily to the review of the financial statements of the National office for the year ended 12/31/03. State information is not included in the financial reports. The auditor's notes to these statements indicated several items for review and consideration by the Board. The Finance Committee reviewed the notes and will continue to work on the areas under the finance committee control. The committee was told of the wage review by the Executive Committee and compensation increase for the executive director. The committee also reviewed the proposed 2004 budget and moved to submit it at the Board meeting.

John Thompson indicated that the auditors still have insufficient financial data to audit the reports of the states. Because of this insufficient data and other matters the auditors report for 2003 clearly notes that the financial statements do not present fairly the financial position of Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

#### **Minutes of 2003 Summer Board meeting**

The minutes of the 2003 Summer Meeting were approved with a few minor changes.

#### **Election of Officers**

New Officers for 2004 are Cameron Cooke, NC, President; Judy Shaw, TN, Vice President; Denny Fryman, IN, Vice President; Jim Vaive, OH, Treasurer.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

John Thompson reported on the financial statements, the auditor's report and the Reportable Events noted by the auditor. These events do not indicate any existing problems, only areas that the Board needs to be aware of and to take steps to modify or correct. John also indicated that Kairos is now in Costa Rica and Idaho. We have contacts and feelers from Honduras and Mexico. The national staff now sees a need for an international person, especially one that speaks Spanish.

#### **Auditor's Report**

Michael Batts, CPA, reviewed the auditor's reports and financial statements for 2003. He reminded the Board that the statements reflect only the national office activity. The auditor's have insufficient data from the states to audit the entire Kairos program. He also noted that

this state data is of great importance to the Kairos, the Board, each state and each advisory council in that they have liability for all acts of everyone else, but they have insufficient information. He also reviewed in detail the reportable events noted to the financial statements and reports and suggested ways to change procedures, etc.

#### **Ad Hoc Purple Manual Review Committee**

The committee proposed changes to the purple manual and the adoption of two new tools. Most important was the introduction of two new tools to guide the Rector. These new tools are the "RectorWizard Team Formation Software" and the "Rector Preparation Guide." The software package is for the Rector to use in recruiting, team formation, spiritual formation, conducting the weekend and the Instructional Reunion. A short video of the software was shown. It appears to be simple to use, highly adaptive to each advisory council's needs and is currently being Beta tested in 10 selected weekends. The "Rector Preparation Guide" is basically a paper version of the RectorWizard software for the non-computer users. The data bases built in the software can be transferred to the next Rector. The Board adopted the proposed changes and use of the new tools when available. See me for the manual changes.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Jim Vaive, Treasurer, gave the report. He reviewed all of the adopted Finance Committee resolutions since 1995. He noted areas that need improvement and or changes. He then reviewed the proposed, bare bones budget for 2004 for the National office. John Thompson answered questions and spoke about the national office proposed budget. The budget, as proposed for 2004, was adopted.

#### **Development Committee**

Denny Fryman, Chairman, discussed the fund raising needs. He indicated that the Budget just approved is a "Burn Out Budget." The National Office has many needs that the budget will not allow.

#### **Music**

Due to the problems with the CCLI license for the 1997 songbook and the lack of interest in the 2003 songbook, the following resolution was adopted by the Board, "Resolved, That the National Office delegate to the State Committees the authority and responsibility to acquire, print, and maintain authorized copies of the music necessary to be used for Kairos Ministry event." CCLI has several types of licenses available. No new Kairos Songbook is contemplated at this time, nor will the National office purchase any more 2003 songbooks. (Bill Donohoo has details on the types of licenses and has a GSK proposal.)

#### **VIP Program**

The Executive Committee reviewed and proposed the adoption of the proposed new VIP Program. The program was discussed. The Board adopted the program. It replaces all the ad hoc programs currently being used formerly called AQW, SQW or whatever. (Bill Donohoo, has the VIP program book. It is available without charge for photocopy by any advisory council that needs it.

#### **2004 Summer Conference**

The Summer Conference will be at Oklahoma City University, July 28 to August 1, 2004.

Submitted by Fred Williams, GSK National Representative

Summary of Kairos Prison Ministry P & L  
January through December 2003

Ordinary Income/Expense	Jan - Dec 03	Budget 2004
<b>Income</b>		
Affiliation Fees (Nat'l Office)	257,433.90	260,000.00
Conference	121,047.87	100,000.00
Total Contributions	379,627.76	398,500.00
Horizon Income	12,521.06	13,985.00
Horizon Rent	3,600.00	4,800.00
Interest Income	875.20	1,000.00
Total Inventory Sales	192,248.35	169,850.00
Misc Income	859.01	500.00
Postage Income	11,249.03	12,000.00
Seminar Training Income	31,834.63	32,000.00
Shipping Income	2,532.36	2,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,013,827.19</b>	<b>995,135.00</b>
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>109,739.54</b>	<b>110,000.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>904,087.65</b>	<b>885,135.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Total Administrative	151,773.67	168,750.00
Total Communications (Newsletter)	37,879.40	31,000.00
Conference Expense	96,218.99	90,000.00
Events Expense	492.85	500.00
Exe Director Discretionary Fund	481.34	3,500.00
Expansion Outreach	8,083.23	8,000.00
Total Horizon Expense	13,659.36	13,985.00
Total Insurance	93,805.55	118,100.00
Long term planning Expense	2,989.51	3,000.00
P2P Devotionals	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Personnel	334,509.38	359,524.00
Recruiting	536.35	400.00
Rent	37,160.09	45,000.00
Total Telephone	10,940.54	11,500.00
Total Training	22,655.80	24,000.00
Webpage Expense	939.40	1,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>817,125.46</b>	<b>883,259.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>86,962.19</b>	<b>1,876.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>86962.19</b>	<b>1,876.00</b>
Accrued Receivables - \$5,375 mo	75,250.00	
The Natl Christian Foundation		
<b>Net Income with adjustments</b>	<b>11,712.19</b>	<b>1,876.00</b>

**THE CUBAN PRISON SYSTEM -  
REFLECTIVE OBSERVATIONS c 2000**

An excerpt from an article by Prof. Jill Soffiyah Elijah

Clinical Instructor, Criminal Justice Institute, Harvard Law School

Since the island nation of Cuba experienced its successful revolution in 1959 its prison system has been evolving. Despite accusations of harsh human rights abuses from its neighbors to the North, Cuba today maintains a prison system that is in many respects far more humane than Western propaganda would have the uninformed public believe.

I was pleasantly surprised during [my trip to Cuba] when the opportunity arose to visit a men's prison. A group of conference attendees traveled by bus to the prison and when we arrived we were not searched and our belongings were not checked. We did not sign in or out. Nobody asked to check our identification. I have never entered [a U.S. prison] without a thorough search of my person and my belongings. Government issued photo identification is always required.

Although we were given a tour of the prison we were free to wander off and talk with the prisoners unmonitored. We walked all around the facility and were allowed to go into cells, work areas, the cafeteria, hospital, classrooms, recreation area and any other space we chose. This we were allowed to do unaccompanied. The prisoners wore street clothing.

Although one might think that this must have been a minimum or medium security prison, there are no such institutional classifications. Prison institutions are not characterized by security level. Rather prisoners of varying security levels are all housed in the same facility.... All prisoners, regardless of security level, are afforded at least four family and conjugal visits a year. Prisoners with the lowest security classifications are afforded more frequent family and conjugal visits than higher security classified prisoners.

Prisoners in Cuba are incarcerated in the province in which they live. This is done to facilitate regular contact between prisoners and their families. This contact is seen as an integral part of the prisoner's rehabilitation. Families are incorporated through joint counseling into the rehabilitation process. Each prison is staffed with professionals who are trained to assist the family and the prisoner plan for his or her re-entry into the community. The focus is on rehabilitation as opposed to retribution and punishment.

Prisoners or their families may request conditional liberty passes. These are similar to furloughs and are granted to allow the prisoner to tend to his or a family member's health. The furlough time is counted as part of the sentence.

Prisoners are not obligated to work. Work is considered a right of the prisoner so that he can earn an income. Prisoners are allowed to work in the same sort of employment as they held prior to their incarceration if it is available at the facility where they are being held. They are compensated for their labor at the same wage that free workers are compensated. They are not charged room and board no matter how much they earn. Similarly, they do not have to pay for their education, medical, dental or hospital care or any other activities they experience. Social security benefits and pensions are available to all prison laborers. In the event of a prisoner's death, his family will receive his pension. A portion of the prisoner's earnings is sent to his family. Even if a prisoner does not work, his family will be cared for by the State.

The goal of the Cuban prison system is to return people to the community as productive contributors as soon as possible. Therefore the focus is not on punishment, but rather on rehabilitation and reeducation. Perhaps this goal would be a useful addition to the prison system that has evolved in the United States.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY  
TO OUR KAIROS OUTSIDE FAMILY  
from Kairos Outside, SF Bay

Those who have address corrections for the Golden State Kairos database should send them to Bill Donaldson at his e-mail address: [journewj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:journewj@sbcglobal.net) or mail the change to Kairos, Inc., PO BOX 813, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

#### **In Memoriam**

"Gene Robinson (I'll miss him dearly) was the gentleman that, for many years, collected the mail from our state PO Box and diligently assembled the returns on the newspaper mailings as well as other correspondence," writes Bill Donaldson.

George Brown adds: "Prayers [are asked] for his lovely and devoted wife Helen, also a stalwart member of our community, and his surviving children. "

"The family requests a donation to Kairos, CMF Vacaville in lieu of flowers be sent to PO Box 813, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Condolences may be sent to the home at 1312 Vintner Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566."