

God's Special Time

Kairos Prison Ministry

Quarterly Newsletter of Golden State Kairos

September, 2002

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

Robert Denham, State Chairman

What a great time was had in Jacksonville! Along with well over 200 volunteers from all over the US (and a few from foreign countries) those of us from California experienced outstanding training, moving testimonies, excellent music and speakers, and scrumptious food at the Kairos Summer Conference. At least twenty-one Californians were present to represent our ministries, learn, and enjoy fellowship. There were Kairos Outside volunteers, people from at least five of our prisons, Northern Californians, and Southern Californians. More than once I heard veteran attendees say this was one of the finest National Conferences ever.

The training sessions were both informative and interesting. Several of us learned a lot more about Torch, and shed tears at a powerful Kairos Outside presentation that featured Hope Hogan as one of the presenters. The tribute to the "Nine Old Men" was one of many highlights; and those of you who know them need to ask Mary and Don Haynes about the reunion of the men who made Kairos # 1 at Union Correctional Institution, the very first Kairos ever held.

Our state rep, Fred Williams, represented us at the Board meeting, where some very important decisions about the structure and finances of Kairos were made [See page 2]. At our next State Committee meeting (October 19 in Southern California) we'll get a chance to discuss those decisions. In fact, the National Executive Director, John Thompson, will be at that meeting to share with us what the decisions will mean. Even if you're not on the State Committee, you're invited to attend that meeting. This will be a great opportunity to hear the person responsible for the day-to-day management of our ministry. If you are not on the committee and would like information about the time and location of the meeting when the details are finalized, you can email me and I'll get it to you. (robert_denham@redlands.edu). Back on the California scene, we continue our efforts at expansion, glorious weekends are taking place, trainings are ongoing, and recruitment of new volunteers goes on. Keep all these efforts in your prayers and follow Christ wherever you're led!

In His service, Bob Denham, Chair, Golden State Kairos.

KAIROS OUTSIDE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

August 16-18, 2002, was the date for Kairos Outside 27 at Holy Redeemer Center. Doris Marowsky was the leader and chose "On Eagle's Wing" as her theme. Sixteen women came to share the weekend and during the closing shared how they were incredibly blessed by their experience. The one thing the women most commonly realize is that they are much stronger than they had come to believe themselves to be. This empowers them to view the world differently and approach life with another perspective.

September 14, 2002 the annual parking lot sale happened. An assortment of items was available for purchase. The location in Oakland was ideal and sales were good.

The Publicity Committee is nearing completion of its work on the oral presentation. They anticipate using it almost immediately. Recently a presentation was made to a Spanish-speaking community. It was well received, a good number of questions were asked, and the participants expressed how much this ministry is needed within their community.

Kairos Afuera 28 will be November 15-17, 2002. Olivia Ramirez is leader for the weekend, and has chosen as her theme "No Estoy Sola." Both Olivia and Observing Leader Yanira Orellano took the opportunity to observe Kairos Outside 27 to more fully understand the fundamentals of the weekend.

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITY - VACAVILLE

The June retreat at the Silver Penny Farm gave the council the opportunity to transact business that time at the monthly meeting does not permit. A list was made of potential rectors, parts of the bylaws were amended, and new council members are being sought after. November 8-11, 2002 will be next weekend, and Rich Carmella, from Walnut Creek, is slated to be the rector. Team formation is forthcoming.

John Thompson's summary of the highlights of the national board meeting:

Dear State Chairpersons:

We had a very successful summer conference. Those of you who were present helped us celebrate our 25th anniversary. Thank you. At summer conference the National Kairos Board passed several important motions which will effect how we operate. For everyone's benefit, and especially for anyone who was not able to attend, let me recap them for you:

(1) The affiliation fee was raised to \$15 per candidate or 10% of gross receipts, whichever is greater (there was no effective date. I assume the board wanted the new formula implemented within a reasonable time). There is still some ambiguity on the definition of "gross receipts". The board seemed to agree that all cash and other cash equivalents would be included, but food items and other supply type items purchased by a volunteer and used on the weekend would not unless the donor received a tax deductible receipt. Any questions about this should probably be directed to Jim Vaive (jimvaive@rroho.com), our finance committee chairperson;

(2) The board voted to continue with our one corporation legal structure. This means we will continue doing business as Kairos, Inc. with our states and foreign countries as chapters under one corporate umbrella. This will allow the board and national office to coordinate all corporate and tax issues. In each state where we operate the National office will take care of compliance with your state regulations regarding how we are to file with your state government, and comply with your state solicitation laws. No state organization or advisory council needs to file anything or incorporate anything. If there is a question about a legal or tax issue in your state, it should be forwarded to the Kairos National Office;

(3) The board voted that each state should have a state treasurer who is the person responsible for the financial accounting of Kairos Prison Ministry in your state. Most states will have one treasurer who will make deposits and write checks for the entire state. Some larger states may choose to have area treasurers who then report to the state treasurer. The board requires that beginning January 1, 2003 each state will have a treasurer in place using either Quick Books or Quicken. We will furnish a suggested charter of accounts from our finance committee and accounting firm. This will allow for consistent and accurate accounting within our 30 chapters. The state treasurers will send the National Office profit and loss statements, balance sheets, and their affiliation fee on a quarterly basis. This will permit us to have financial integrity throughout our ministry, and allow for audited financial statements. Every state chairperson will need to help implement these changes between now and January 1st.

(4) The board voted that our political system would return to one state one vote. Our foreign countries would continue as another chapter of National, and each country would also have one vote on our board. We would have 25% additional at-large members. Since this requires a by-law change, Ross has appointed Cameron Cooke to head the by-law committee to work with staff to present necessary by-law changes at our Winter conference. I'm sure Cameron would welcome ideas and assistance from any interested state. As it stands now, Skip, Jo and I will prepare proposed changes for the committee to review. The other issue is how large should the executive committee be and how should it be selected. One proposal is to assign slots to regions. My concern

about that method is that it will not necessarily give us the diversity and skill sets we need. We would like to see the board's nominating committee be involved so the executive committee can properly represent the diverse interests in our ministry, and not just fill geographical slots.

(5) A recommendation was made to call our 8th table the "qualifying table" or "qualification table" because some rectors thought we couldn't have a qualifying table unless we had at least seven tables for the candidates. A recommendation was made to have a staff person in the national office to assist with our volunteer diversification outreach efforts.

(6) We are planning a wardens/prison administrators conference to take place during our Winter Conference. The conference this year will be held during the week of February 12-16, 2003 in Orlando at the Holiday Inn Select near the Orlando Airport. The board is hopeful the state committees will become active in inviting those persons from their states who need to go (as opposed to just inviting our friendly wardens). The current limit is approximately 40- 45. Anyone having specific questions should contact Ken McKellar, chairperson of our prison administrators committee. Ken's e-mail is (security@doc.state.sc.us). If this is to be successful, each state needs to pay for the warden or prison administrator's expenses (if permitted by your state's department of corrections).

(7) Any of you who want a DVD or VHS copy of our 25th anniversary banquet program, please contact Skip.

(8) The board voted to approve our proposed Kairos Strategic Plan for 2002-2007. Copies of our ministry plan are also available upon request.

In Christ, jat

About this newsletter

The subscription to this newsletter is free (although donations to offset the cost would be cheerfully accepted). The cost of mailing is steadily increasing, approximately \$0.25 per person per issue, although a large number of people have asked for email delivery (many thanks to those that have volunteered). When the delivery address on the newsletter is incorrect, the Post Office, per our request, sends it back to us with the correct address, if known. As a result, you may not receive one or more issues until the address is corrected in our records. We could allow the mis-directed newsletter to be forwarded automatically, but, when this occurs, very often the "Forwarding Order Expires" and we incur the cost of mailing to "dead letter" addresses. This expense of returning is costing more today than ever - \$0.70 per piece. We are asking that you send us an address correction so that we may correct our records before incurring that \$0.70 charge. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

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.

Children's Day - FCI Dublin

God continues to bless the FCI Dublin Kairos Women's ministry. Our volunteers were privileged to participate in two exciting events. It was truly a labor of love, and a pleasure to participate in Children's Day on July 20th at FCI Dublin. Volunteers began this special time with prayer while waiting to greet 150 children who participated in the event. A variety of activities and crafts were provided that included face painting, jewelry making, games and many hands-on projects that provided a wonderful opportunity for a special time of sharing between the moms and their kids. The mothers shared a sumptuous lunch with their children, and much to the delight of the children, they were also provided with popcorn, hotdogs, cotton candy and drinks, which they seemed to consume in huge amounts.

Kairos volunteers provided a different assortment of arts and crafts for the morning and afternoon sessions. Children's Day at FCI Dublin (main facility) was a smashing success and the children wanted to know if we could 'do it again' the next day. Then on August 10th at the FCI-Dublin Camp facility, the faithful Kairos volunteers returned to assist in providing a wonderful Children's Day at the Camp for 38 additional children. Moms and children were able to experience a day of sharing and doing projects and just having fun on a wonderfully beautiful California day.

What a gift this was for the volunteers as they experienced the joy and the swelling of hearts as they saw the women laugh and play with their children and saw the kindness and love that was on their faces and also the tears that some cried together. Truly this was God's Special Time, and what a blessing to be able to share in these events.

A special thanks to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and support staff, Beth Ochoa, The Chaplainry and the assistance of a volunteer from the Girl Scouts of America and our own very special Jo Chapman. It was a combined effort that made Children's Day an awesome success. God asks us to give our time, our prayers, our good works, and our money; our generosity will make a difference - both on earth and in heaven. Giving and sharing as volunteers is the key ingredient in experiencing a life of freedom and joy.

We request prayers from the Kairos community for our upcoming Kairos #31(Women) at FCI Dublin on October 12, 13, and 14, 2002. The theme will be "Come To The Water" and Penny Manchester will be Rectora.
DeL'ois McBride

Smilies

The Washington Post's Style Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some recent winners:

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the reader who doesn't get it.

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very high.

Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously.

Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like a serious bummer.

Tolerance

(from a New York Times column by Thomas Cahill: The One True Faith: Is It Tolerance?)

The forces of the Enlightenment that exalted tolerance in the West were given their impetus by the European wars of the 16th and 17th centuries in which Christian was pitted against Christian - wars over points of doctrine that must have looked exceedingly abstruse, even absurd, to non-Christians, who could see only similarities between the warring systems. One might well wonder if this Enlightenment would have emerged with such vigor had the battles involved Christian against Jew - or, more exotically, against Muslim or Buddhist or Zoroastrian. Protestants and Catholics had to learn to be tolerant of one another - of different forms of Christianity - before they could learn to tolerate those whose religions were non-Christian.

In a similar way, the Muslim world is more likely to develop the virtue of tolerance as it surveys the hopelessly diverse ways in which different communities and peoples have responded to the core insights of Islam. What do Turks have in common with Taliban, or Wahhabi Muslims with Sufis? Very little, it would seem at first glance. What do Sunni Muslims have in common with Shiites? If non-Muslims can see similarities, warring Muslim factions can often see only deadly differences.

The West should not allow itself too many congratulations on its vaunted tolerance. In Northern Ireland, Catholic children are still unable to walk to school without hearing vile epithets hurled at them by foul-mouthed adults. In Britain, a Catholic may still not serve as prime minister or sit upon the storied throne of Edward the Confessor. The Vatican, for its part, first blessed tolerance as a civic virtue a scant 36 years ago - at the close of the Second Vatican Council. Prior to that time, the official Catholic position was little different from that of the mullahs of Kandahar: when we are in power, we will impose religion as we see fit.

This new Catholic blessing of tolerance - which took the form of a declaration that religious liberty is the right of every human being - was made possible chiefly because of the life and work of two uncommon human beings. The first was the courtly Jesuit theologian John Courtney Murray, who was able to reinterpret Catholic political theory to give theological primacy to freedom of conscience. Not incidentally, he was a 20th-century American, deeply in love with American political ideals.

The other was John XXIII, the pope who convoked the council with the express aim of bringing the teaching of the Catholic Church up to date. John lived his life as a man of tolerance; he hated using religion to divide people from one another. Many historians today consider him the greatest pope who ever lived, a man beloved by people of all kinds throughout the world. As he lay dying, his secretary read to him from mountains of sympathetic letters. One correspondent wrote, "Insofar as an atheist can pray, I'm praying for you." Hearing this, John, despite his pain, smiled with delight. For him, the common bond of humanity was all that was needed for profound friendship and understanding - and a little humor always helped.

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

Kairos #4, FPC Victorville, May 2 - 5

"Stay with Jesus"

Our scripture was Galatians 5:22 - 23, The Fruit of the Spirit. Our theme: Stay with Jesus; and our song was "Woke up this Morning with my mind stayed on Jesus." The entire team, along with the weekend, was filled with constant restructuring from start to finish. It is humbling and uplifting to know that God is in total control.

We started with 24 women on our outside team and had great team meetings. They worked just like they were supposed to - binding us together as one. However, one week before the beginning of our weekend inside the prison, we were informed by the chaplain that they would not be able to provide an escort, as they usually do, and that our team would be scaled down to the 14 badged women on the team. This was heartbreaking for the women who were not being allowed entrance, and it was discouraging for the rest of us. This meant that we would go in with one clergy and no musician. But God has a plan.

There is no such thing as a bad weekend, but this weekend was absolutely AWESOME.

God had structured the preparation so well that we only had to reassign one talk. The prison was gracious enough to allow us to bring in a boom box, but there was no need for it. We sang a capella. We had 14 women on the inside team, and 19 candidates - the largest group of candidates we've had to date.

God's hand was all over this weekend. Not only did He take care of the music, with no musician, but He also used the talks to

minister to the women. It was clear that each talk was given by the right woman with the right message. The ladies inside were absolutely blessed, as were the team members. The bonding, the loving, the sharing and the faith were so strong. God's hand was all over it.

By Saturday morning, the ladies inside had already got the meaning of Kairos. They were already encouraging each other to take what they were learning out onto the yard, not wanting to lose what they had just found out. They had taken the scripture "Fruit of the Spirit" and were beginning to live it. We could learn a lot from them.

Angela Tasker

San Quentin

The Kairos retreat scheduled for San Quentin in October has been postponed due to the absence of both the chaplains, Catholic and Protestant. Lay Leader David Peironnet is hoping to maintain his hardy group of volunteers and their enthusiasm for the rescheduled retreat in February.

Meanwhile, San Quentin Advisory Council chairman Tony Irving and treasurer Patrick Hall have sent out a fundraising appeal for the support of the San Quentin Kairos program.

Deadline for articles for the December newsletter is November 15. Please e-mail submissions to Jack Seybold at: gael63@earthlink.net

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