



2010 #2

KAIROS OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

Where are we now?

In our last issue we covered the beginnings of Kairos in Georgia, recounting the establishment of the first weekend at Stone Mountain CI in 1985 and the following year at Augusta Correctional Medical Institution. In the intervening years we've expanded into many more institutions and seen many changes. Some institutions have closed even as we added new ones. We now stand at 25 state prisons: 23 for men and 2 for women.

In addition, Kairos of Georgia now includes two Kairos Outside ministries for female relatives of incarcerated men and two Torch ministries for juvenile offenders.

In this issue we'll give you a snapshot of our current activities, beginning on this page and continuing on page seven. We've listed the start date of each institution, how many weekends have been held, and the average number of volunteers. We've also included some deeply moving moments that occurred on the weekends.

Savannah Advisory Council:

Rogers State Prison (Reidsville) (Men) Nov. 1999 — 22 Weekends

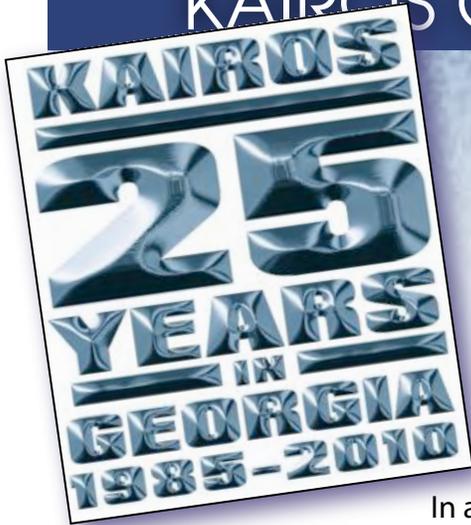
Coastal State Prison (Savannah) (Men) Mar. 2010 — 1 Weekend

Average active volunteers: 110

About five years ago, two opposing gang leaders were at separate tables but each sharing the same weekend. These are "tough" guys who command a lot of respect among the inmates. Gangs are prevalent in correctional institutions and offer some level of security for members who may be recruited in a number of ways. Major fights can ensue when gangs oppose each other. It is a way of life.

During the weekend, a major topic which is presented and discussed is *forgiveness*. It concludes with a powerful offering up to the Lord, those names of individuals that each participant has held in unforgiveness. It is private and totally voluntary.

Participants are given an opportunity late in the weekend to share with the rest of the group their feelings about the weekend and any changes that may have occurred. One of the gang leaders publicly told of his forgiving the other gang leader and the two came together in an embrace and public pronouncement of what the Holy Spirit had done for each of them. It was a remarkable experience which is hard to imagine in this male dominated, hostile environment.



Where are we going?

By Mike Jones

Kairos Prison Ministry International celebrates 25 years of active ministry in Georgia this year. The state committee has requested that all advisory councils set aside the month of October, and specifically, Sunday Oct 17, to “Celebrate 25 Years of Kairos in Georgia.” We want to emphasize four points: recognizing God’s blessings for 25 years; awareness-raising through a fully-coordinated celebration of the Ministry; fundraising for future efforts; and recruitment of

new team members and supporters.

We’re focusing our efforts on churches and Fourth Day Communities (our primary sources of support) with a special emphasis on those churches where church members have already served as Kairos team members. Depending upon the local Advisory Council, this should also be a great opportunity to approach other churches in their areas where none of their members currently serve on a Kairos team.

Strategy

- Advisory Council (AC) Chairpersons will be responsible for coordinating activities within their communities.
- Use veteran team members to “spear-head” celebration activities within their home churches – there’s local credibility and “a foot in the door.”
- The GA Kairos State Committee will provide suggested schedules, agenda ideas and resource materials.
 - Many resources are currently available on the GA Kairos website:
 - “25th Anniversary Church Bulletin Insert”
 - “25th Anniversary Booklet”
 - Presentation aides (videos, handouts, guides, etc.)
 - Specifically, the state committee will also provide to each AC:
 - A letter from the State Chairman that the AC can use when communicating with local pastors, i.e., seeking their local support for:
 - 3-5 min talk during worship service by a current Kairos team member (preferably also a member of that church)
 - Incorporation of a church bulletin insert for Oct 17
 - Possible designated offering for Kairos
 - News release/fact sheet regarding Kairos in Georgia for use in local awareness raising
 - GA Kairos will also send a letter/package to all Fourth Day communities in the state of Georgia urging their support of Kairos. A consolidated contact list of all these Fourth Day communities will also be provided to each AC to encourage development of local dialogue.
 - The State Committee is also investigating the opportunity for obtaining appropriate community and state-wide proclamations.

Since 1985, Kairos has progressed in the state of Georgia from serving just one institution to ministering in 25 prisons and two Youth Development Centers, while seeing over 13,500 prisoners complete the course. More and more families of the incarcerated are also being served by

our Kairos Outside ministry in North and South Georgia. Let’s take this unique opportunity in October to publicize what Kairos has meant and what it might continue to mean in advancing the Kingdom. Truly, God has blessed this ministry – to Him be the glory.

KAIROS ON THE RIVER

A Report on The 2010 KPMI Summer Conference

Alice Dickerson

The KPMI Summer Conference was held in San Antonio, TX this year and Georgia was well represented. Jim Miller and I attended as the official International Council Representatives and Pete Pfeiffer attended a portion of the conference as the State Chairperson. Lee Turner attended and presented 2 workshops on website design and development. All four of us divided up the meetings and workshops so that we could cover as many of them as possible.

The main business that was conducted was the approval of the new Kairos Inside Program Manual. There are still a few minor

proofing and editorial changes that need to be made, but we expect that the new manual will be finished in time for the Spring 2011 weekends. The number of changes are substantial (talks, meditations, scheduling, etc) but they all have received widespread approval during the recent pilot tests at 12 institutions around the country.

One of the areas that received the most comments was the addition of the **optional** talk called the Prodigal Daughter. Many were pleased that at least it remained optional for Women's Inside weekends. I have asked Lee Turner to publish a list of changes in an upcoming Kairos Kronicles,

so please be looking for that. The new manual will be "red," although, it appears to be more maroon than anything else.

Because of some resignations on the KPMI Board of Directors we were asked to fill 2 vacant slots that would come from the International Council and one slot that came from the community. There were 2 nominees for each position. Our past State Chairman, Jim Miller, was elected from the International Council and Albert Holmes (a Georgia resident) was elected from the community.

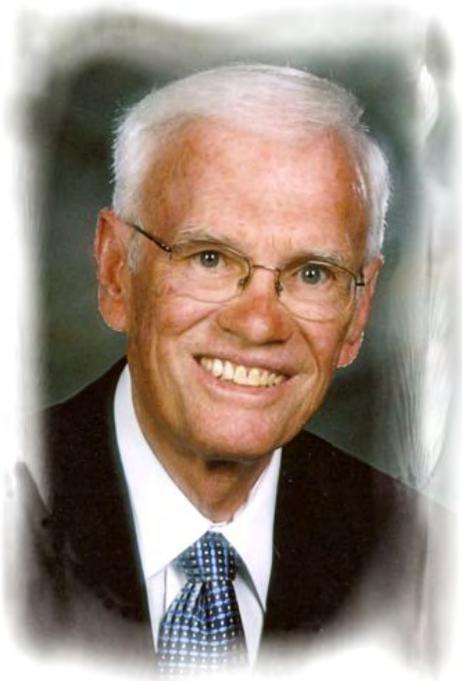
There was a wide variety of workshops and I will expect that in the weeks to come, many of you will reap the benefits of what we learned and the changes that the International Council and the Board of Directors have proposed and overwhelmingly approved.

In Georgia, we are way ahead of the game. KPMI is updating the Kairos Excellence Initiative and discussing its implementation as a tool to improve the quality of our ministry.

We were given the opportunity to participate in the financial audit last year and as the entire ministry begins to undergo the audit, we are well positioned going forward for our portion of the audit.

Next year's KPMI Summer Conference is in Nashua, NH.

Can atheists get insurance for "Acts of God"?



What You See is Not What You Get

An Introduction to Alphabet Soup for Kairos

*By Ken Cooper, Graduate of Kairos 13, Union CI,
Raiford, Florida, November 8-11, 1983*

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRISONERS WHEN THEY ARRIVE FOR THE WEEKEND

What a
Kairos
volunteer

sees and hears from an inmate during the Kairos Weekend is not necessarily the real who, what, and why of the person. I am convinced this stems not from the desire of the inmate to manipulate, please the team members, or fit in; it comes from the tremendous difference between their two worlds.

The Team comes from a World of choices.

The team member's World is a place of decisions, of busy-ness and business. The team member lives in the privacy of his own home. He lives with his wife, children and pets. His home is a place of love, comfort, good food and respect. He is loved. He works for his living or is retired. His is a positive, uplifting, "normal" environment. There isn't enough time in the day for him to do all he wants or needs to do. He comes and goes as he pleases. He is considered a success. He has a realistic hope for the future.

The Candidates come from a World of few decisions, idleness and boredom.

His World is characterized by loneliness, idleness, boredom and virtually no privacy. His world is a cold place of inhumanity where he strives to maintain his sanity. He exists. He is homeless displaced person. He has no wife and is separated from whatever family he has left. He is unloved,

uncomfortable, forced to eat bad food, sleep on bad beds, and is continually bombarded with disrespectful, degrading, foul language. His is a negative, depressing, homosexual, abnormal environment. For him, time stands still. He is considered a failure. He has little hope or an unrealistic hope for the future.

Their two Worlds meet at a place out of time called Kairos.

It is truly a miracle that their two worlds meet. Except for a timeless place called Kairos they wouldn't and couldn't. But the Kairos Weekend serves as moment out of time where they can meet. For the candidates and the team, from Friday through Sunday, there is no past. There is no future. There is only Now as each participant is visited by I Am, the eternal timeless Word of God, Jesus Christ.

This is not to say each and every candidate becomes a follower of Christ or a committed Christian during the weekend. Many volunteers expect them to, but I believe this is generally a false expectation. Unless the team is informed about the World from which the prisoner comes, unless the team is instructed about the baggage the candidate lugs to the Family Table, its members will carry with them unreasonable expectations and inaccurate assessments of the inmates, of their world and of the Weekend.

Because of these problems inherent in the Kairos experience, my wife June and I brainstormed a list of characteristics of prisoners. We call it Alphabet Soup for Kairos. I will share that with you in a few minutes, but first I want to talk to you out of my heart about my Kairos experience so you will know where I'm coming from.

I would undoubtedly still be locked up in prison today except for Kairos. I would still be serving out my 99-year sentence. I owe my freedom to Kairos. It is an understatement to say I love Kairos. My weekend gave me hope and began a process that would eventually set me free inside the fences. And I believe I hit the streets sooner because of my Kairos Weekend and the Christian life style it started.

I recently visited with two prisoners who agreed with me. They each served a lifetime in prison. One served 42 years straight up and the other, 33. They shared my strong sentiments for Kairos. They told me through tear-filled, grateful eyes that their Kairos weekend was the most important weekend of their lives. They said it started a process, a change, a faith that ultimately set them free in prison. But they said it took several years for Kairos to really sink in and take effect. Why is that? Well, that's what I'm here to talk about to you today. I call it Alphabet Soup for Kairos.

Alphabet Soup for Kairos

Characteristics of Prisoners on Thursday Night

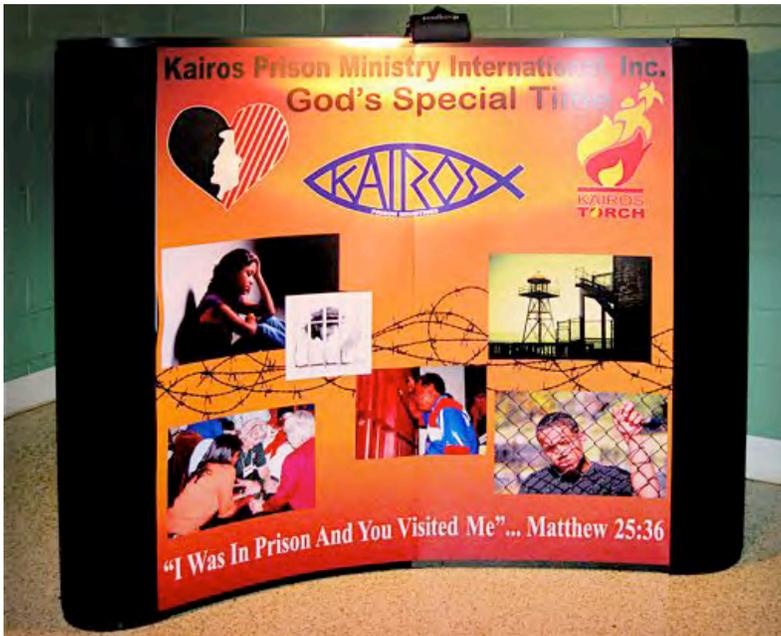
Each candidate should be accepted with an open mind, but the Kairos volunteer should know the likely psychological and spiritual baggage the prisoner lugs to the Family table.

Given a scale of one to ten, each candidate could be rated on the following Characteristics:

A lone, adjusting
B eholden, bewildered, bored
C areful, cool, calculating
D efeated, defensive, dependent, dehumanized, deserted, divorced, delighted
E arnest, evasive, energized
F earful, friendless
G rasping, groping, gawking
H opeful, hurt
I ntrospective, isolated, immature
J udged, judging, jumpy
K inetic, knowledgeable
L eary, lost, letdown, lowly, lethargic, locked away
M iserable but masking, myopic
N egative, nervous, neglected
O ffside, offended, offensive
P ensive, perturbed
Q uestioning, questing
R eticent, rejected, reaching
S uffering, skeptical, self centered, stranded, separated
T roubled, tense, trying, testing
U nloved, unreal, untested, "up"
V exed, vulnerable
W ary, watching, wronged
X ed Out
Y oung, yes man
Z ephyrous



New Display Available to Promote Kairos



The Georgia Kairos State Committee has procured a professional-grade table top display for use at conventions or large meetings where the Kairos Ministry can be promoted at a booth or display area. The 6 foot by 5 foot pop-up display (complete with accent light) neatly folds into a special carrying case for easy shipping or transport – even though it weighs almost 40 pounds. The display can be scheduled on a first-come basis by anyone who has the opportunity to promote Kairos in a convention-like venue. All you need to add is a “talking head” to manage the booth and informational handouts (available from either the Georgia or KPML websites). Contact Mike Jones at 229-924-0120 or mandgjones@mchsi.com for details.

Website Update

Thanks to the vision and expertise of many, the Kairos of Georgia website continues to evolve into the standard for other State Chapter Committees to emulate. Since the last update, the site has undergone some additional content changes that you may or may not be aware of. For those communities not yet onboard, please consider doing so. It's not mandatory, but some of those that have created their own community sites are reaping benefits. Here are some examples:

Metro State Prison has some documents and guidance that only applies to Metro reunions, as well as initial and renewal badge instructions and their current and past newsletters. What many do not recognize is that once you upload a document to the website, it can never be lost by a local user's computer failure.

We've updated the institution map as additional communities come online.

We added the Participant Data for the Women's Inside weekends.

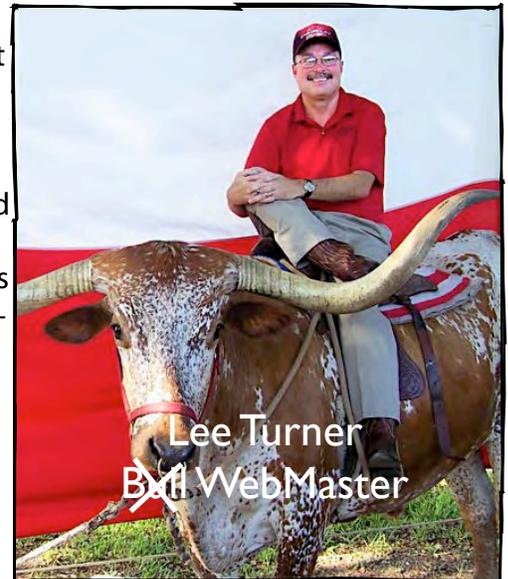
The New Starts Procedures have been finalized and uploaded.

Our **Get Involved** online form is regularly getting used by folks wanting to know how to get involved in the Kairos Ministry or get more information.

We have recently added 2 Kairos Outside videos and the world-famous Silent Choir video from Marion Correctional Institution.

We should be posting a Planning Guide for Advisory Councils in the very near future. Response to the draft has been overwhelmingly positive.

Thanks to all those who have suggested changes, made corrections, and helped keep our data current by submitting information in a timely manner. If you know of something that we need to add that would benefit our volunteers in Georgia, please don't hesitate to let us know.



Augusta State Medical Prison (Men) June 1986
(Originally Augusta Correctional Medical Institution) — 46 weekends

We actually have some volunteers who are still active who were at Kairos #1. These include Rev. Kurt Miller, Jim Cordell, Bob Astalos, and Perry O'Keefe. Bishop Lou Lindsey, most recently in Tennessee, was also in that group and plans on joining us for Kairos #47.

During Kairos #7, the Holy Spirit visited the entire team in the Chapel at ACMI. Perry O'Keefe was the Leader and it was the first time we had residents with HIV. As the team and residents filed back into the Chapel, following the forgiveness ceremony in the courtyard, the musicians played three songs. The first was "I'll Fly Away," then "Redeemed" and finally "Would You Be Free." As the men sang the refrain, "There's power, power wonder working power, in the blood of the Lamb" a loud boom reverberated through the chapel. Suddenly men started laughing, crying,

leaping and falling to their knees. It was like a mighty wind swept through the chapel. We didn't know how long it went on until it spent itself. We realized it was the Holy Spirit so as the residents went back to their dorms we left to go back to Marvin Methodist Church singing "Let the Fire Fall."

The next morning the residents reported that when they returned to their dorms that evening, they described the following: They said. "The other residents in the dorm fell back from us when we entered the dorms that evening. They were afraid of us because our faces were 'glowing.'" This reminded our team of the way the Israelites responded to Moses after he had talked with God. The people fell back in fear, because his face was shining. Moses had to wear a veil to keep from frightening them.

Hays State Prison (Men) Fall 1999 — 22 Weekends

Hays State Prison Annex (Men) Spring 2008 — 4 Weekends

Average active volunteers: 80 -100

During Kairos #12, a moment happened that I don't think may have happened in any weekend. During the closing and after the Open Mike, one of the CERT officers came to me and asked if he could speak. He spoke of a very difficult time in his life and mentioned that he received

most of his support from the inside Kairos community during this tough time. He of course made a joke about still having to do his job but gathered much strength and love from the participants from the inside.

Walker State Prison (Men) — 2 Weekends

Started with monthly reunion group meeting around Fall 2008

Average active volunteers: 86

Walker SP Kairos started with a few residents who had been to Kairos in other facilities. They started praying that Walker SP would have a community. Our first leader had a desire to do something in ministry that would last. That led him to work a weekend at Hays SP and soon the prayers of those residents were answered with the doors opening at Walker SP. Our first leader had to relocate due a job outside the state. The Kairos

ministry continues, having completed 2 weekends now and just getting the Advisory Council in position to serve. God is truly doing the work in our lives and families whether it be resident, volunteer, or correctional worker. God has used Kairos to touch lives for him. We all are truly amazed, as a Kairos brother says, to be on a front row seat to miracles.

Autry State Prison (Men) 1998 — 22 Weekends

Average active volunteers: 65

A memorable event which I did not get to witness but is often told is when Jim Houseal, one of the team members at Autry, told a resident that he loved him, the

resident fell to the ground sobbing and is to have said it was the first time anybody had ever told him he was loved.

Ware State Prison (Men) Sept. 1993 — 34 Weekends

Average active volunteers: 37

During one of the Kairos weekends, a Shinto Buddhist was very skeptical not only about Kairos but Christians in general. After many questions and much contemplation he opened up and allowed the Holy Spirit to move in his life. What occurred was one of the

most radical changes in a person's life I have ever witnessed. Not only had he converted to Christianity, but he became a staunch advocate for Jesus Christ and Kairos.

And the last word goes to:

Pete Pfeiffer, Chairman
Georgia State Chapter Committee

As I consider the growth of the Kairos Prison Ministry in Georgia during the past 25 years, I am reminded of Jesus' parables concerning leaven. While we can quantify the number of prisoners who have attended a Kairos Weekend, the number of prisons being served, the number of prisoner's family members served by Kairos Outside, and the number of youth attending Kairos Torch, these are only the "tips of the iceberg" evidencing the grace God is pouring into these people's lives.

We see more evidence of that grace from time to time during the weekends and I have never attended a weekend where there was not something that graphically and powerfully displayed God's presence.

But the event that I remember most occurred at a Saturday Reunion at Lee State Prison. Bobby had made his Kairos weekend on my first Kairos weekend. He was quiet but friendly, reserved but not disconnected, strong but not overpowering.

During the ten years that I went to the monthly Saturday reunions at that prison, he was one who was nearly always present, participating but not controlling.

One Saturday, as I was driving to the prison, I went over in my mind a spiritual struggle that I was having. At the

reunion, we split into prayer and sharing groups, and Bobby was sitting directly across from me. When his turn came, he discussed a spiritual struggle he was having, and then, looking directly at me, he said: "It doesn't do much good to turn things over to God, unless you hang with Him. I know what God wants me to do, but I have to do it, and I need His help."

Looking eyeball to eyeball with Bobby, I knew that God was speaking to me through him, and I was stunned. Are prison conversions fake? Some are. Does God work through the prayer and share groups to bring prisoners into a deep spiritual relationship? Absolutely!

The Kairos prayer and share groups that are meeting in prisons in Georgia are the leaven through which God is changing hearts and lives. This is why, when prisoners are transferred to a prison that Kairos is not serving, they immediately start asking the Chaplain to "get Kairos." The prayer and share groups are their (and our) life blood.

And so, while there has been much accomplished over the last 25 years, there are more prisons and prisoners to be served, and the fields are still "white for the harvest." We know what we are called to do, and we need to hang with Him.

TO:

2010 #2

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*Amen, I say to you, whatever you
did for one of these least brothers
of mine, you did for me.
Matthew 25:40*



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