



The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry 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 of becoming a productive citizen.

The Kairos organization is a body of ministries addressing the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women and children, to their families and to those who work in the prison environment. Kairos sprang from the Cursillo movement and is supported by volunteers from Cursillo and those other movements that consider Cursillo as their root. Although a separate ministry, Kairos has received the blessing and encouragement of 4th Day movements such as Cursillo, and **The Upper Room's Walk to Emmaus**. Kairos Prison Ministry is a ministry rather than a movement.

Kairos is a ministry of the church ... a ministry of the apostles whom Jesus, the Christ, has called into community and sent forth into the environment of the correctional institution. Kairos has been called the best example of the early church in existence today.

Kairos Programs for Incarcerated [Men and Women](#)

Well-organized and well-trained volunteer teams of men and women from the communities surrounding an institution present an introductory 3-day weekend, described as a short course in Christianity. This inter-denominational team of volunteers — both clergy and laypersons — works in cooperation with the Chaplain who carefully selects up to 42 inmate leaders to attend. A well-organized follow up program is part of this ministry. We follow the short course with a two day and a one day to ensure Christ seed has been planted. Kairos also have monthly reunions on Saturday nights to share Christ's love.

Our next Kairos weekend will be at the Greenville Correctional Institute S-2 from October 19 – 22, 2006.

Want to get involved?

Kairos Facts

- ✝ The *Men's and Women's Ministry* addresses the spiritual needs of prisoners. Kairos volunteers go into prisons in teams of 30 to 40 to pray, share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, share meals, and fellowship with the incarcerated on a one-to-one basis. The first visit is a three-day event, during which time the team teaches a short introductory course on Christianity. Subsequent visits are monthly half-day reunions with the prisoners over a twelve-month period.
- ✝ *Kairos Outside* provides spiritual healing to families of the incarcerated, who often feel that they too are “doing time”. Spouses, parents and other relatives of prisoners meet with teams of Kairos volunteers to share their faith and gain strength from Christian community.
- ✝ *Kairos Torch* provides a ministry to youthful offenders, the most rapidly growing segment of the prison system. Because young people between the ages of 13 and 19 are generally housed in smaller institutions than adult offenders, smaller-sized teams participate in this ministry.
- ✝ *Kairos Ministries* currently operates in 270 prisons in 33 states, England, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, and Canada. More than 170,000 incarcerated men and women have been introduced to Kairos, since its inception. The current number of volunteers exceeds 20,000 per year.
- ✝ *Kairos Outside* is active in 19 states, Canada, England, Australia and South Africa, and includes 35 programs. *Kairos Torch* is operational in 10 locations.
- ✝ Kairos Prison Ministry affects the lives of prisoners in countless positive ways. Lives have been changed, and former inmates re-enter society as better spouses, parents and employees. Many released prisoners become volunteers, and give back to society. Some start their own ministries, pastor churches, while others run re-entry programs, and become mentors.
- ✝ In 2003, Kairos volunteers donated over 3.5 million volunteer hours to the various departments of corrections here and abroad. If you multiply 3.5 million times the minimum wage in the USA of \$5.15 per hour, our ministry donated \$18 million in volunteer time. Volunteers paid \$2 million for supplies, bringing the total donation to \$20 million.
- ✝ Last year we held 618 weekend programs in 309 ministry sites: 502 *Kairos* weekends, 80 *Kairos Outside* weekends and 36 *Torch* weekends. The remaining volunteer time was spent in pre-weekend and post-weekend trainings and activities.
- ✝ In addition to having a positive impact on prisoners, the program also has a very favorable effect upon volunteers. Many volunteers acknowledge that the team training, with its emphasis on introspection, honesty, sharing, and community, enhances their spirituality.
- ✝ Kairos programs have gained the respect of the correctional system too. In a study of 505 inmates released from Florida prisons, the recidivism rate was 15.7% among those who had participated in one Kairos session, and 10% among those who had participated in two or more Kairos sessions. The non-Kairos control group in the study had a recidivism rate of 23.4%.
- ✝ The savings to the taxpayer are substantial. As one former prisoner put it: “It cost the government about \$1,000,000 to try me and to imprison me for several years, but a \$100 program keeps me out”.