



The Kairos Inside Ministry

Inspired by a Cursillo held in an Iowa Correctional Institution, the ministry began in a Florida prison in 1976. In 1979, the name “Kairos” was adopted and the ministry became an independent, non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization. “Kairos” is a New Testament Greek term that means “God’s Special Time” often expressed in scripture as “in the fullness of time”. Since 1976, more than 250,000 Residents and family members have benefited from KPMI programs. KI is active in the U.S. (33 states and growing), Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru, Nicaragua, the United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, and Canada. Currently, over 25,000 men and women and their families are introduced to the program each year.

Kairos is a ministry of Christ’s love, delivered by His family. Everything we do is to be done in the spirit of God’s love. That is certainly evident on the 3½ Day Weekend. But, the heart of Kairos is the ongoing, continuing ministry wherein the Institution’s Kairos Community meets weekly in Prayer-and-Share grouping. It is here that the purposes of Kairos are accomplished – inmate character formation inside the prison through prayer-and-share groups using evidence-based materials. This is the reason KPMI works best in long-term facilities, i.e. medium- and maximum-security institutions.

LISTEN, LISTEN, LOVE, LOVE is a fundamental principle each Kairos team member adheres to. This principle is an essential element of every Kairos weekend and reunion.

Overview of the Kairos Inside Prison Ministry

Kairos Inside Prison Ministry hereby referred to as “Kairos Inside” or “KI”, is a lay-led Christian ministry which conducts a highly-structured program designed for use in male and female medium-to-maximum security correctional institutions. With KPMI Board approval, the Kairos Inside program can also be delivered in facilities labeled as camps, transitional reception centers, or minimum security institutions only if the participating Residents are part of the permanent group that is responsible for the daily maintenance of the institution, have more than 2 years left on their sentence, or will be transferred to a medium-maximum state or federal institution. KI starts with a 3½ Day event usually conducted on a weekend (commonly referred to as “the Weekend”) which allows Participants to witness Christ’s love through the servitude of Christian Kairos volunteers. During this event, Participants are given the opportunity to experience a religious renewal accepting God’s call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution, and beyond. After the Weekend, Participants are encouraged to establish strong Christian communities within their institution to continue their spiritual formation.

THE MISSION OF KAIROS

The mission of Kairos Prison Ministry International is to *bring Christ’s love and forgiveness to...*

- All incarcerated individuals,
- Their families,
- Those who work with them, and
- To assist the incarcerated in the transition to becoming a productive citizen.

THE STRATEGY OF KAIROS INSIDE

The Kairos Inside program strategy brings positive and negative leaders of the institution together for a 3½ Day Weekend of carefully coordinated talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and music led by volunteers. It is useful to think of the Kairos Inside Weekend as a series of carefully planned events that *flow* one to another. For the Residents, this experience may create the desire to become a Christian; for others, it may create a desire to continue his/her own personal spiritual growth; and perhaps for others, nothing at all. After the Weekend, we encourage the Residents to establish small 3-6 person Prayer-and-Share groups. These groups meet weekly to develop the vulnerability necessary for spiritual growth. Where formal grouping is difficult, we have a model to informally sharing Christian fellowship.

Kairos returns monthly to assist the Participants in becoming productive citizens. We regularly review our program materials so as to meet inmate and institutional needs. We are always seeking the best in evidence-based programming.



THE KAIROS INSIDE WEEKEND

The Kairos Inside Weekend, conducted by a same-gender Team, normally begins on Thursday evening and ends with a Closing on Sunday, but it can be conducted in any 3½ day, continuous sequence. It is only the “starting point” as the Participants are guided through the steps of understanding the Christian life.

Each day of the 3½ days of the KI Weekend has a guiding purpose or a focus. The activities for each day are designed to support that day’s purpose. As the activities of each day unfold, a building process is occurring. The Participants are led, step by step, through a growing understanding of the focus of that day. That is why Kairos is such a structured program. The activities for each day are designed purposefully to support that day’s objective. As the activities of each day unfold, a continual process builds on prior activities. *Everything has a place and an order.*

The theme of each day of the Kairos Inside Weekend and the focus of that day are:

Thursday	Encountering Kairos <i>This is a time of reducing anxiety (for both the Participants and the Team) and beginning to build comfort levels.</i>
Friday	Encountering Self <i>This is a day where the Participants understand themselves and their standing with God.</i>
Saturday	Encountering Christ <i>This day we examine our relationship with Christ and others and the role of forgiveness in those relationships.</i>
Sunday	Encountering Others <i>On this, the last day, we begin the process of growing in faith and community with others.</i>



The following graphical overview of the Kairos Inside Weekend outlines the key activities of each day.



...I was in prison and you visited me.” Matt. 25:36