

What is Kairos?

The purpose of the Kairos ministry is to help grow and nurture strong Christian communities within state and federal adult correctional institutions.

Through a systematic structured program, God helps Kairos volunteers provide residents the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and/or to renew that relationship - starting with the 3-day Kairos "short course in Christianity." During the weekend and subsequent follow-up spiritual growth activities facilitated by Kairos volunteers and prison chaplains, residents are challenged to accept God's call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another and to staff during their stay in the institution and beyond.

As the mission of Kairos is accomplished in an institution, there is a positive impact on the total environment of the institution.

Kairos is an ecumenical Christian ministry designed for use in men's and women's correctional institutions. The ministry is conducted, in cooperation with chaplains of correctional institutions, by teams of laity and clergy who are qualified by their experiences in Christian renewal movements. The purpose of Kairos is to help build and nurture strong Christian communities among the residents of correctional institutions. The Kairos experience for residents starts with a 3-day short course in Christianity. This weekend involves 30-42 inmates screened by the Chaplain and a team of 40-60 lay and clergy persons. The weekend is modeled after renewal weekends like Cursillo, Cum Christo, Emmaus Walk and Via De Christo. After their Kairos weekend, residents continue their faith walk by participating in small Prayer and Share Groups. These groups meet weekly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another. Kairos participants also attend monthly reunions in the institution with Kairos volunteers. Kairos volunteers conduct two spiritual retreats per year for residents who have made a Kairos weekend.

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**"...I was in
prison and
you visited
me."**

Matthew 25:3

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY OF OHIO Needs Team Members

**Consider And pray
about being a team
member for a Kairos
Prison Ministry Renewal
Weekend**

A Kairos Weekend needs a Team of 40-60
volunteers (Including 7 clergy) to serve
30-42 resident participants



Connections Between Kairos and Established Christian Renewal Movements

People are considered for service in the Kairos prison ministry if they have completed one of the following Christian renewal weekends:

- Catholic Cursillo
- Cum Christo
- Christ Renews His Parish
- Episcopal Cursillo (or Happening Youth Weekend)
- Great Banquet
- Koinonia
- Lutheran Via De Christo
- Tres Dies
- Walk to Emmaus (or Chrysalis Youth Weekend)

There are also a couple other ways to qualify for serving in the Kairos Ministry. Ask a Kairos leader about these other alternatives.

Kairos Prison Ministry International

The Kairos prison ministry is active in 33 states and five foreign countries. The ministry is operating in 270 prisons. About 170,000 incarcerated men and women have been introduced to the Christian ministry of Kairos. For more information about Kairos Prison Ministry International, go to: www.kairosprisonministry.org

Responsibilities of Kairos Team Members

- team meetings (Fri. PM or Sat. AM)
- Provide 200 dozen home-baked cookies for Kairos Weekend (ask church members, friends and family to help bake) Each weekend needs 6,000 to 10,000 dozen cookies.
- Ask others for financial support of weekend
- 3 1/2 day Kairos Weekend inside prison
- Attend monthly reunions with Kairos “graduates” at the institution for one year. Reunions are held Sunday afternoons, evenings or weekday evenings.

If you would like more information about being a Kairos team member or to volunteer, call the Kairos office at 614-268-4333 and leave a voicemail message or email Kairos at KairosOhio@aol.com

You may also download the “Information Sheet for Prospective Kairos Volunteer” at www.kairosOhio.org

Does the Kairos Ministry really make a difference?

The wardens and chaplains at the Ohio institutions where Kairos is operating have very positive opinions about the Kairos Ministry. One positive is that Kairos volunteers keep coming back to the institutions month after month and year after year. This provides continuity in the ministry and builds security for the Kairos participants, because they witness the continuing support of volunteers. Another positive is that the Kairos program follows National Kairos Manuals, so the chaplains and supervisors know what to expect in every facet of the ministry.

The wardens have reported improvements in the prison living environment due to the positive influence of residents that are in the Kairos program. Attendance at Sunday church services has increased. Many residents who are active in the Kairos program have become committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

South Carolina Department of Corrections did a recidivism study on those inmates who had been through the Kairos program. They found that Kairos experience brought a drop in recidivism rates from 36% to 26% when compared to their control group. Fewer of the Kairos men and women returned to prison within three years; fewer by 10 percentage points - which is a 28% improvement from the norm.

Kairos Weekends are conducted twice per year at:

- Franklin Pre-Release Center (Columbus)
- Hocking Correctional Facility
- Lebanon Correctional Institution
- Marion Correctional Institution
- North Central Correctional Institution
- Ohio Reformatory for Women (Marysville)
- Ross Correctional (Chillicothe)
- Southern Ohio Correctional (Lucasville)
- Toledo Correctional Institution
- Trumbull Correctional (Warren)
- Trumbull Correctional Camp
- Warren Correctional Institution

For dates of Kairos Weekends go to www.kairosOhio.org

