Message from the Chair Of Kairos

Looking back on my term as State Chair, serving God in this incredible Ministry of His love, a few thoughts came to mind such as: It is a very good policy to limit terms of office so that new folks with fresh ideas can add their talents in making this Ministry even more excellent and worthy of God whom we serve. I’ve learned a great deal from our people who have been such a blessing. For instance, through their patience with me, I’ve learned to be more patient; to be more open to others ideas; that everyone, no matter how challenging, has God given gifts and if I look past my imperfect opinion, these gifts can be used for God’s honor and glory. After all, it’s not about me. Hey, yet another lesson! I also learned, to quote little “Susie” from my favorite Thanksgiving movie, “Miracle on 34th St”, “If at first you don’t succeed try, try again”. Perseverance!

For many years, I loved being a follower of Jesus…I just didn’t want Him to turn around and ask me to do anything. I simply wanted to bask in the glow of His glorious Presence. So then, how did I end up serving in this ministry? It just happened. That’s it. Nothing more profound than that. Furthermore, if it happened to me it can happen to you. Just be open.

I end with this challenge: God needs you and your unique talents for this Ministry to continue and grow. Step out of your comfort zone, tap Jesus on the shoulder and, as He turns around and your eyes meet, ask Him what He has in mind for you. I guarantee you won’t regret it. You will meet and fall in love with so many of His wonderful people along the way and you will be a better person for it. I know I am.

Have a blessed Christmas and watch my favorite Christmas movie, “It’s a wonderful life”. I can attest to that. Thank you Jesus. Amen.

Peace, Tony

(During these past 3 years God gave Kairos of NH one of the best leaders that we have ever Known. His love of the ministry and focus on all aspects of the job let Kairos of NH grow. Tony did step out of his comfort zone and with God’s help showed us what one can do when God and man work together.)

Editors Note

State Chapter Committee

2019
Chair—Mike Schroeder
Vice Chair—John Brandte
Secretary—Bob Gagnon
Financial Sec.—Eileen Power
Treasurer—Joe Covert
IC Rep. - Jim Preisendorfer
KI Men’s Rep: Rick Purdy
KI Women’s Rep: Nancy Forrester
KO Rep: Dave Kemmis
FCI Berlin Rep;
Clergy–John Fisher
Web Dev. Adam Heard

2019 Weekends

FCI Berlin April 25-28
Dean Peel Leader
Concord Men’s May 16-19
Barry D’Andrea Leader
Kairos Outside June 21-23
Jill Reynold Leader

Merry Christmas
When Nate Chapman asked me to write an article for the Newsletter about my experience of being State Chapter Secretary, I was contemplating how much fiction I should use. I am stepping down from this position at the end of the year because I’ve been here for SEVEN YEARS. I had no idea it had been that long. It’s time for me to stop hogging the blessings of being on the State Chapter Committee and move along.

So now you’re wondering about the fiction. Sorry to say, but I am lousy at lying so no fiction here today. Although I have served one Team for Kairos Women’s Inside, the rest of my time has been spent with Kairos Outside. Each Advisory Council must have one representative on the SCC, but I felt that a larger presence might benefit us more. It seemed to me that our challenges and blessings weren’t truly understood at the state level. So I joined the SCC without any idea of what I would do when I got there.

It seemed that we desperately needed a Secretary and I felt I had no skills in that direction. I was lousy at taking notes in college, thus my failure to graduate. This was the job I was least suited for. Soooo.... what else do you need? Just a secretary? They said I’d be fine. They had confidence in me. They said.... but they didn’t really comprehend what a failure I had been in my studies in school. But God did. He understood it all. Every little last part of me, He knew.

I needed a plan that would help me figure out how to take these notes. God used my personality and my uniqueness to get the job done. It seemed to be acceptable to the Committee, even encouraged. So here I am seven years later with lots of practice taking notes. I have no idea what God will challenge me with next but I can truly say that being on this Committee has been a blessing. I am perfect proof that God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. I know that God is calling someone to fill this position. Please consider serving our Lord with this most excellent group of people that God has qualified.

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Kairos Outside Notes

KO of NH is an important part of the Kairos Prison Ministry. We serve those women who have been impacted by incarceration. There are many women that have a son or daughter, husband, brother or sister, cousin, etc. in the prison system. These women feel the shame, hurt and guilt of the "If I had only" thoughts, such as "if I had only listened closer", "if I had only not put things off", "if I had only been more involved or visited them molested re, or helped them get assistance", etc. These women don’t usually volunteer the information that they have a one in prison and hold this hurt inside.

Kairos Outside has a Weekend similar to the Kairos Inside Weekend. These women live together for a weekend of talks, program projects, etc. and are able to trust each other as they use God’s Special Time to bond and start to heal. They form prayer and share (called S.W.A.P.) groups and help each other with the difficulties of dealing with the special challenges they face. They have reunions and continue to be helped and help others with the special path God has chosen for them to walk down. Submitted by Susan Andrews, Chair of Kairos Outside
Come follow me!’ (Mark 10:21).

Young people seek meaning and truth, and the rich young man we encounter in St. Mark’s Gospel is a perfect example. The rich young man eagerly wanted to love God and inherit eternal life. The rich young man’s genuine efforts delighted Jesus (v. 21). None the less, Jesus saw that the rich young man was relying on his own efforts to gain salvation. By inviting him to sell all his goods, Jesus opened up a choice to him. Would the rich young man acknowledge his insufficiency and turn to Jesus for the grace to move forward, or would he turn away defeated and despairing? The Lord wants us to come to him for salvation: to arrive at the point where we discover our weakness and frailty and then turn to him for grace, strength and life. It’s essential that we discover this moment in our lives at least once or, as is more likely, again and again. The Kairos weekend is just such a moment of discovery.

Do we depend on ourselves or on God? The heart of 'being saved' is acknowledging our need and depending on God. The heart of discipleship is acknowledging our need and dependence on God. We cannot taste the goodness of the Lord if we rely only on ourselves. Jesus challenged the man to a decision. Similarly, Jesus challenges us to make wise and godly choices. The choice is genuinely ours, as the young man's choice was his. The rich young man could not make the decision to follow Jesus because the sacrifice of all his possessions seemed too great to him.

We sometimes fail to make the choices demanded of us. The sacrifices involved seem too much for us. For this reason Jesus promises us that giving up everything for his sake will be rewarded a hundredfold (vv. 29-30). The reward far outweighs the cost. Jesus asks us to believe his promise and act upon it. When we’re following Jesus everything else in our lives loses importance.

The young man clung to the security of his possessions because he couldn’t put his trust in Jesus’ love for him. Only by experiencing Jesus' love will we be able to believe his promises and act upon them without counting the cost. Therefore, we need to pray persistently to grow in our knowledge of his love for us. This is the key to following Jesus. Then, not lacking one thing, we shall have treasure in heaven.

Jesus, you are my life and joy. Let me know your love. Whatever you ask of me, give me the courage to surrender all things into your hands and follow you.

Office of the Chaplains
N. H. State Prison for Men
Chaplain Jim Daly
281 N. State St.
Concord, NH 03302
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For more information about KO of NH feel free to contact us at Kairos of NH, PO Box 10333, Bedford NH 03110 or email me Susan Andrews, KO Advisory Council Chair at waynea311@gmail.com

KO of NH is growing, not by leaps and bounds, but slow and steady. Our progress so far is that we have enough people on the Advisory Council to actually call ourselves an Advisory Council and we are planning a weekend for 2019. This will be the first weekend since 2015.

Did you know Kairos Outside is not just "manned" by women, but that there are many positions for men to be involved? Our State Chapter Committee Representative is Dave Kemmis. He travel more than halfway across the state to the State Chapter Committee meetings and then a week later he travels the same roads to the Kairos Outside of NH meetings. He does a wonderful job and as he says "it's kind of lonely being the only guy at the KO meetings, but I manage". It is nice to have a man's point of view at our meetings and we really appreciate him! Thank you Dave.

For more information about KO of NH feel free to contact our Council Chair, Susan Andrews at waynea311@gmail.com

Leaders Report from Kairos #64

The participants were a blessing to the team. We watched some grow or turn from either an unbelieving heart to a believing heart. Some were believing but hurt and the Kairos weekend a restored their faith. Ezra software was really a great help and I wouldn't understand how someone would do with out it. There is one part in Ezra that say the observing leader should do open mic but in the Silver manual it should be the leader. I feel it's best done by the leader and therefore ran the open mic. Thank you for all that you do and hope to continue my calling in the prison ministry by playing a roll in the AC. Blessings

Doug Larter Kairos #64
A Memorial Service was held at the Milford United Methodist church on Saturday, Dec. 8th to celebrate the life of our beloved friend and Kairos weekend team clergy member, Rev. Bob Morgan. To say he was exceptional, humble, loving, and faithful is simply not enough. Many of those who eulogized him at the service spoke of how much he will be missed. While this is certainly true, I thought of how fortunate we are to feel this way: we miss him only because we came to know and love him. He touched our hearts and those of many prison residents. During the service, The congregation sang the song, "Sanctuary", beautifully led by our Kairos musicians. "Dear Bob, may you rest in peace in the arms of Jesus".

International Council Representative Report

My friends, the time has come to say good-bye. It has been a pleasure to be your representative for the past five years. Thru God’s grace, we have all seen this ministry called Kairos expand in New Hampshire in many ways. Going forward, we all must work and pray to our heavenly father to strengthen this ministry. Our friends in other fourth-day ministries and our brothers and sisters in Christ in the churches of New Hampshire still need to learn about the joy of the Lord that can happen behind prison walls when Jesus gets involved.

I joined Kairos to bring the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to the incarcerated. Little did I know that thru Kairos, God would show me true servanthood and remind me of ways to serve Him thru the corporal works of mercy. I have learned more in the last 10 to 12 years with Kairos of how to have a great relationship with God than I did in the previous 65 years of my life.

I am so grateful for this experience in my life. I am thankful for the many teams that I have served on and the new friends that I have met. I am grateful that I was a weekend leader and I am also happy that God allowed/encouraged me to serve on the advisory councils and the state chapter committee. Every individual that I have met and interacted with in Kairos has contributed to who I am today and how my walk with Jesus is going. Thanks to all of you for what you have contributed to one Christian’s life.

It is with Love that we say goodbye to Chris for his humble service to the God of his life. All of us saw in his years of service to Kairos an incredible desire to be the best representative of Christ in all that he undertook. God truly blessed Kairos by calling on Chris to bring His message of Love and Forgiveness to all the incarcerated in NH. Know that all of Kairos are grateful for your service to Kairos of NH. (Editor)
Notes from Women’s Kairos #8

Kairos can best be described as an opportunity for people to get real with one another, through fellowship as well as to strengthen spirituality.

All people, not just those in prison maintain an “image.” This image traps us into being someone that is constructed based upon society’s expectations. The authentic self can never be realized and real connections can never be made with others.

Icebergs only reveal about 10% of its entirety about the surface of the water. The other 90% remains under the water, invisible to those who pass it by.

Like the iceberg, our image is about 10% of who we are, or who we think we’re supposed to be. The other 90% is who we really are—funny, sensitive, smart, wounded, shamed, lonely, struggles with addiction, is a survivor etc etc...

If we can lower the water line on our icebergs, we can emerge from the darkness, seeing ourselves in each other and ultimately, practicing compassion for all human beings. Kairos is an opportunity for vulnerability, getting to know God and sharing who we really are. ~NHCF-W  Kairos #8
This is indeed a “Special Time” for the Kairos Prison Ministry in New Hampshire. After operating for more than 30 years in New Hampshire, God is calling us to sustain and grow the Ministry and reach more prison residents, their families, and those who work with them. Here’s how you can help Be a team member! Kairos volunteers come from all walks of life. Would you like to work on a Kairos team? Certainly prison ministry is not for everybody, but if you feel God’s call to work in a prison ministry, contact us about how you can be involved. Be a prayer partner! All Kairos activities are supported by prayer; the prayer of thousands throughout the world. During the retreat, the participants are shown “prayer lists.” These lists have slots for every hour of the retreat with hundreds of persons signed up to pray for them. Be a support volunteer! Every Kairos weekend has opportunities for outside support. Donations of food and materials are always welcomed. Individuals or church groups can create posters and general letters of hope and encouragement to Kairos participants. Many children’s groups and Sunday School classes participate by coloring placemats that are used for the meals served to the inmates. Be a Kairos Financial Booster! We need your financial support. All of our activities are funded by donations. Each Kairos volunteer must devote many hours of training before they enter the prison, but they must also take responsibility to assist in defraying the rising costs of food, housing and supplies. Individuals or churches can help to underwrite the cost of a Kairos weekend by sponsoring an inmate ($150.00), a team member ($150.00) or an entire table family. ($1350.00)

Yes, I (we) would like to make a gift to support Kairos of New Hampshire of $

Please designate your gift for Kairos Inside and a particular council or Kairos Outside, if that is your intended purpose for the contribution

Name ___________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

City________________ State_____ Zip ____________ Telephone _______________ Email________________________

Tax deductible contributions should be made payable to: Kairos of New Hampshire PO Box 4752, Manchester, NH 03108-4752
www.kairosnh.org We are available to come to your church or organization and present a program on this ministry.