

# **Get Involved Guide**

### Share God's love to those who need it

INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA



### Hello!

Thank you for your interest in Kairos Prison Ministry Australia and our work sharing the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of men, women in prison and youth, as well as their families.

The volunteers who make up the Kairos community know the saving grace of Jesus themselves and know the whole of life impact of the love of God. This is why we seek to bring this experience to those in prison and their families and friends often forgotten by society.

Our vision is to see this community spiritually freed from the effects of imprisonment, living new lives, through the love, hope and faith found in Jesus Christ.

We hope you can become involved and share this vision with us. There are lots of ways to be involved; from prayer to volunteering in our programs (and everything in between). Kairos welcomes Christian volunteers from all denominations.

This short guide will help you understand Kairos better and how your gifts might be part of sharing Jesus in dark places.



COL STILLER
CHAIR OF KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA

### **About Kairos Prison Ministry**

Kairos Prison Ministry Australia is an interdenominational Christian ministry reaching out to incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them; to bring sustainable meaning and hope in the place of loneliness, isolation and despair. Kairos is building Christian Community in response to the challenge issued by our Lord Jesus "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36) to share with inmates and their families the unconditional love of God. To enable a vision of the abundant life that a relationship with Jesus gives.

Kairos is a ministry where volunteers from many denominations work together as the body of Christ and set aside denominational differences to serve together and to embody the true meaning of church.



## Ways you can take part

#### **VOLUNTEER FOR KAIROS INSIDE PROGRAMS FOR MEN AND WOMEN**

The Kairos Inside program is conducted in cooperation with Prison Chaplains and Senior Management as well as teams of volunteers made up of lay people and clergy. We love welcoming new volunteers to be part of the Kairos Inside program and connecting them with the incarcerated so they can show them Jesus.

#### **Learn more about Kairos Inside**

#### **VOLUNTEER FOR KAIROS OUTSIDE WEEKENDS**

Kairos Outside provides much needed support for female relatives or friends of a current or former prison inmate. It begins with a weekend designed to create a safe and understanding environment in which participants can share with other women who have been through similar experiences. Volunteers attend the weekends with the women and facilitate conversations, meals and other experiences with love.

#### **Learn more about Kairos Outside**

#### **VOLUNTEER FOR KAIROS TORCH PROGRAMS**

The Kairos Torch Program runs in Juvenile Detention Centres. Traditionally we have run programs in two Centres but due to many issues with Juvenile crime and detention we are not running any programs at this time.

#### **BE A PRAYER PARTNER**

Kairos only runs thanks to God at work through our volunteers and programs! We rely on people like you to partner with us in prayer. Learn more about becoming a prayer partner and access prayer points on our website.

#### WRITE LETTERS

People in prison are very disconnected from the outside world. During the running of a Kairos Program team members are able to write letters of encouragement to the participants. In some cases, non-team members are also able to write these letters under the guidance of the Program leader..

#### **BAKE BISCUITS**

During our programs, both inside and outside prisons, we provide food for the participants. For those inside we provide morning tea and lunch. This is a real treat for the participants! We also provide coffee and tea during the day. Where possible we provide home-baked biscuits as a special treat. Baking isn't always an option for every event, but when it is, it's a wonderful way you can help the Kairos team.

#### PURCHASE FOOD OR RESOURCES

When it comes to Kairos Outside, we rely on the support of others to help resource the programs. This includes specifically purchasing food or materials needed for the program weekends.

#### **DONATE FINANCIALLY**

Not everyone can be available at the time or place of a Kairos program but you can support those who are able to volunteer with a tax deductible donation. Donors are very important members of the Kairos community.

Kairos relies on the financial support of individuals to bring the life-changing message of the Gospel to those in prison, their families and loved ones. Financial support is a wonderful and practical way to ensure the good news of Jesus gets to those who need it.

#### <u>Learn more about financial partnership</u>

#### MAKE POSTERS AND BANNERS

Posters are a big visual part of the Kairos Outside program. A theme is decided for each weekend and volunteers get involved creating posters to fit that theme that can be displayed and used during the weekend. Depending on how the program is running near you, will depend on what kind of posters and other materials are needed.

#### **ONE VOLUNTEER SAYS:**

"I joined Kairos in 1997 and the experience has encouraged me to be on 14 more teams, and still "going strong" as we minister to "the boys in green." Bringing Christ's love, through song, food and our loving community of faith. That truly changes people's lives on both sides of the fence!"

### What's next?

We hope you've been encouraged by all the ways you can get involved with Kairos and are feeling ready to explore some next steps!



### Am I the right person to volunteer?

Kairos welcomes volunteers from all Christian denominations!

All our volunteers should know and agree with the Kairos Mission, Vision, Core Values and Statement of Faith. Each Kairos leader and team member must read and follow the applicable Program Manual.

Kairos is a ministry of persons drawn from a broad range of Christian Churches which includes denominational, racial and age diversity. We expect all God's people to be treated with respect, love, integrity and equality.

The best way to get involved with any of our volunteer opportunities is to contact us to have a personal conversation where we can answer any questions you have.

#### **CONTACT KAIROS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING**

#### **ONE VOLUNTEER SAYS:**

"I originally joined Kairos because I was asked by a Christian friend to help in a course being run at the prison nearby. I thought this would be a great challenge for me and my belief in God's grace if people turn to Jesus. This was such a huge experience for me. I look forward to every time I am involved as part of the Team. I am uplifted by the change in the candidates, the huge prayerful support from our local Churches and many others providing sustenance and prayers to cover the candidates and team – it is truly wonderful and encouraging.

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