



*Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. wants to express our **strong desire** for you to take the opportunity to attend a “**Christian Renewal Movement Weekend**” for your own spiritual growth experience.*

We pray you understand this is a powerful experience only you can have with the Holy Spirit. Those of us who have attended one of these weekends pray you have the opportunity to receive this blessing for yourself.

(Catholic Cursillo, Walk To Emmaus, National Episcopal Cursillo, Presbyterian Cursillo, Lutheran Via de Cristo, and the independently ecumenical Tres Dias.)

Please make an attempt to contact the team member who trained you to arrange to receive an application to attend one of these weekend expressions, if you so desire.



God’s Special Time

Guidebook

For

**Kairos Inside
Team Members**

Overview of the Kairos Inside Ministry

Kairos Inside is a lay-led Christian ministry that conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions.

Our Beginnings:

At the request of the National Cursillo Board, the original Kairos Board, lovingly known as the “Nine Old Men”, developed an appropriate prison version of the highly successful Cursillo program. The Kairos program was approved by the Catholic Cursillo Secretariat, Presbyterian Church, Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church, and United Methodist Church.

Inspired by a Cursillo Weekend 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, interdenominational Christian organization.

As of 2005, more than 145,000 positions have been filled by Kairos Inside volunteers who, over the past **30** years, have provided over 150,000 residents the opportunity to attend Weekends. Kairos Inside is active in Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Honduras, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and 32 states within the US. Currently, 20,000 men and women are introduced to the Program each year. During 2005, over 22,000 volunteers served on Inside teams.

G. OTHER KAIROS MINISTRIES

KPMI has two other ministries with programs that also address the mission of the Ministry:



Kairos Outside

Kairos Outside, as the name implies, is conducted outside the walls of correctional institutions. This ministry is designed to provide unconditional love and support to females (20+) whose lives have been affected by the incarceration of their relatives/friends or by their own incarceration. The women are treated as Guests for an entire Weekend and are given a safe environment in which to interact with other women who have been through similar experiences.

Kairos Torch

Kairos Torch ministers to youthful offenders and offers unconditional love and acceptance in a Christian setting. The most important element of Torch is the establishment of a mentoring relationship between each of the youth and a mature, Christian volunteer. The mentoring program continues for a minimum of 6 months following the Weekend or until the youth is released, whichever comes first. Following the 6 months of mentoring, there can be an additional 6 months of bible study inside the institution.



F. MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

There is only ONE Kairos -- it is Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (KPMI).

The Ministry is guided by a Board of Directors that meets twice a year. The Board accomplishes its work through the Executive Director, his/her staff, and Standing Committees including the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is comprised of a smaller number of Board members and addresses key activities and needs of the Ministry between the bi-annual Board meetings.

The International Office is located in Orlando, Florida, and consists of the Executive Director and staff who run the day-to-day Ministry operations.

In states where KPMI is active, the Ministry branches are known as “Chapters”. Chapters operate under the authority of the International Board of Directors and are comprised of volunteers elected from local Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch Advisory Councils.

Each State and International Chapter that is certified to administer the KPMI Program is required to follow the policies and guidelines established by the Board of Directors. The Board is the final human authority for the Ministry.

A. HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE MINISTRY

Kairos Prison Ministry International (KPMI) sprang from the Cursillo movement and has been historically supported primarily by Volunteers from Cursillo and other movements that consider Cursillo as their root. Kairos has been closely working with these 4th-Day Communities: Catholic Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, National Episcopal Cursillo, Presbyterian Cursillo, Lutheran Via de Cristo, and the independently ecumenical Tres Dias. Starting in 2004, up to 20% of a team’s volunteers, can now come from other Christian communities, so we are able to foster more diversity in our team building process.

B. THE MISSION OF KPMI

The mission of KPMI is to *bring Christ’s unconditional 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.

C. THE PURPOSE OF KAIROS INSIDE

The Inside Program is repeated every six months. The Weekend event allows Participants to witness Christ’s love through the servitude of Christian volunteers. During this event, Participants are given the opportunity to experience a religious awakening or renewal, to

accept God's call to a life of Christian witness, and for service to one another during their stay in the institution and beyond. After the Weekend, the Participants are encouraged to establish strong Christian communities within their institution.

D. THE STRATEGY OF KAIROS INSIDE

The Inside Program strategy brings positive and negative leaders of the institution together for a 3-1/2 day weekend event of carefully coordinated talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and music led by the loving servant spirit of the volunteers. It is useful to think of the Weekend as a series of carefully planned events that *flow* one to another. For many Participants, this experience creates the desire to become a Christian and for others the desire to continue his/her personal Christian growth. After the Weekend, the Inside Program continues by helping the Participants establish small, 3 to 6 person Prayer and Share Groups within the institution. These small groups meet weekly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another, other residents, their loved ones, and the staff of the institution.

2. Instructional Reunion

The Team returns to the institution as soon as possible, but no later than 3 weeks following the Weekend to teach the newest members of the Inside Community how to form Prayer and Share Groups.

3. Weekly Prayer and Share Group Fellowship

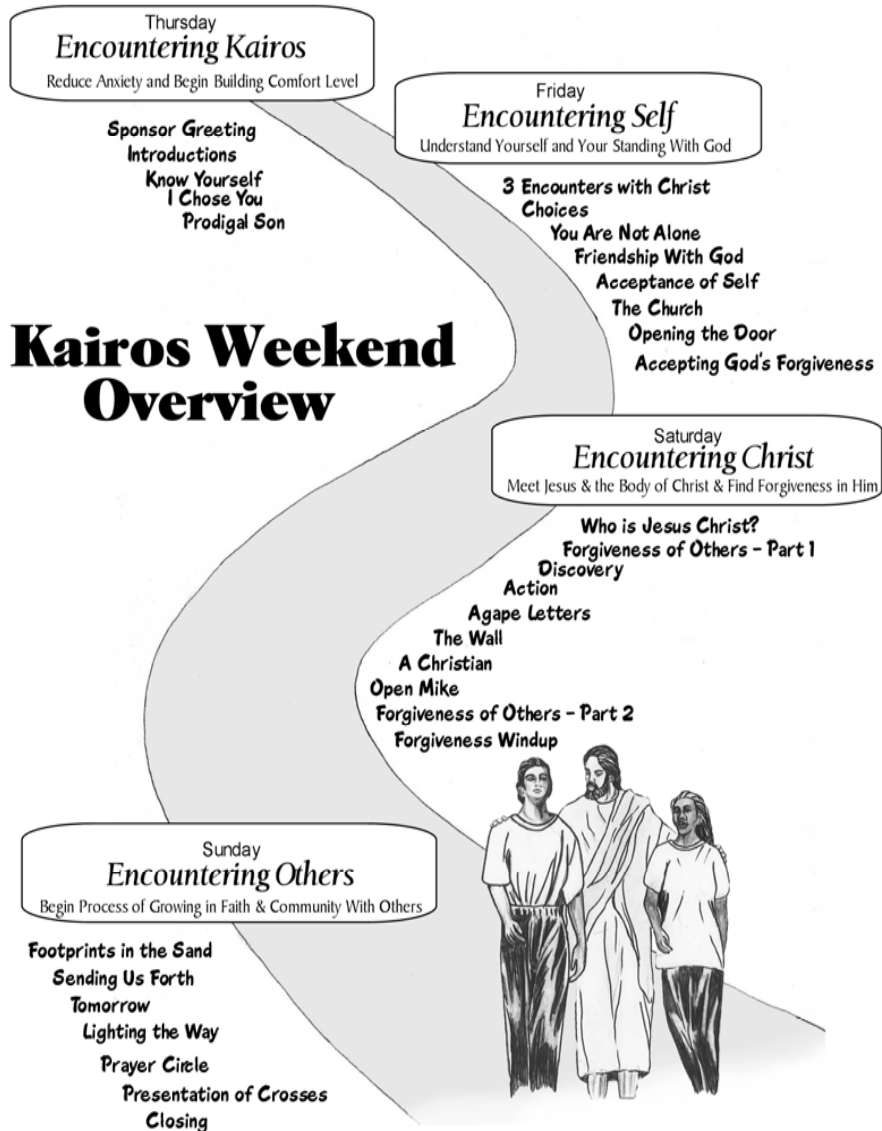
This is the heart of Kairos! The ultimate goal of Weekends is to build a Christian community inside the Institution. Prayer and Share Groups of 3 to 6 individuals provide an opportunity for the Inside Community to pray and fellowship together on a weekly basis by nurturing each other in their faith walk and providing accountability.

4. Monthly Reunion

Participants provide leadership for monthly Reunions. Three or more Participants are selected to share how Jesus is working in their lives. This gathering creates an environment that fosters participation and an opportunity for spiritual growth in the lives of the Participants.

5. 2-Day Retreat

A 2-Day Retreat is held approximately 3 months following each Weekend. The Retreat is conducted by a small team with a minimum of 10 Kairos volunteers and is open to all Participants who have experienced a Weekend.



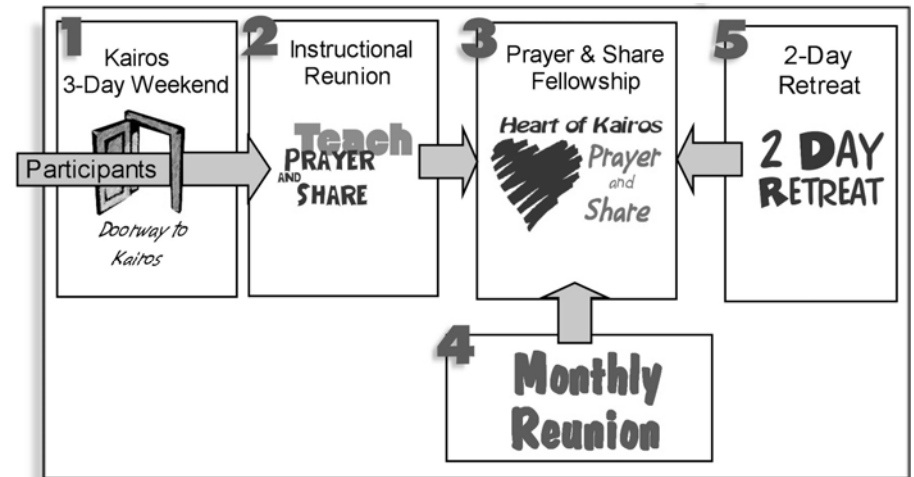
The above graphical overview of the Weekend outlines each day's key activities.

E. COMPONENTS OF THE MINISTRY

The Inside Program consists of five key components:

- 3-1/2-Day Weekend
- Instructional Reunion
- Weekly Prayer and Share Group Fellowship
- Monthly Reunion
- 2-Day Retreat

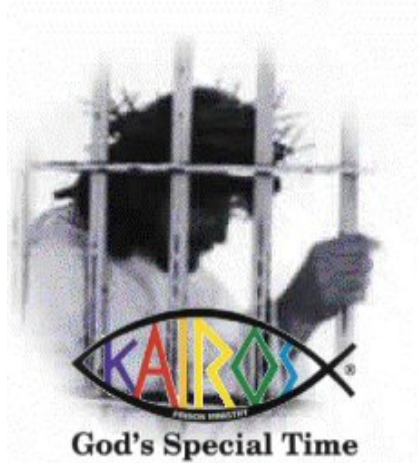
As the following diagram illustrates, the heart of the Ministry is the on-going, weekly Prayer and Share Group Fellowship that occurs within the growing Kairos Community in the institution. All other elements of the Inside Program are aimed at enabling or supporting the Prayer and Share Group Fellowship.



I. 3-1/2-Day Weekend

The Weekend is conducted in an institution by a team of volunteers of the same gender as the institution. The Team begins on Thursday evening and ends with a spirit-filled Closing on Sunday. It is only the “starting point” as the Participants are guided through the steps of understanding the Christian life.

Each day of the 3-1/2 days of the Weekend has a guiding purpose or focus. The activities for each day are designed to support that day’s purpose. As the day’s activities unfold, a building process is occurring. The Participants are led, step by step, through a growing understanding of the focus for that day, which is why Kairos is such a structured program. Every activity has a purpose that supports a higher purpose for the day, and every activity builds on prior activities. Everything has a place and an order.



The theme of each day of the Weekend and the focus for that day is:

Thursday = Encountering Kairos

This day is a time to reduce anxiety (for both the Participants and the Team) and to begin to build comfort levels.

Friday = Encountering Self

This day the Participants begin to understand themselves and their standing with God.

Saturday = Encountering Christ

This day the Participants examine their relationship with Christ and others and the role of forgiveness in those relationships.

Sunday = Encountering Others

This day the Participants begin the process of growing in faith and community with others.