

Kairos of New Hampshire Needs Your Help!

Here's how you can participate...

Be a Team Member!

Kairos volunteers come from all walks and strata of life. They all share a desire to follow Christ's admonition of Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and you visited me." If you feel God's call to minister to the incarcerated as part of a Kairos team, contact us about how you can be involved.

Be a Prayer Partner!

All Kairos activities are covered in prayer. You can be part of that prayer effort.

Be a Support Volunteer!

Each 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 resident Kairos participants. Many children's groups and Sunday school classes have made placemats for each meal, a special and touching gift for each inmate.

Be a Kairos Financial Booster!

Kairos needs 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 Weekend by sponsoring an inmate (\$100.00), a team member (\$100.00) or an entire table (\$900.00). Checks should be made out to **Kairos of New Hampshire**

Prisons are awful places, but awe inspiring things happen there...the blooming of the Christ light in the very darkest corners of God's garden. Yet New Hampshire's Kairos ministers not just to those inside the walls, but to every person who goes in to "visit", to each person who makes a poster, writes a letter, creates a placemat, or who maintains an hour's prayer vigil.

A volunteer described his time visiting inside while on a Kairos program as a "touch of heaven" – certainly not words most people would use to describe a prison visit.

There are countless ways that you can help Kairos of New Hampshire to fulfill and sustain it's mission by helping us to maintain and strengthen our resources.

Kairos has nothing to offer you in return, but our sincere gratitude and the knowledge that God is healing lives through your generosity.

We are available to come to your church or organization and present a program on this ministry.

Donations, offers of assistance or questions can be sent to:

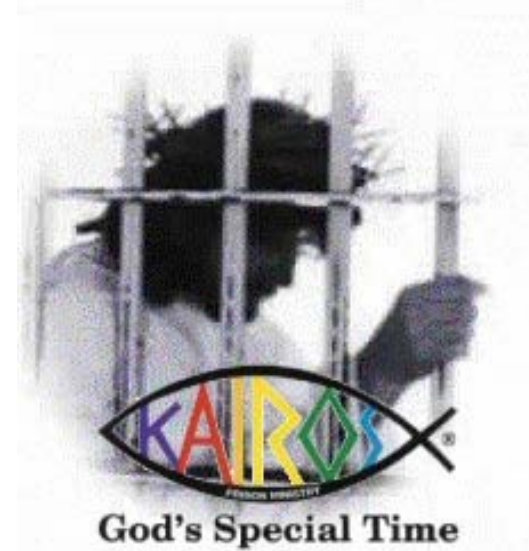
Kairos of New Hampshire

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Kairos of New Hampshire



"You came into prison and visited me."

Matthew 25:36

The mission of Kairos ministries is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.

Kairos is a Greek word that means “God’s Special Time.” To many prison inmates in New Hampshire, it also means a life-changing experience, an experience that has not only personally changed their lives, but has also changed the environment where they live.

■ Kairos is a Christian Ministry

Kairos volunteers represent the Christian faith and present a Christian perspective.

■ Kairos is Ecumenical

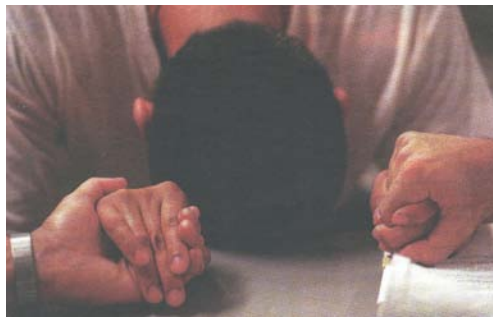
Kairos volunteers come from many Christian denominations, but present only those principles that all share in common. Kairos volunteers go into prisons to pray, share the love of Jesus Christ, share meals, and fellowship with the incarcerated on a one-to-one basis.

■ Kairos is Lay-led

Leadership is drawn from laypersons, although clergy play a vital role on each team. The first visit is a three-day event, during which time the team will teach a short introductory course in Christianity. Kairos teams work in cooperation with the prison chaplain, and are focused on offering God’s love to the un-churched, the isolated, the unloving and the unloved. It can be described as a short course in Christianity, which is geared specifically to the realities of the prison environment. Follow-up activities within the prison are weekly resident prayer-share groups, monthly reunions and twice a year retreats.

■ Kairos is Volunteers

The Kairos Prison Ministry affects the lives of prisoners in countless positive ways. Lives have been changed, and former inmates re-enter society as better spouses, parents and employees. Many released prisoners become volunteers and give back to society. Many of our own volunteers acknowledge that team training, with its emphasis on introspection, honesty, sharing and community, enhances their own spirituality.



“ I can never repay **Kairos** for what it has done for me. I came to the **Kairos** weekend filled with hate, anger and deceit. I only came because I heard that there would be good food, but I didn’t want anybody in my face about God. But as I began to hear these men talk about how God loved me, something started to happen to me. I began to experience a kind of love that I had never seen or felt before. I now understand that it was the love of God, offered to me by His people.”

“I made a mess of my life and ended up in prison. My family abandoned me and society has written me off. I was worthless, and I felt that way. Life had lost all meaning for me – I was like a balloon with nothing inside. But these **Kairos** men fed me with the Word of God, and now I hunger after Him. I will be forever grateful to **Kairos** for showing me that the way to freedom is through the cross of Christ.”

Testimony from a Kairos Inmate

Each of us is unique, but as we learn from Our Father, our different experiences are related. When we choose to climb a mountain, we find that there are many ways to the summit. Because there is only one summit, even if we start at different points, our paths move closer and closer. So too, in our spiritual lives our paths converge. Our stories overlap. They are the “stuff” that makes possible a dialogue, and, I hope a way to a better understanding of Jesus’ gift of healing to each of us. We are inspired to draw near to the Father. We lose our individuality and become one with Him. **Kairos** is the beginning of an adventure, that of a relationship with God and our human community. **Kairos** makes us aware that the Father’s will is at the core of our mission. The prisoner with a future is the one who puts his trust in the will of God.

Chaplain Jim Daly, NH State Prison For Men

■ Kairos is International

Kairos operates in 270 prisons, 33 states and 7 countries. 20,000 volunteers participate. More than 170,000 incarcerated men and women have been introduced to Kairos since its inception.

■ Kairos Works!

In the United States, over **55%** of all released inmates end up returning to prison. In a recent four-year study group, by the Florida Department of Corrections, Chaplaincy Services, with 525 inmates participating, those inmates taking part in Kairos had a **16%** return to prison!

■ Kairos of New Hampshire

Kairos has operated for over 20 years in New Hampshire. Weekends are conducted twice per year in both Concord and Berlin facilities, followed by weekly resident prayer-share groups, monthly reunions with outside team members and twice a year inside retreats.

Over 1600 inmates have experienced a Kairos weekend in New Hampshire so far.



■ Kairos Outside

Kairos Outside is a special weekend retreat designed to provide spiritual healing and support to the female loved ones of men and women who are or have been incarcerated. Families of the incarcerated “do time” along with their loved ones. In a safe environment with loving people, women interact with other women who are in similar situations and learn to form small groups to support and give them strength for the challenges they face.