



# Newsletter Winter 2008

## Kairos Outside North Carolina #11

Kairos Outside North Carolina # 11 will be taking place on May 1-3, 2009 at Camp Weaver in Greensboro.

The first team formation was held on February 28 at Grace Lutheran Church in Raleigh. God has put together a fabulous team! What a joy it is to be working with such an enthusiastic group of men and women.

Even though you may not be working this team, there are several ways you can still be involved:

- Sign up to pray at a specific time during the weekend. Please email me the day and time of the weekend that you will be praying so that your name can be added to the prayer banner that the guests will see on Saturday. Prayer is the foundation to all Kairos Outside weekends.
- Donate items for Agape such as bookmarks, personal items, etc. Arrangements can be made to pick up the items.
- Contribute financially. Donations in any amount would be appreciated. Please make out checks to Kairos Outside of North Carolina and mail to:  
Kairos Outside of North Carolina  
P.O. Box 37163  
Raleigh, NC 27627

Angels are also needed for the weekend. Angels work behind the scenes and are very important to the success of all Kairos Outside weekends. Angels can help by transporting guests to and from the weekend,

Kairos Outside of North Carolina  
Demonstrating God's grace and love through  
Christian support for women who have loved ones  
who are or who have been incarcerated

distributing Agape or setting up and breaking down the camp. These are just a few of the ways Angels help. Please contact me if you would like an Angel application. The Closing will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. This is a personal invitation to all to come and join us to help celebrate with our guests. If you have been a guest on a Kairos Outside weekend, you know how special the closing is. If you have worked on a team, you know how touched our guests are to have people come from the community to support them and hear how God has blessed them during the weekend.

Please keep Kairos Outside North Carolina # 11 in your prayers. I look forward to giving you another update in the next newsletter.

Because of Him,

Cheryl Richard  
Leader KO # 11  
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## History of Kairos Outside in North Carolina by Helen Hauser

In July 2000, I attended a National Conference for Kairos at Peace College, Raleigh, NC. At the conference, I learned about KO for the first time. That night God spoke to me and said, "Helen, everything in your life has prepared you to start Kairos Outside in North Carolina." I accepted the call and told Jo Chapman the national leader of KO that I would do this. However, I had trouble finding the time to start it until after my Mother died in 2002.

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## Update on "The Porch"

Like most nonprofit organizations, Kairos Outside struggles constantly to raise the funds that will enable us to carry on the ministry we are called to. We often feel that fundraising is separate and apart from serving the women whose lives are impacted by incarceration. Last year, North Carolina's KO advisory council took 'a road less traveled' and tried a different type of fundraising. This is our story.

At a KOAC meeting last summer, one of our members who is active in Habitat for Humanity shared that his neighbor, a successful businessman who partners with his wife to write and produce plays, had done a performance to benefit Habitat. Our discussion revealed that this couple is committed to ministry through drama and we decided to approach them with a request that they partner with KO for a fundraiser. They were receptive to the idea and after much prayer and discussion, agreed to test uncharted territory with

Kairos Outside (a prison ministry with a great mission, but certainly no household name like Habitat).

We needed a location, publicity, sponsors, advertising, tickets, ticket sellers, promotion. . . aaaahhhh . . . what are we doing?! Well, fast forward beyond the panic and pains of organization and event planning.

On Nov. 14-15, the Missions Committee of a downtown Raleigh church sponsored an inspirational comedy stage play called The Porch. In this play, a character named Uncle Pete views the world from the perspective of his front porch. It's a changing, challenging world. He sees the comings and goings of the people who grew up in his neighborhood and the choices they make. Some choices lead to success; others cause heartbreak. Still others lead to estrangement, and then finally, to reconciliation.

Through it all, The Porch makes you laugh and stirs your soul. This play deals with real life issues that confront our world and leaves the audience with a message ringing in their ears and tug-

ging at their hearts long after the curtain goes down.

There were two performances of The Porch and a total of 350 people attended. Most were unfamiliar with Kairos, so we were able to capture new volunteers and requests for information about all three parts of KPMI's mission during intermissions. This outreach and publicity was just as important as the money raised. After expenses, we raised nearly \$2,000 in profit, which is a big help toward meeting the budget of our next KO Weekend.

I would be less than honest if I said this was an easy way to raise money for Kairos. But taking into account the gains we realized in mission and ministry to our community, the hours of hard work and effort by many volunteers were worth it. I, for one, hope we can do it again (after some sleep, that is).

Linda Davis  
Fundraising Coordinator  
Kairos Outside of North Carolina

## From Guest to Team

I was a guest at Kairos Outside of North Carolina #7. My son, Richard became involved with Kairos while serving time in a federal prison. He called one night to tell me that he had signed me up for a KO weekend. My response was lukewarm while thinking, "yeah, sure" and "geez, what is he getting me into?" I tried to find a reason not to make the six-hour drive to Topsail Beach but every reason was taken care of along the way. The only reason, or so I thought at the time, that I went was to be supportive of Richard and something positive that he was involved in. I could never have imagined the impact of that weekend.

My journey to Kairos Outside started on a Saturday night in March. I received a phone call from my son, telling me that he had gotten in trouble and was facing prison

time. Nothing in my life had ever prepared me for that phone call. Other than traffic tickets, Richard had never gotten into any serious trouble. The shock sent me into an emotional tornado that was unlike anything I had ever experienced.

I was a mess. My emotions ran from the guilt of wondering what I had done wrong to being beyond angry with Richard for the choices he had made. I could not understand what made Richard do something so incredibly stupid. Didn't he stop to think about anyone else besides himself? Did he not understand that his choices and decisions affect so many others? And on top of everything, there was a baby coming into the middle of this mess. And now I was supposed to spend a weekend with complete strangers and talk about it?

I arrived at Topsail Beach and checked in. This normally talkative, social butterfly, who rarely meets a stranger, was so uncomfortable! I did not want to be there. I did not want to talk to anyone. I just wanted this over with. And when the group started singing about good ole' butterbeans, I really wanted to run! What in the world?!?! Was this a cult or something?

I was forced out of my comfort zone so many times that weekend. And I ate more in three days than I normally do in three weeks. I wanted to talk at the closing ceremony but public speaking has always been a huge fear for me. I finally stood up and told the group that Kairos Outside was not a sorority I would have ever imagined being part of but I thank God that my son's choices led me there.

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## Message from Paula, Advisory Council Chair

Hello! Welcome to the second edition of the Kairos Outside newsletter. I hope that you find the newsletter interesting and informative. Without you, our volunteers, this newsletter would not be possible. So please share your news with us! What is going on in your life that you would like to share with everyone? Send me an email and I will get it in a future edition.

KO #11 is coming up in May. Have you sent in your application to be on team or be an angel? If you are unable to do one of these, how about praying for the team members and guests or donating agape? To find out how you can help, contact Cheryl Richard at cherylrichard417@hotmail.com.

I would like to know what you think of the newsletter and Kairos Outside. Please contact me at pkmcog@gmail.com with your thoughts.

In closing, I would like to share with you a favorite verse of mine. I try to live each day according to this verse.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and all your soul, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6

Blessings,  
Paula  
pkmcog@gmail.com

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## History *Continued from page 1*

In July 2002, I went to the National Convention in Jacksonville Florida and met the people I needed to meet to learn how to begin. In October 2002, Sally Millius and I went to observe KO #10 in Georgia. In January 2003, the first advisory council met. In February 2003, Sally and I went to our leadership training in Georgia.

Kairos Outside of NC #1 was held November 14-16, 2003, at Camp Dixie, near Fayetteville and I was the first leader. God assembled a wonderful team and we were able to bless our first group of guests. In the past six years, we have had some wonderful leaders including Sally Millius, Judy Cox, Karin Gougeon, Paula McLamb-Olds, Rachel Tice, Linda Davis and Judy Zander.

Because of incredible growth in the state, Kairos Outside of North Carolina will split into east and west in 2009. KO of ENC #11 will be held in Greensboro in May with Cheryl

Richard Leading. KO of WNC #1 will be held at Lutheridge in September of 2009 with Carol Liptak leading.

Our plan for the future call for four weekends each year beginning in 2010. There will be two each in the east and west.

Over the course of 10 weekends, we have been able to bless over 120 women with God's love and grace. Over 120 team members have also been blessed as they served. Many of these guests have returned to work on many teams. We praise God for what he has done through forming His body in our teams and Jesus has been our head.

*Helen Hauser*

## Get Involved!

**Team Volunteer.** Working a team requires members meet for 36 hours to prepare for a Kairos Outside Weekend. Members share their special talents – musical, spiritual, social – with Guests and each other. The process begins with a volunteer application, which is submitted to the council and leaders of upcoming Weekends. Leaders begin choosing their team many months in advance, so becoming a Team Volunteer can take a long time because of all the planning involved.

**Angel Volunteer.** “Angels” are special volunteers who work behind the scenes during a weekend. They help prepare Guest quarters, set up tables and chairs, clean, cook, run errands, set up luminaries and pray during the weekend. We also need help with Guest transportation during weekends. This is a wonderful opportunity for college and high school students, and youth groups who need service hours.

**Prayer Partners.** In Kairos Outside, we depend on God to make things happen, so we recruit volunteers to pray for us from start to finish

**Agape.** Agape is a sacrificial “love” that takes many forms. It could be prayer or working as an angel. Or it could be making little gifts such as bookmarks or food, for our Guests on the weekend. It could also be a “green agape” - a financial gift that is tax deductible.

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I think the situation hit me hardest one day as I was driving to a friend’s house. On the side of the interstate were groups of men picking up trash. On the back of their jumpsuits was the word--prisoner. In the past I was not very tolerant of “those” people but as I passed that group of men, it hit me, “oh my gosh! my son is one of them.” I also realized that “those” people had mothers just like me. It took a while for me to stop crying as I drove on.

Through my KO weekend, I was finally able to understand that I was not alone. I was not the only mother in the world that this had happened to. The unconditional love and acceptance was unlike anything I had ever experienced. As I drove home that Sunday and reflected on the weekend, I decided I wanted to be involved with KO as a team member. If I could help just one mother understand that she is not alone everything would be worthwhile.

I was a table server for KO#10 and it was the best job in the world! At the first team meeting, I was talking to one of my teammates and telling my story of trying to

find a way out of my weekend as a guest. She laughed and then quickly explained that she was not laughing at me. She said, “When God has plans for us, he has plans and there’s nothing we can do to stop them.” Jan, thank you so much for that reminder!

I also gave one of the talks at KO#10 and as I looked out at our guests, I noticed one mother in particular. She had tears running down her face and she knew that I understood. That moment made everything worthwhile. I have always known that God has plans for us. There are times that I am guilty of losing sight of that. But in that moment, looking at that guest, I was so thankful and felt so blessed by God’s plans for me no matter what they are.

Being on the team was such a different experience than being a guest. As a guest, I was so apprehensive about the weekend that I never completely relaxed and let the entire experience in to my heart. As a team member, the experience penetrated every little piece of my heart. I underestimated once again the impact that a Kairos Outside weekend would have on my life.

Kairos Outside has become very special to me. It still amazes me to be able to look at a traumatic time in my life and see what a wonderful organization and friends came into my life as a result. I look forward to being involved for a very long time.

Susanne

**Kairos Outside of North Carolina**

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