

Kairos Prison Ministry Description at Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI)

The purpose of **Kairos** is to establish strong Christian communities among the populations of correctional institutions here in the U. S. (36 states) and in 9 foreign countries around the world. The objective is to impact the correctional environment through the action of the resident (inmate) leaders as apostles of Jesus Christ, in ALL areas of human activity in the prison. Kairos has been called the best example of the early church in existence today.

It begins with a 3-day short course in Christianity (called a **Kairos Weekend**), but continues on for years ahead. A Kairos Weekend is similar to outside weekends (Emmaus Walk, for example), but is different in several ways. There is a great emphasis on the team members listening and loving, and on the residents to forgive themselves and others. Kairos is basically for unbelievers, whereas outside weekends are for believers.

Many outside volunteers that go “behind the walls” (up to 45) are needed for each Weekend at ToCI. Many more participate “outside the walls” behind the scenes (pray for 30 minutes, bake cookies, give money, make placemats, prepare agape posters, attend the Closing Ceremony, on Sunday evening, etc.). The institution selects (God chooses) the 36 new residents to be ministered to during the 3 ½ days of the Weekend.

Two Weekends are held each year. In addition, the **Continuing Ministry** includes two 2-Day Retreats, Monthly Reunions (usually 3rd Sunday of each month), and weekly Prayer and Share on Thursday afternoons.

New volunteers are recruited primarily from men who have completed an outside Weekend like Emmaus, Via de Christo, etc. However, each Weekend Leader has the flexibility of selecting some who have NOT been through a 3-day Weekend (up to 20% of the total team members).

Qualifications for Kairos Volunteers

As set forward by Kairos Prison Ministries International (KPMI), there are 6 qualifications for any man wishing to serve inside of Toledo Correctional as a Kairos volunteer:

1. Believe in the Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
2. Be worshipping regularly in his/her Christian church
3. Be recommended by his minister/pastor/priest
4. Be committed and able to participate in the entire Kairos weekend
5. Have participated in a 3-day short course (“street weekend”). However, the Weekend Leader can have up to 20% of his team composed of men who have not personally experienced such a “street weekend”
6. Participation in a Prayer and Share group

If these qualifications are not met, written permission of the KPMI Executive Director is required in order to serve on a Kairos team.

Volunteer Responsibilities at Toledo Correctional

There are 6 major responsibilities that Kairos volunteers have as a Weekend team member. If for any reason the volunteer **CANNOT** commit to ALL 6 of the items listed below, they should wait and be a team member on another Weekend. These 6 responsibilities are:

1. Attend ALL Weekend team formation meetings (4 or 5 team meetings on consecutive Saturdays usually from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)
2. Attend the 3 ½ day Weekend that begins at 2:30 PM on a Thursday and runs to 3:30 PM on a Sunday.
3. Prepare 24 hand-written letters (1 for each resident), with words of encouragement, etc.
4. Get family and church members (and friends) to bake and pray over 150 dozen cookies.
5. Get family / church members (and friends) to contribute \$150 to help pay for Weekend costs.
6. Attend Monthly Reunions for 1 year (usually held on 2nd. Sunday from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM).

The process for applying to be a Kairos volunteer at Toledo Correctional is pretty simple.

1. Complete the page of personal information (below)
2. Take the Pastor/Priest form to your pastor/priest and ask them to complete it and return it to you
3. Return BOTH completed forms to the Kairos volunteer who has been talking to you about Kairos
4. Soon you will receive a multi-page application packet from a member of the Kairos Toledo Advisory Council. This is the information that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) requires
5. Return the fully completed and signed ODRC forms to the member of the Kairos Toledo Advisory Council who gave them to you
6. You will be contacted once your application has been reviewed by ODRC and prison officials

This page to be completed by the "Prospective Kairos Volunteer"

Fill out this sheet and mail it to *the Kairos volunteer who gave it to you*

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Date Submitted: _____

Full Legal Name _____
(as it appears on your driver's license)

Nickname (or common name) _____

Home Address: (street/route/box) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Gender: M ___ F ___

Race: Caucasian ___ Black ___ Hispanic ___ Other _____

What YEAR were you born in ? _____

Do you regularly attend congregational worship? Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, what church? _____

Protestant: ___ Catholic: ___

Are you "Clergy?" Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, church / denomination where you are ordained?

Are you a Musician? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, what Instrument(s)? _____

Have you attended a qualifying Christian renewal weekend? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, circle name of Movement:

Christ Renews His Parish
Catholic Cursillo
Lutheran Via De Christo
Tres Dias
Great Banquet
High School Catholic Kairos

Episcopal Cursillo (or Happening youth weekend)
Walk to Emmaus (or Chrysalis youth weekend)
Cum Christo
Koinonia
Awakening youth weekend

Community _____

Weekend Number ___ Year ___ City / State _____

Are you willing to serve inside Toledo Correctional Institution? Yes ___ No ___

This page is to be completed by the PKV/Applicant's
PASTOR / PRIEST

Fill out this sheet and mail it to *volunteer applicant who gave it to you*

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Today's date _____

Name of the Potential Kairos Volunteer ("PKV") _____

Your Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Are you a Kairos Volunteer? Yes___ No___

What is your current church/congregation/parish?

What is the best way for us to contact you if we have questions about this "PKV"?

Are you the PKV's pastor/priest? Yes___ No___

Does the PKV worship regularly at his/your church? Yes___ No___

Why are you recommending that this PKV participate in Kairos Prison Ministry?

How long have you known PKV? _____

Do you believe that this PKV is in a good emotional and spiritual state, fully capable of participating in a Kairos weekend inside a men's prison? Yes___ No___

Your signature: _____