

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY, cont.

- A) A WEEKEND EVENT that spans most of the time from Thursday late afternoon until mid-Sunday afternoon. These events are held once or twice a year at each prison, depending on the prison schedule as well as the availability of volunteers. The prison participants are only to attend this event one time as a Candidate. Those who successfully complete the weekend are then considered as Kairos Graduates.
- B) GROUPING MEETINGS that are usually scheduled at weekly intervals or as close to that as the prison schedule permits. Graduates of the weekend event are encouraged to attend these grouping meetings as often as the prison allows. These meetings should include a Kairos volunteer. These meetings are a form of a Christian accountability group that provides an opportunity for sharing successes, failures, prayer needs, etc.
- C) REUNIONS that are scheduled monthly. Graduates of the weekend event are encouraged to attend these reunions. Usually, these reunions include two or more Kairos volunteers, two or more brief testimonials, singing and sharing.
- D) ONE- or TWO-DAY RETREATS can also be scheduled in between the INSIDE WEEKENDS. These retreats are used to encourage those who have or have not regularly attended grouping meetings, and to recharge those graduates who are having issues in their Christian walk.

The times may vary slightly depending on the prison, but here is a typical Inside Weekend schedule:

The Weekend starts around 4:00pm on Thursday afternoon at the prison chapel. The candidates are matched with a “host” volunteer to be their initial support. Everyone in attendance (Volunteers as well as Candidates) are given the opportunity to answer a few questions about themselves. Some words of encouragement are shared, and the candidates are discharged back to their dorms around 7:00pm. The Volunteer team departs the prison shortly afterward.

The Friday schedule begins around 9:00am as the candidates are welcomed by their host and escorted to their assigned family table. The Saturday schedule begins at 9:00am as well, with both Friday and Saturday events ending with the candidates being discharged back to their dorms around 7:00pm. The Volunteer team departs the prison shortly afterward.

The Sunday schedule begins around 9:00am. The Sunday schedule wraps the weekend up with a closing ceremony that ends around 3:00pm. The Volunteer team departs the prison shortly after goodbyes.

There are several ways we receive new volunteers. Connecting with those in the Cursillo, via de Cristo, Emmaus or similar communities is a natural starting point for recruitment as those with that experience are well-suited to be part of the team. Another common way is through a one-on-one knowledge of a friend or an acquaintance in a Bible study or in a church who seem suited or interested in prison ministry. We do make occasional presentations at Church organizational meetings, or we might run an ad in a Church publication. We also receive some requests from people who have experience within the DOC – they may be former DOC employees, or they may have themselves been incarcerated and graduated from the Kairos program.



