



## KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

### The Experience of a Lifetime - expectations fulfilled in an inmate

*“When we came into Kairos a little over three days ago, the team said we might have the experience of a lifetime. They told us that after this week, our lives might be changed forever.*

*Some of us scoffed at the idea, some of us hoped to get answers – others of us decided on the first night not to come back!*

*Well, we ALL came back – probably because we realized even then, that something special was happening in these rooms and in our hearts. Coming back, being with very special people who showed us unconditional acceptance and filled us with hope, is the best decision some of us will ever make.”*

### THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING TIME

When they hear the words inmate, prisoner or criminal, a lot of people immediately think of someone who has committed mass murder or another very serious crime. While there is a percentage of inmates serving time for very serious crimes,

- the vast majority of inmates have an aggregate sentence length of less than 5 years with more than half having an aggregate sentence length of less than 2 years (aggregate sentence is all time including the possible parole period), which means they are not the ‘really bad crims’;
- 8-10% of convictions around Australia are for traffic-related offences;
- a high number of sentences are for drug related crimes, and most of those petty crime;
- the vast majority of those serving time have literacy skills of 7th grade or less, with over 50% of them being classed in the illiterate levels;
- most inmates come from broken homes, very dysfunctional environments and most have had very poor role models (especially male);
- most women in prison come out of extremely abusive environments, current and from childhood, with around 80% having been victims before they were offenders;
- approximately 70% of all inmates in an adult prison have served a previous sentence, and that re-offence (recidivism) rate will continue unless something intervenes in their lives; and
- most inmates do not realise they have a choice, or if they do, how to act on that choice to make sustainable change for the future.

***If nothing is done, if nothing intervenes to help them see, with hope, the chance for a different future, one last fact remains: All who are on a cycle (unless they die inside) will be back out in society one day, into the same environment as they left, with either the same or a worse attitude about life and living and with no reason or ability to do things differently.***

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Support Kairos Mobilong # 26      10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

- JOIN THE PRAYER ROSTER
- WRITE A LETTER
- BAKE BISCUITS
- GIVE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Please offer your help by speaking to **Neil Pontifex, David or Helen Beck** at the **Kairos Table in the hall** after worship.