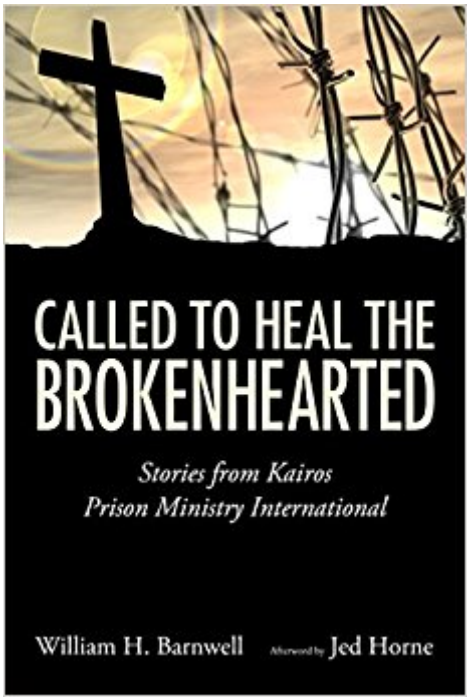
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Called To Heal The Brokenhearted: Stories From Kairos Prison Ministry International



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Synopsis

In this stirring book, William H. Barnwell tells the stories of prison inmates and the Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers who work with them. Set mostly at the huge Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, BarnwellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s narrative illustrates how offenders who have done the worst can and do change, becoming model inmates and, if released, productive citizens. The stories also reveal how Kairos volunteers have found healing for broken hearts.Given that the United States incarcerates more people per capita than any country in the world, reformers are seeking radically new ways to reduce our prison populations. Kairos volunteers and inmates alike have much to contribute to the ongoing reform discussions. Now serving 300 state and federal prisons, 30,000 Kairos volunteers work with 20,000 inmates each year. They take part in long weekend retreats with the inmates and follow up with regular prison visits. Since its beginning in 1976, Kairos has served over 250,000 inmates. Broad-based, nondenominational, and nonjudgmental Christian, Kairos seeks to carry out its sloganÃ¢â ¬â ¢Ã¢â ¬Å“listen, listen, love, loveÃ¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢among inmates who have had few to listen to them, and fewer still to love them.In Called to Heal the Brokenhearted are stories of undeniable redemption. They point the way to personal transformation for the inmates and the volunteers. One Kairos inmate speaks of the change this way: he makes guitars out of the good wood Ã¢â ¬Å“hidden beneath the surfaceÃ¢â ¬Â• of throwaway pianos. Ã¢â ¬Å“I find my work incredibly fulfilling,Ã¢â ¬Â• he says. Ã¢â ¬Å“I see myself in every piano, discarded by society but redeemed and put to use in a new way.Ã¢â ¬Â•

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Once again William Barnwell takes us inside a too little explored American institution. This time itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s our prison system; our guides are the inmates themselves and Kairos volunteers driven by faith. The result is deep insight into encounters between justice and love. This is a brilliant bookÃ¢â ¬â ¢and an important one.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Shannon Ravenel, retired director of Shannon Ravenel Books, an imprint of Algonquin BooksÃ¢â ¬Å“William BarnwellÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Called to Heal the Brokenhearted: Stories from Kairos Prison Ministry International shows how compassion can be a powerful force, especially in the lives of the 20,000 inmates that Kairos volunteers work with each year. Barnwell sheds light on the important work Kairos Prison Ministry does each year sharing faithÃ¢â ¬â„¢s capacity to heal and proves that redemption is possible if we just listen and love.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œSister Helen Prejean, C.S.J., author of Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States

William H. Barnwell, New Orleans, Louisiana, has worked in Episcopal churches in South Carolina, New Orleans, and Boston and served as the canon missioner at the Washington National Cathedral. His books include In RichardÃ¢â ¬â„¢s World: The Battle of Charleston, 1966 and Lead Me On, Let Me Stand: A ClergymanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Story in White and Black, among others. He has been involved in prison ministry for over forty years.

This is a very good book about Kairos Prison Ministries, providing perspectives of team members, inmate participants, corrections officials, and prison reformers. The stories are personal and are told well. If you are looking for a brief, but comprehensive overview of prison ministries, this book will provide it.

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