

Quo Vadis?

KYCN: Mike, those who know you, know you have lot's of ideas about youth and youth work. What's next?



Mike: Christians pray that God's kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven – on earth, *not just* in heaven. We shouldn't settle for something less than the kingdom. We too easily accept the prevailing culture

as inevitable. Unfortunately, that means many young people are missing out on the hope, joy, beauty and goodness that God intends for them on earth (not to mention heaven.) Many Christian parents and youth workers are limited by a strategy that just tries to keep evil out. They must say "NO!" over and over again, or just give up and give in. In Kairos we see this challenge and are doing something about it. Our goal is to build a positive youth culture that promotes

whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious (Phil. 4:8). This includes more than just *whatever is spiritual*. It includes every area of human culture: food, sports, games, music, art, dress...

KYCN: Why not just eliminate youth culture totally!

Mike: Eliminating youth culture is impossible to do. Isolating Christian youth from youth culture completely is also unrealistic. Even the Amish admit that. More importantly, we have a commission from Christ to bring the gospel to the world. We should not just write off youth culture. We should want to transform it and those who live in it. Besides, shaping today's youth means shaping tomorrow's world leaders.

KYCN: *Creating a new youth culture... That seems like a lot of work!*

Mike: Oh, it will be. It was a lot of work to build Florence Cathedral, but it was done. I think *we need to do this* and for two good reasons. First, we lose too many young people to the powerful world of youth culture. Their lives get messed up. They lose what faith they have. We need to provide an alternative culture, a whole culture – not just



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a good youth group and some Christian music. We need to provide a place where youth can flourish. The second reason we should do it is exactly because this mission is big. Its vision is big. It will provide a place in mission for all sorts of our young people, not just youth workers. This mission will need businessmen and women, web designers, musicians, writers, clothes designers, video editors, sound geeks... That's a short list. I have a longer one and it's growing.

KYCN: *Where do you begin?*

Mike: Like with any good project – get the right people and the funding. I think I have some of the people. (See page two.) I am hoping our readers will help with the funding.



KYCN: Toufic, you were asked to spearhead the Kairos Media project. It's big! Where do you start?



Toufic: Modern culture rides on technology: film, television, radio, internet, mp3 players, video games. When youth aren't at school they are almost always interacting with technology of some sort. As most of us know, much of the web is not morally safe. You can go to Youtube or iTunes for all the right reasons and come away slimed. So, we are starting by providing an excellent and healthy media portal – a place where youth can go that is "cool," but also up-building.

KYCN: Excellence is a high standard!

Toufic: Yes. Cool may be more challenging though, but I think we have an answer for both. In the beginning we expect to get a fair amount of stuff that is somewhat short of excellent. That's ok. We primarily want to have a place where our youth can showcase their own work. They'll produce something, upload it and invite their friends to come and see. Some of it will be

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www.kairos-na.org/newsletterarchives.htm

really popular – thus cool. The best songs and videos we will re-do in high quality and make them available for purchase. Over time, the site will grow in excellence.

KYCN: When will this media portal be ready?

Toufic: It's in development now. You can already upload videos and music to the site by going to www.kairos-media.org. We are planning an on-line "come and see party" starting February 26th.

KYCN: How will you ensure that Kairos media site will be safe?

Toufic: Each video and every song will be reviewed before it goes on line. Three criteria will have to be met. First, is it technically good enough? The sound quality must be adequate. The image must be in focus, etc. Second, does it uphold spiritual and moral excellence? If it falls into a gray area, it won't be posted. People will need to hit the bulls-eye, not just the target. Third, we won't post anything illegal or offensive: politically, culturally, ethnically, ecumenically, racially or otherwise.

KYCN: Are you worried about kids getting addicted to your site like they do to Facebook and YouTube?

Toufic: I wish! Well, not really. Our goal is not that. Like anything potentially addictive, people need to be wise. Alcohol,

television, classical music, football – any of them can be addictive. If we see it is becoming a problem, we will provide a way to limit access.

KYCN: How can people get involved?

Toufic: If they have already created a video or recorded a song, they can upload it now. More importantly, we need people to record songs or skits they do in the future. We also need team members who will review the material that is uploaded. We need financial support as well! My budget for this year is \$70,000. People can donate to this project at the kairos-media.org page. I also need people who will help me do fundraising. I already have some of my team in place here in Lebanon and in the U.S. but I will definitely need more people soon! Anyone who wants to help can e-mail me directly via toufic.elramy@googlemail.com until I become really famous. Then I'll change my e-mail.



THE KAIROS MEDIA TEAM FROM LEBANON