

KAIROS

July 2020

www.kairostexas.org

Issue 44

I don't need to tell you that we are in a time of trial. Our cities ring with discord, some of them burning, all threatened with the Coronavirus fog. In this election year, our nation is as divided as it has ever been, perhaps since the civil war, certainly since the 1960s. While many of us remain hunkered down in our homes, we can't escape the images of the 24 by 7 news cycle unless we intentionally turn it off. However, as challenging as this time is, it is by no means unique. We have been through challenging times before.

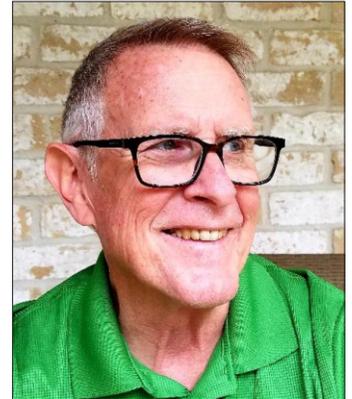
The source for the devotional below is Soul Alchemy, as best as I can tell a non-Christian organization. It was written from the perspective of someone born around 1970, certainly younger than most of us, but a great insight, nonetheless.

Imagine you were born in the year 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War One begins and ends on your 18th birthday in 1918. 22 million people perish in that war. Later in the year, the Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your twentieth birthday. 50 million die from this disease in two years. Yes, 50 million. On your 29th birthday, the great depression begins. Unemployment hits 25% and the world GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 39. The country nearly collapses, along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet and don't try to catch your breath because on your 41st birthday the United States is pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war. At 50, the Korean War starts and 5 million people perish. At 55 the Vietnam War starts and lasts for 20 years. 4 million people perish in that conflict. On your 62nd birthday, you have the Cuban Missile Crises, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet could have ended as we know it. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. How did you survive all of that?

Now for the kid born in 1970 who in 1985 thought his grandparent or great-grandparent didn't understand how hard school was or how mean that

Ray Sims
KOT Chair

**For Such A
Time As This**



other kid in his class was, he managed to survive all the traumatic times listed above.

Since then we have been through many more times of trial; 9/11, Desert Storm, Iraq, the Great Recession, Afghanistan and everything in between. In the Bible, Queen Esther and the Jewish people certainly had their time of trial in the exile. The Jews were facing genocide instigated at the hands of Haman when Mordecai asked her then to intercede with King Ahasuerus. In Esther 4:14 he asks, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" She answers in 4:16 "...And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

We have survived and indeed flourished through many trials before, and we will survive this. What do we do while we are still largely locked down? We plan to come out on the other side of this time ready to continue the ministry we love, the ministry of Kairos for the incarcerated and their families through the three programs, Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside and Kairos Torch. I encourage each of your advisory councils to continue to meet, to reach out to each other, to plan what you will do on the other side of this period.

Continued on page 4



A relationship with Jesus should change all our attitudes and relationships! Would you agree?

Fifteen years ago a man I greatly admire, Doug Cooley, asked me to volunteer in a prison ministry called Kairos. I didn't know much about Kairos, but I said yes because I trusted Doug!

Kairos is a four day experience in a prison with 40 “men in white” with an equal number of “pastels” from outside the prison who are there in the name of Jesus to “love, love, listen, listen.” Black, White, Hispanic all hear and experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Lives are changed because of this love relationship with Jesus. How would lives change in the aftermath of George Floyd's death if relationships could be forged between people in Christ whose lives and attitudes were being transformed by His Holy Spirit.

In Mark 5 we see where a relationship with Jesus transforms 3 very different kinds of people with very different needs.

All these encounters point to Jesus and how he is not just a man, but fully God and fully man!

The first person Jesus encounters is a man who is demon possessed. Lots of issues we could discuss, but what Satan and his minions attempt to do then and today is to distort and destroy the image of God in man. Satan in Hebrews 11:28 is called the “destroyer.” Every word in Mark 5:3-5 emphasizes his pathetic condition of the poor man. We see the goal of the destroyer as he goes into the pigs, as we see his work in our cities today, bringing chaos and destruction upon so many. This man's salvation and ours today is found in the powerful ministry of Christ – as he transforms this man to a place where he is able to go out to others with the Good News of what God has done for him (love, love, listen, listen).

The second person Jesus encounters is a woman who has suffered an illness for many years. Because of this illness she is in poverty. What's worse, she is seen as unclean and thus has become a social outcast, more than 6 feet apart! What she does have is faith that Jesus can heal her, and this gives her the boldness to reach out. As William Lane says, “It was the grasp of her faith rather than her hand that secured the healing she sought.”

The third person (or family) Jesus transforms is much different than the first two. Jairus is a powerful man

Murray Gossett
First Presbyterian
Church
Amarillo, Texas



with influence, well thought of as a ruler in the synagogue. His needs and belief that Jesus can heal his daughter drive him to seek Jesus. When news of his daughter's death comes, (v.35) Jesus exhorts Jairus, “Don't be afraid; just believe.” I like this definition of faith, “trusting, dependent love and obedience.” With the entire crowd excluded, with just the parents and three friends, Jesus in a beautiful scene, raises the little girl to life.

David Garland sums up these three encounters with Jesus this way:

“Jesus can succeed where other sources of healing have failed, and it costs nothing but a bold faith.”

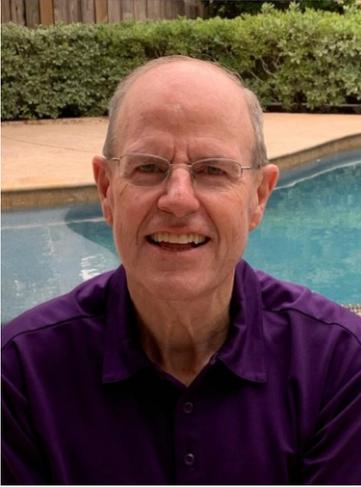
What if you woke
up **TODAY**
with only the things
that you
God thanked
for
yesterday?

Important websites:

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KPMI: www.mykairos.org





Scott Baker
Vice Chair

The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 has impacted the lives of virtually every person on earth. That is the bad news. But let us try for one moment to put its impact into perspective.

First, let's remember that pandemics are not new. Reflecting back over the past century:

- The Spanish Flu lasted for 3 years, beginning in January 1918, and claimed the lives of 3% of all people in the world! And unlike Covid-19, a 25-year-old person was more likely to perish from the Spanish flu than a 74-year-old.
- Cholera has been with us for two centuries and reached pandemic levels 7 times! The most recent pandemic lasted from 1961-1975.

Secondly, and while it may be of little consolation, it might help us, to remember that we are not the only humans to have experienced such trials and tribulations, and we will most likely not be the last.

It is also important to remember that pandemics do end, and that modern science and medicine can be incredible forces for good. We no longer live in the Dark Ages, and we are better equipped today to deal with a pandemic than we have ever been.

We can also take solace in the fact that Covid-19 is being aggressively addressed by the best qualified specialists globally and will be wrestled to its demise soon with our cooperation.

The news media showers us constantly with all the negative effects of the current pandemic, because that is what attracts viewership. I believe that the

mental well-being of people who thrive on the constant barrage of sensationalized social media and news, and forget that God is in control, are making a poor choice. I prefer to dwell on the “silver linings” and the things we can learn. Since most of you who are reading this article both love the Lord and are serving in Kairos, let's summarize some of the positive repercussions we are experiencing and will experience as we transition to a new normalcy.

- 1. We will appreciate the ministry in new ways when we return to service, whether for KI, KO or Torch. We will enter our Team formation meetings with a renewed vigor knowing what we have been missing. We will again appreciate being able to assemble in community, pray and serve.**
- 2. Some AC's are employing our current program delays as Evelyn Lemly had suggested, i.e. for engaging in Prayer, Communications and Preparation. I am happy to report that we are seeing many AC's continuing to meet frequently and are addressing the needs of prayer for our communities.**
- 3. Some AC's are providing outward expressions of our continuing ministry including writing notes of encouragement and sending in Kairos cookies!**
- 4. Some of our AC's are focusing on preparations for further Recruiting and Fundraising, strengthening their AC's, and planning AKT training to meet the needs of our programs as they open.**
- 5. And all our AC's are actively engaging in making plans, and contingency plans, for restarting our ministries as soon as it becomes practical.**
- 6. I predict that our ministries will return to service more invigorated, better prepared, stronger, and in better financial health than they were prior to the pandemic because we are committed to serving.**

And for the ultimate “Silver Lining”, I suggest we reflect on Psalm 46:10, “Be Still and know that I am God.”

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Continued from page 1 - Ray Sims

Kairos Inside - I think the likelihood of returning to prison this year is small, however, you can encourage your inside communities with correspondence through Jpay or snail mail. Visitation 2.0 at Visitation2.com is another wonderful way to give your brothers and sisters in white a shout out; check it out! I will confer with the Director or Assistant Director of Chaplaincy for TDCJ in the first part of August and will give you an update as to whether they think we will be able to hold fall weekends or not at that time. And don't lose sight on the idea of prayer and share which may be a possibility before the year's end.

Kairos Outside - KO perhaps provides the best opportunity for fall weekends and indeed, as of this writing, four KO ACs are planning on conducting weekends this fall.

Kairos Torch – as of this writing, one weekend is still scheduled for October with Torch Amarillo.

While I emphasize there is no pressure for having a fall weekend or any other face-to-face event, the four KPMI board requirements must be in place before anything face-to-face can be held.

1. Permission. We go where we are permitted to go.
 - a. State and local government must allow us to start.
 - b. TDCJ must allow volunteers to enter.
 - c. Individual unit must allow volunteers to enter.
 - d. Facility is inviting us in (AKT, Church host site and meetings sites, KO weekend site)
2. We go where we are invited.
3. We follow the rules, social distancing, face masks, etc.
 - a. State and local government requirements.
 - b. DOC and other institutional rules.
 - c. Kairos volunteer and KO guest health requirements.
4. Choice. Each person has a choice whether to come together, but not the choice as to whether to follow the requirements above.

We are all called into this Kairos ministry, so regardless of whether fall face-to-face events happen, don't overlook the virtual option. Meeting with your community is so important, it keeps Kairos where it belongs, up front! Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens." This is but a season; and indeed, we are still called to carry on the work of bringing Jesus to the incarcerated and their families. We are here for a time such as this!

Cheryl Glasgow
KOT Webmaster



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS IN DEMAND 19 Things To Do

As we navigate the current health crisis together, we all can benefit by working to calm the anxiety and uncertainty in our lives. The news is filled with reports of COVID-19 but we wanted to see this acronym in a different light.

Christian Outreach Volunteers In Demand, NOW is the perfect time to take care of all those things we normally don't have time to do. Take a moment to think of **19** activities you can do while waiting to rejoin your Kairos team.

Some suggestions from your **ROCK (Recruiting Outreach Coordinators of Kairos)** committee...

1. List churches to contact
2. Send 'thinking of you' cards to volunteers
3. Plan some fundraisers
4. Edit and revise team documents
5. Identify and contact the next 5 outreach speakers
6. Repair the materials used for weekends, reunions, retreats
7. Reorder Kairos supplies such as brochures
8. Plan training for your ROCK team
9. Establish recruiting goals for 2020
10. Plan a 'mentoring new volunteers' program
11. Review KI, KO, and KT manual for riverbank refreshers
12. Plan how to target recruitment of clergy
13. Plan how to update volunteer contact info
14. Review [ROCK website](https://www.kairostexas.org) at <https://www.kairostexas.org/Recruiting-Outreach>
15. Talk with volunteers about improving communications
16. Provide skills form to all volunteers
17. Record the info. from completed skills forms
18. Visit by phone or telecoms with volunteers
19. PRAY together and give each and every day its Glory.





BE PREPARED

Ephesians 6: 13-18

Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ponder on what **BE PREPARED** means to you personally, to your role in Kairos, to your Kairos community, to your Kairos State, and to Kairos as a whole.

The Friday night speakers and workshop presenters are looking forward to helping Kairos **BE PREPARED.**

And Pray as we Prepare for the first virtual conference – something we've never done before and for technology to work and internet to be stable – so we can come together as Kairos family.

LISTEN
LISTEN

LOVE
LOVE

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org



Observations From the Lockdown

Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.

I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Still haven't decided where to go for Easter ---- The Living Room or The Bedroom.

PSA: every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

Home-schooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog..... we laughed a lot.

So, after this quarantine.....will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?

Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.

Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to "Puerto Backyarda." I'm getting tired of "Los Livingroom."

Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.

Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".... I'm offended.

Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.

God
is in Control

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God's Job - Danny Dutton

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this.

Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.



Written by an 8-year-old from Chula Vista, CA, for his third-grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God. I just wonder if any of us could do as well?

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God.

Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can.

It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But... you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And this is what I know about God.

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KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

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In Loving Memory

During the Kairos Prison Ministry Annual Summer Conference July 24-26 in Orlanda, Florida, there was a Memorial Service for all those Kairos Volunteers who have gone to be with God during the past year. Those remembered were:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Dave Andrus | Jack Harris |
| John Arnold | Thomas Harrison |
| Steve Campbell | Samuel Haywood |
| Gary Cotton | Mike Kidda |
| Mack Croger | Scruggs Love |
| Oscar Delph | Donna Meyn |
| Bruce Dopslauf | Gary Miller |
| Kenny DuBois | Booker Roy |
| Robert Duke | Bill Salser |
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| Bubba Feaster | Carl Vogt |
| Keith Fletcher | Terry Younger |
| Martha Frances | |

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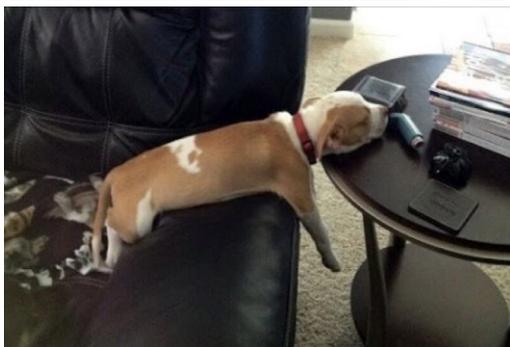
Be sure to visit our website at www.kairostexas.org. Our webmaster is Cheryl Glasgow. The schedule and location for State Board meetings for 2020 are included here. We have a calendar showing when all the weekends will be held. Check your weekend - we depend on you to keep them updated.

On that same website you will find the current state officers, state meetings and minutes, map of state meetings, committees, and when the weekends are to be held. You will also find this current and past newsletters there. If your unit does a newsletter, we would love to add it. There are links to KPMI and TDCJ.

There is information about Kairos Outside, including structure, forms and information, newsletters, and mission field. The minutes for KO meetings can also be found there.

Please take a look and see if we need to change, remove or add anything.

THE ART OF NAPPING



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