

KAIROS

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www.kairostexas.org

Issue 52



Ray Sims
State Chair

Unity in Kairos

Unity, an impossibility? Our nation is divided. Politicians seem to thrive on division, and there are so many opportunists who profit from division. The media makes a living on division. Our pastor just the other night said something like, “In the mid-twentieth century with Ed Murrow and Walter Cronkite - inspiration. Later, with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley - information. Now, with Fox News CNN, and all the rest – affirmation - of one's own views.” Division, the current media couldn't exist without it. Even in my own church, we are pondering disaffiliation from the larger denomination. Everywhere you look, there is tension and the last thing we need is further division.

Unity may be elusive, it may even sound utopian, but unity is what Jesus prayed before going to the cross. Jesus said in John 17:23, “I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” There are many other scriptures that call for unity in the church.

Even with all the division that surrounds us, the statement attributed to various theologians over time, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” This drives home the concept that we Christians can model the unity in essentials that Jesus calls us to in Kairos with the faith statement:

We in Kairos believe:

- The Bible is God's authoritative and inspired word for our faith and our lives.
- In the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- In the deity, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Friendship with God is a free gift, for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- The love of Jesus Christ motivates His followers to provide food for the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcome to the stranger, clothes for the naked and visits to the sick and those in prison.
- In sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ with all incarcerated individuals, their families and to those who work with them inside and outside the correctional institution.

We come from many different denominations and even cultures, but these are the essentials. By having the points of this faith statement in common, we can offer Christian love for countless folks and families who are impacted by incarceration and we can do so in unity. We put aside our differences and unity begins with each of us as individuals. We have to subordinate our interests and agendas for the greater good of reaching those impacted by incarceration and their families through the three Kairos programs: Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside and Kairos Torch.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:1-3, “¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Then later in Ephesians 4:29-31, on

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Driscoll Tubbs Interntl. Council Rep Communications Improvement

I am going to discuss KAIROS Inside in this article. If you made the KOT 3rd Quarter meeting, committee member Rose Mary Pena led a breakout session on KAIROS Outside (She is the chair of KO San Antonio). At the KOT quarterly meetings, the KO breakout sessions will vary from KI, KO, and Torch. I will make an effort to inform the Continuing Ministry Coordinator for each chapter in advance from now on prior to the meeting which area of KAIROS we will be concentrating on. The 4th Quarter meeting will be mostly KAIROS Inside for Women's Prisons.

Continuing Ministry of KAIROS Inside is covered in your grey manual on pages 305-343. Prayer and Share is covered under pages 305-317. We are reminded on page 305 that the purpose of KAIROS is "to establish Christian Communities among the populations of the correctional institution." If you truly want to change the participants' way of life, you must get involved in attending and encouraging other free world members that served with you on the inside on the weekend that they need to join you in attending Prayer and Share, Reunions and the Retreats.

There haven't been as many weekends since they opened the prisons to Prayer and Share, Reunions and Retreats. Through this July there have been 8 each KO Weekends (all in 2022), 21 each KI Weekends and 1 each Torch Weekend reported according to the information from KAIROS International Messenger. In that 10-month period only 5 KI units in Texas have reported that they held Prayer and Share (100 total days), 3 each have held a reunion (8 each total Reunions), 3 each have held a Retreat (1-2 day, 3 each 1-day retreats, and only 2 have held an Instructional.

It is obvious that the Advisory Council's Continuing Ministry Coordinator has not been properly trained and/or told that they need to go to KAIROS

Messenger to enter the information (it only takes a few minutes). Mr. Craig Combs with KPMI has agreed to help us. However, I am asking both the AC Chair and the Continuing Ministry Coordinator from each advisory council to sign up for and take the Continuing Ministry ZOOM training (it should take less than two hours). Craig is currently set up for one day a month for the meeting. The next one is scheduled for September 8th at 1:00pm Central Standard time.

If you are the AC Chair and/or the Continuing Ministry Coordinator from your Advisory Council or if you are going up the ladder in your AC, there is an online Zoom Continuing Ministry class offered each month by Craig Combs. This class trains volunteers what to do, how to facilitate Prayer & Share and also how to train the Kairos Grads the how's and why's of Prayer & Share. Do you continue to train the grads after the Instructional Reunion? If you don't then you are doing them a huge disservice. The class will help answer those questions and more. It will also give you a step-by-step procedure to complete the Continuing Ministry Report required after every Continuing Ministry event (Prayer & Share, Reunion, etc.) Here is how you register: <https://mykairos.org/training.html> (scroll down to see the Continuing Ministry section).

In closing, I am going to address what the manual says we need to do for the Prayer and Share program to work properly. You need to have a scheduled Prayer and Share for two hours at the unit hopefully every week in a quiet location. The volunteers are NOT to participate in the prayer group and people who have not been through a KAIROS weekend are not allowed in the family prayer groups. If the Warden and Chaplain insists the people who are not Kairos graduates participate, they should form their own prayer groups. There should normally only be 2 to 3 volunteers attending the Prayer & Share. The rest of the volunteers should attempt to make all the monthly reunions when possible. If you are having trouble meeting the 4 each monthly Prayer and Shares and 1 each monthly Reunion, contact me and/or the State Chair Ray Sims.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org



This Is My Testimony About Kairos - Jerry Dorman

I began my incarceration in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in July 2000. I first encountered Kairos graduate inmates while at the Stiles Unit in Beaumont, Texas. These inmates were different from the other inmates in that they were always content with the situation they were in and were always in Bible Studies in the Dorm and also attended Kairos meetings weekly. Their attitudes were different, and they always seemed to keep their tempers under control and avoided fighting.

In September 2005, I transferred to the Dalhart Unit and began to spend my time with inmates that were more focused on their faith and their relationship with one another. Their outlook was very different from mine. I was hopelessly lost and focused on my misery. I dealt with depression and considered suicide since I had lost everything and saw no hope for the future. I began to keep company with the Kairos guys and noticed the Kairos Volunteers that would come to the unit every Tuesday morning to meet with the graduates. They treated the Inmates as individuals, and I saw Christ at work in them. I interviewed for Kairos twice a year and finally was selected to attend in November 2011.

During the Dalhart Kairos #25 weekend, I became more focused on the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. At the Forgiveness Ceremony, I became free of the guilt that I had carried for the last 11 years and also forgave those that had abandoned me since my incarceration. This was the beginning of who I am today through the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

After that Kairos Weekend, I began to study the Bible in a different light and would lead a Prayer Group in my Wing, attend Bible Studies twice weekly, attend Church every Sunday and attend Kairos Prayer and Share on Saturdays. I decided that once released, I would return to the Prison System as an example of what God can do for you and how attending a Kairos Weekend can change your life.

I was released on Parole on July 1st, 2016, and in December 2017, I began to teach Christian Bible Studies at the Bridgeport Prison. I currently teach Experiencing God and Voyager Classes at the Unit and have been a Certified Volunteer Chaplain's Assistant (CVCA) since 2019. I meet with the Kairos Inside Inmate Council weekly; mentor Inmates; coordinate Kairos events and perform the duties of the Prison Chaplain to include walking around the Unit with the KEYS!!

Jerry Dorman Prison Ministry



I recently led Bridgeport #3 Weekend in October 2021 and am the Vice Chair for the Bridgeport Ad Council. I have worked Kairos Outside for Central Texas; Kairos Inside at the Dalhart Unit; Kairos Inside at the Hutchins Unit; and of course, Kairos Inside at the Bridgeport Unit. My days since my release have been blessed with the opportunities presented to me for representing Kairos.

As you can see, Kairos totally changed my perspective of life, not only when I was in Prison but also once I was released. Since I am retired, I have the opportunity to work full time in the Prison Ministry field representing Kairos.

Continued from page 1 - Sims

instruction on personal behavior that bears out that subordination of self for the greater good. ²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

When we do this, when it is not about us but about him, we can impact the world for Jesus. Let's go about the process of getting the ministry we all love back on track and show the world that we are unified in our mission to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

May God continue to bless you all!

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Thriving Through Perseverance - Jim Baker

The following story of "Perseverance" was assembled by the Wainwright Weekend Leader, Jim Mouch, and the AC Chair, Mark Williford. And it strikes me as also being a story about "Thriving", our Annual Conference theme, as it is much more than just surviving. It would have been so easy to become disgruntled and take a break, but the Team and its leadership stayed very positive and committed to serving the Wainwright Community despite the challenges presented. So, in their words:

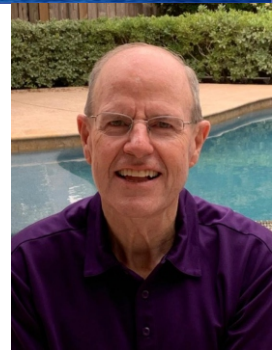
The Wainwright Unit, formerly known as Eastham before the pandemic, had originally scheduled Kairos #39 for April 23 - 26, 2020. The team had been selected and the first two team meetings had been conducted. With the onslaught of the pandemic, and the closure of the prison facilities to volunteers by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Kairos #39 weekend was cancelled about a week before Team meeting #3 and had to be indefinitely postponed. This resulted in an approximate 1 1/2-to-2-year delay. And during the delay, we unfortunately lost three of the Wainwright team members to Covid related illnesses.

When TDCJ started to allow volunteers to return to the prisons, with some restrictions, the Wainwright Kairos #39 weekend was re-scheduled with the Chaplain to instead proceed on the weekend of April 28 - May 1, 2022. These were the previously submitted and approved weekend dates for the subsequent Wainwright Kairos weekend in accordance with our two-year look ahead schedule. A meeting was scheduled with the Chaplain, AC Chair Mark Williford and Weekend Leader Jim Mouch, to review the schedule, any new requirements and to confirm the re-scheduled dates for the Kairos #39 weekend. At that time, it was discovered the 2022 dates for Ramadan would overlap with the rescheduled dates for the Kairos #39 Weekend, and once again needed to be re-scheduled for May 19-22, 2022. In rescheduling these dates, approximately one third of the inside team had conflicts and would not be able to serve on the Weekend. God always provides and new team members were added to fill the vacancies.

Two days before the May 19-22, 2022, Kairos #39 weekend was to begin, the Wainwright Unit, (and several other units in the area) went on Lockdown due to having to pull Officers to assist in the search for a most dangerous escapee in the area.

After discussions with the Wainwright

Scott Baker
Vice Chair



Chaplain and Sr. Warden, it was decided to re-schedule the Kairos #39 weekend for June 2 - 6, 2022. Once again 3-4 vacancies occurred on the inside team and God sent us experienced replacements!

Meanwhile, Paul and Leslie Alexander, our Outside Support Team Leaders, scrambled, beginning in early 2022, to address and accommodate the food needs for the multiple scheduled weekends of Kairos #39. Supply chain issues became a big issue due to the limited availability of inventory, and in some cases our usual suppliers had to be changed to suppliers who could meet the date and quantity requirements.

On June 2, 2022, Wainwright Kairos #39 began. We went inside the prison on Thursday to meet the 42 participants and completed our first day in the Chapel. We left wishing our brothers-in-white a good night's rest in anticipation of a wonderful spirit-filled weekend. The team sang "Surely the Presence" outside the front guard gate before we headed back to the host church for our dinner, final team meeting, and our Team Commissioning ceremony.

Just as we began our team meeting, Chaplain Fatheree arrived at the host church to inform us that the Wainwright Unit, and several others in the area, had just been placed on Lockdown, once again, and that the Kairos Weekend #39 would have to be postponed again. Some of the Officers were once again called out to assist in apprehension of the prior escapee who had been spotted in the area region that afternoon.

We spent the evening working to cancel food orders, where possible, and donating the remainder of the food to local churches and charities as the new delay would exceed the shelf-life of most of the food. God has a Special Time planned to conduct Wainwright #39 Weekend. At the moment, the Weekend has been rescheduled, for the fifth time, to the weekend of October 26-30, 2022.

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Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

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Kairos Outside - Michelle Edwards



Michelle Edwards
KO Sub Committee
Chair



Just a simple sign.

Last year, the "Free Gift" posters were shared at our State Meeting. To some, it's just a simple sign, a forgotten piece of paper, a reminder to do something, but for some, it's an open door to experience a weekend. Perhaps years and years of built up hurt, anger, loneliness. Maybe it was shared once, maybe it was passed on to someone who thought it might be of interest.

What is it you ask? It's the Free Gift poster and a few of our communities are sharing like CRAZY. These ladies are putting them on their vehicles so that others who are going for a visit will see them, even those just running into the grocery store. They are posting on social media and leaving these along with brochures in laundromats, in restrooms, at their children's preschools. One member even hit up the local Boys and Girls Club who now want to partner with us for potential guests and outreach.

Now that our units are starting back up, these are getting shared. At one closing I was honored to be a part of (Ferguson), passed them out at the end of the Kairos Outside talk. They were given the Free Flyer and a Reservation form. Talk about excitement in the room and this was a first for me in 9 years of being part of this ministry. More often than not, our information goes on a desk or in a file and is not seen again. What a breath of fresh air to see them going out before the participants even got to go back to their cells.

How do you get one? Well, there are actually two separate ones. One of these is written to the inmates with information to share with their loved ones. The other is for the loved one to actually register for herself with a QR code and website information. Both of these can be found at www.mykairos.org.

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Shop Amazon - Bob Crane



Bob Crane
Treasurer

How would you like to financially support Kairos Prison Ministry without sending them any money? If you shop on Amazon (and who doesn't these days) instead of logging into Amazon.com, log into <https://smile.amazon.com>. It is the same Amazon, but they will donate 0.5% of your purchases to the charity of your choice. Select KPMI as your charity to support and you can help the ministry every time you shop.

While 0.5% of your purchase price may not seem like much, each quarter Amazon Smile will send KPMI a donation based upon everyone's purchases who selected KPMI as their charity. The statement below shows the impact for the first quarter of 2022.

This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you've selected, Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc., in the amount of \$747.45 as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers between January 1st-March 31st.

Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com or using the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned ON, everyday purchases make an impact. So far, AmazonSmile has donated:

- ***\$10,908.79 to Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.****
- ***Over \$355 million to US charities***
- ***Over \$403 million to charities worldwide***

Start shopping with Amazon Smile and help support KPMI. Please note that because all KPMI entities (HQ, States, and Advisory Councils) operate under a single Tax ID Number, Amazon can only send funds to KPMI, Inc. in Florida. They are unable to send funds to individual States or Advisory Councils.



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In Loving Memory

At the KPMI National Convention on July 28-29 in Dallas, a Memorial Service was held for the following Kairos Saints who have gone to be with Jesus in the past year.

Jim Adams	Shanika Davis	Jeannette Maroney
Mitchell Aiken	June Demas	James Martinez
Charles Allen	Ed Dodd	Roy McGee
Lee Alexander	Jenny Espinoza	Bruce Miles
Patricia Bailey	Louis Esquivel	Mary Ann Milligan
Wilton Bean	Jeff Felder	Linda Neeley
Russell Briley	Linda Felder	Hugo Neumann
James Brunson	Tony Gilbert	Marvel O'Brien
Sue Ann Brunson	Marie Gresham	Hugh Pate
Marsha Carter	Bob Hamblin	Garland Pearce
Gene Coe	All Herpache	Naomi Price
Kenneth Comer	Shirley Herpache	Robert Rippy
Donald Cone	Earl Hicks	Vern Roberts
Delia Corales	Mark Lowry	Jim Rock
Ray Coward	Gary Marburger	Ron Smith
		Lloyd Jean Williams

Humor

My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffer from mental illness.....I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it.

My bucket list.....keep breathing.

Camping.....where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say..... "Close enough."

Being an adult isthe dumbest thing I have ever done.

I'm a multitasker.....I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!

Retirement to do list....Wake up. Nailed it!

I went to an antique auction.....and people were bidding on me.

People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full, miss the point.....The glass is refillable.

I don't have grey hair.....I have wisdom highlights.

Sometimes it takes me all day to get....nothing done.

I don't trip.....I do random gravity checks.

My heart says chocolate and wine....but my jeans say, please, please, please eat a salad!

Never laugh at your spouse's choices.....You are one of them.

One minute you're young and fun.....Next, you're turning down the car stereo to see better.

I'd grow my own food if only.....I could find bacon seeds.

Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me.....so from now I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.

My body is a temple.....ancient and crumbling.
Common sense is not a gift.....It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone else who doesn't have it.

I came....I saw....I forgot what I was doing....Retraced my steps.....Got lost on the way back.....Now I have no idea what's going on.

James Crisp - Bridgeport Unit

I'm sure you've heard of Kairos
And the many blessings it can be.
So how about I share my story
And what it's done for me.

Now we all know that prison is not a
fun place and it was never meant to be.
But make no mistake about it
The Lord has a plan for you and me.

I found something in Kairos
That I had no idea was there,
A key to unlock this old broken heart
And people that truly care.

You can call prison the devil's playground
If that's what you choose to do.
But as for me I see it as God's
Learning ground to make a better me and you.

The first thing the Lord got a hold of
Was this old heart of mine,
Full of pride and hate
That I picked up doing time.

Then He opened my eyes and said
It's okay if you feel you need to cry,
See I gave up my life just for you,
That's the reason I had to die.

He said I know where you're at
And I know where you've been.
I'm the one that gave up my life
To wash away your sin.

I used to think of drugs
And how good they made me feel,
But that too is gone
Because the Lord's love is real.

Kairos has been a blessing
And I'm growing more each day.
Brothers and sisters that love me
And help me along the way.

So, if you ask me what I think of Kairos
And what it's done for me.
It helped me grow close to God
And set my old heart free.



Death Row to Life Row - Ken Camp with CommonCall Magazine

About 200 of the inmates at the Allan B. Polunsky Unit - a Texas Department of Criminal Justice maximum-security prison near Livingston - are housed on Death Row, where prisoners typically spend 23 hours a day in a small single-occupancy cell.

But Terry Joe Solley, an inmate in the general prison population who devotes 12 to 14 hours a day visiting those otherwise-isolated prisoners, is committed to turning Death Row into "Life Row."

"We introduce them to the one who can give them spiritual life. They find spiritual life in a place where they have come to die," Solley said. "On Life Row, broken men become whole."

Solley is one of six field ministers at the Polunsky Unit. Field ministers are inmates who have completed a Bachelor of Arts in biblical studies degree program, offered to men at the Darrington Unit in Brazoria County (renamed the TDCJ Memorial Unit last year) and to women at the Hobby Unit in Falls County. They receive certification as field ministers after receiving specialized training from the [Heart of Texas Foundation Field Ministers Academy](#).

The two field ministers at the Polunsky Unit - Solley and Hubert "Troop" Foster - are assigned specifically to Death Row where they "are basically pastors to the Death Row population," Chaplain Joaquin Gay said.

As a field minister, Terry Joe Solley has the freedom to visit prisoners on Texas Death Row without being accompanied by a correctional officer.

Field ministers "are the heart of our Death Row ministry at Polunsky," Gay said. The field ministers have earned the trust of men housed on Death Row - not only teaching classes and conducting worship services, but also visiting the inmates daily, praying with them and being on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, he explained.

The field ministers - who are permitted to enter Death Row without being escorted by a correctional officer - often are awakened in the middle of the night at the request of a condemned inmate who wants to talk.

Some Death Row inmates grow so despondent, they consider suicide, Solley said. "I've had men give me the razor blade they were going to cut themselves with," he said.

These men are sons, husbands and fathers. We often lose sight of that. ... I want the men on Life Row to see themselves for who they are - people created in

God's image, not just a messed-up life. It's not about what you did. A single moment doesn't define us. It's about who you are."

Before he surrendered his life to Christ, Solley spent much of his incarceration in administration segregation units - solitary confinement reserved for prisoners considered a safety risk to other inmates or prison staff.

"I spent years on ad seg in a 5-by-9-foot cage, carrying a lot of guilt and shame," he said. "So, when I talk to the men on Death Row, they know I can relate to them."

Solley recalled attending First Baptist Church in Lafayette, La., faithfully with his mother from age 7 until he was 14 years old. At that point, his father - who went to prison when his son was 6 years old - was released and came back to his family.

"That's when he took me to do an armed robbery with him," Solley said. "I wanted to please my father more than anything."

At age 18, Solley went to prison, where he served 10 years, seven months and 23 days before being released. Once he returned to the free world, he married, had a child and began a productive life until his father "showed up again," he said. On March 25, 2006, Solley committed a bank robbery.

"I became everything I said I wouldn't become," Solley said.

During the time he was held in a county jail, before he was convicted and sent to state prison, Solley returned to the faith his mother had tried to teach him and accepted Jesus as Lord of his life.

"God put together the pieces of a broken life, and now I am stronger in the broken places," he said.

In prison, after he renounced his former gang membership and proved his trustworthiness, he was allowed to enter the seminary program at the Darrington Unit.

"My family was against it, because my dad was at the Darrington Unit," he said. Initially, Solley wanted no contact with his father, but he eventually agreed to meet him in the prison chapel. His father began attending chapel services regularly.

"He would watch me. One day he said, 'There's something different about you,'" Solley said, "I told him, 'Jesus is now Lord of my life.'"

In April 2012, Solley's father asked his son to walk with him to the front of the chapel at the end of a worship service.

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Death Row to Life Row - Ken Camp with CommonCall Magazine

"He said, 'I want to give my life to the Lord,'" Solley recalled. Two months later, Solley's father was diagnosed with Stage 4 liver cancer. He died in September 2012.

"Before he died, God mended our relationship," Solley said. "For the first time, our relationship wasn't about pistols and ski masks."

After completing his degree and receiving additional training as a field minister, Solley spent 15 months at the T.L. Roach Unit in Childress before he was invited to transfer to the Polunsky Unit to serve Death Row.

"I didn't know what to expect," he confessed.

But the first inmate he met on Death Row was [John Henry Ramirez](#), who had become a Christian through the prison outreach ministry of Second Baptist Church in Corpus Christi.

John Henry Ramirez is part of one of the first designated faith-based units on Texas Death Row. The faith-based initiatives for inmates at the Polunsky Unit have "changed the dynamics of Death Row," Ramirez said.

"We became fast friends and brothers," Solley said.

Ramirez said the same thing about field ministers Solley and Foster.

"It's a privilege to have somebody to confide in," Ramirez said. "We're not just spending time in our own heads 24/7. Sometimes, the field ministers listen to people rant. Sometimes, they cry. Regardless, they are there."

Ramirez is among 28 inmates who are part of the first designated faith-based units on Texas Death Row.

"The faith-based program is an intensive, voluntary, 12- to 18-month program that seeks to provide men with a living area separated from the other inmate population that is conducive to change and designed to provide resident offenders with a curriculum of meaningful opportunities for personal growth and improvement," Chaplain Gay said.

To qualify for the program, inmates must have a clean disciplinary record, and they need to submit a written request to the chaplain's office. From those who apply, the chaplain compiles a list of inmates he recommends to the warden for a final security check prior to approval.

"The men who are selected to participate in the faith-based program are moved to an area of Death Row semi-separated from other Death Row inmates.

The 28 men are divided up into two adjacent living areas that house 14 men each," Gay explained.

"Our primary goal of the Death Row faith-based program is to help participants reach a point in their lives where they are truly repentant for their actions, seek forgiveness and find inner peace with God."

Personally, Gay added, he wants inmates not only to experience the most productive and faith-filled lives possible, but also to "prepare them for the eternal life to come by offering them an eternal hope that is only found in Christ."

In recent months, 14 of the inmates in the Death Row faith-based program participated in a modified Kairos retreat. When a Kairos event typically is offered in the general prison population, the spiritual retreat lasts four days and involves volunteers who lead small-group discussions and worship services and who pray individually with inmates.

A dozen certified volunteer chaplain's assistants, two field ministers and the chaplain led the Texas Death Row event. The retreat followed a compressed schedule, with inmates remaining in their cells, listening to speakers and musical worship leaders on a sound system at the end of the cell block.

"Over the course of two days, 30-minute talks were given on subjects ranging from forgiveness to being part of a church community," Gay explained. "After every talk, a certified volunteer chaplain's assistant placed a chair directly in front of two cells for a small-group discussion."

Beyond the Kairos event and the programs offered specifically for the 28 men in what inmates sometimes call "the God Pod," other Death Row inmates and prisoners in the general population can take courses offered on "The Tank" - a low-power, prisoner-operated radio station - and listen to broadcasts of other faith-based content.

Taken together, the "God Pod," the field ministers, religious radio content and other faith-based programs dramatically have altered the prison - particularly Death Row, Ramirez said.

"It's created a big sense of community here," he said. "Before, we were all alone. It's changed the dynamics of Death Row."

He is not alone in that observation.

"All of the staff on Death Row have commented on how much the faith-based program has helped change the atmosphere on Death Row," Gay said. "What was once a dark place has now become one of

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Death Row to Life Row - Ken Camp

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the unit's beacons of light, as the Lord changes and transforms the men living there. None of the men in our Death Row faith-based program have had a disciplinary issue for some time now.”

Both Ramirez and Solley give credit to the prison administration, particularly Warden Daniel Dickerson.

“Correctional work is a calling more than a job,” Dickerson said. “There has never been one person that I have found that grew up wanting to be a correctional officer. Somehow, we are just led to this work, and when we actually understand the purpose and great responsibility, it becomes a passion.”

Dickerson believes strongly in programs to rehabilitate offenders.

“Society gets better when we do better. We can stop the vicious cycle of family members constantly coming to prison every generation if we put all of our faith and efforts into rehabilitating those incarcerated,” he said.

“It's not an easy calling, but we have amazing people behind the walls giving it their all every day to provide public safety, which is not only keeping those incarcerated inside, but rebuilding them to enter into society in which they can be productive.”

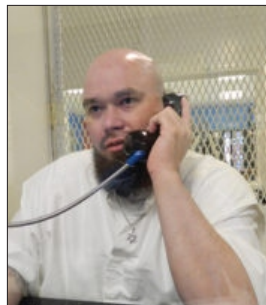
Even for those who never return to society - including those who ultimately are executed - meaningful transformation can occur, Solley asserted.

“On Life Row, the gospel becomes real. If forgiveness of sins is really for all people, then it's for them,” Solley said, pointing to the example of the thief on the cross next to Jesus who asked the Lord to remember him when he entered his kingdom. “The first man to come to faith in Christ was in the process of being executed.”

This article originally appeared in the Summer 2022 issue of CommonCall Magazine and the Baptist Standard written by Ken Camp.



Terry Joe Solley



John Henry Ramirez

Photos by Ken Camp

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org

Cont. from page 4 - Baker

The Team raised up the Devotional they are calling, "Perseverance," based on the following passage in James:

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4 NIV

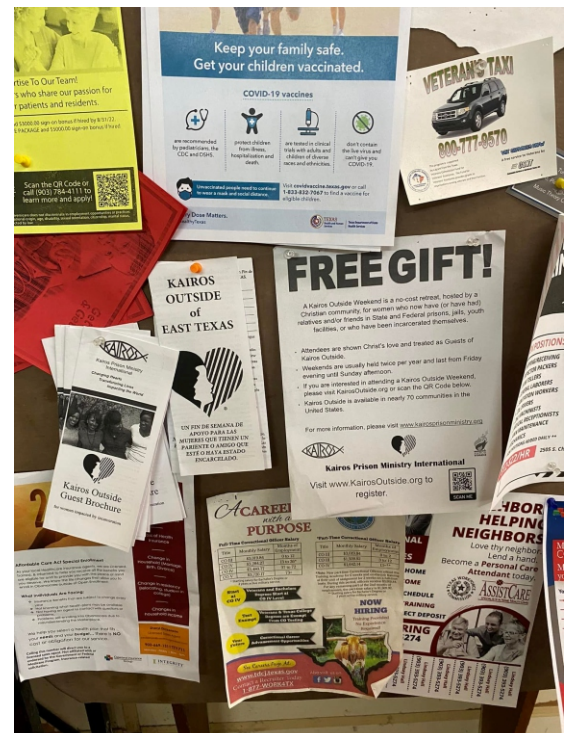
Cont. from page 5 - Michelle

The one to go into the units is found under Downloads, Kairos Outside, Kairos Outside Documents for Kairos Inside Closings, Kairos Outside Free Gift.

The one to post in the free world is found under, Downloads, Kairos Outside Downloads, Team Formation Downloads, Kairos Outside Free Gift – Potential Guests.

Thank you for sharing this blessing with us. Michelle Edwards, Sub-Committee Chair, Kairos Outside.

See Below



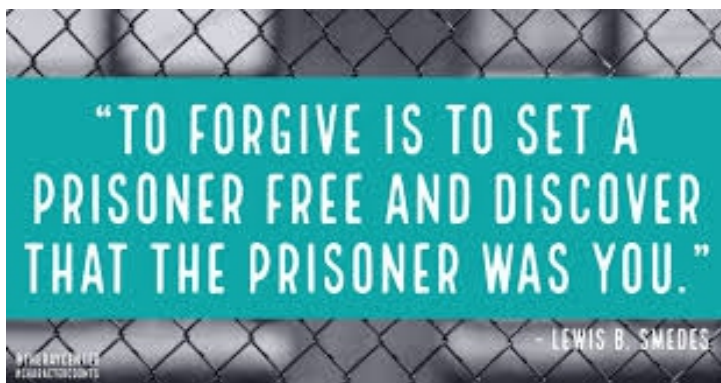
Forgiveness

There were two men who had opened their lives to Christ while they were in prison. The younger man had been discouraged by the fact that the family from whom he had stolen would not forgive him.

"My crime was violent," the older man said. "It continues to haunt and affect the family to this day. They have not forgiven me.... the pain is just too great. At first, I found myself paralyzed by this longing for their forgiveness." He continued his story: "Then one day I realized I was adding selfishness to my brokenness. It's a lot to expect that the family forgive me. I was focused on what I felt I needed to heal from my past. It took some time to realize that their forgiveness of me was a matter between them and God."

"How can you stand it?" the younger man asked.

The older man explained that God did for him what he didn't deserve and what others simply can't do: He died for our sins, and He keeps His promise to move our sins "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). And He "remembers your sins no more" (Isaiah 43:25). In the face of such great love, we honor Him by accepting His forgiveness as sufficient. We must forget what lies behind and keep pressing forward (Philippians 3:13-14).



Message!

KOCT-KAIROS OUTSIDE Central Texas would like to thank Cabo Bob's in North Austin TX for feeding our volunteers during Team formation as we prepared for our April 2022 KAIROS Outside Weekend #13. Thankful faithful volunteers are giving up their time and Saturday for Jesus!

Sara Galindo - KOCT Chair

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Briscoe Reunion - Sherman Armstrong



Sherman Armstrong
Briscoe Unit

We held our August Reunion this past Saturday at Briscoe and I was amazed at how God showed up and did the things that only He can do, only it wasn't easy from my perspective. We had trouble and delay getting into the gym, count was late in coming and delayed us further, and everything felt off. Judging by some conversations I had with a few brothers-in-white and officers, I was not the only one feeling out of it Saturday morning.

I continued to pray and to trust God to get us inside so our Reunion event could begin, and throughout the morning I was reminded that He is in control. A small handful of volunteers came, and I could sense their prayers as we waited for things to begin and then...about an hour later than we had hoped, the men-in-white began strolling out of J5 to make their way to the gym; **a total of 91 men-in-white!**

The remainder of the day went smoothly, and God's peace and joy were evident as the morning progressed. Now, our approaching October weekend may have had something to do with the fantastic turnout, or the delicious sandwiches prepared by a trio of our faithful support team servants. However, I choose to believe that God did what He said He would do if Jesus would be lifted up. He would draw men to Himself.

The men-in-white were attentive and engaged in all that was going on and I was inspired and encouraged by their hunger for something more than good food. One of our brothers-in-white said to me, "I love this. I love seeing everyone so happy." He was right. Happiness and peace were on everyone's faces and the movement of the goodness of God around us was undeniable. In prison, in that environment, this does not happen without the presence of the Holy Spirit.



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Vice-Chair - Scott Baker
Secretary - Kyan Kirby
Treasurer - Bob Crane
Financial Secretary - Steve Newton



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Rep. - Roger Harbert
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Rep. - Julie Cole
Rep. - Joaquin Ytuarte

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East - Michelle Edwards
Central - Jaime Gonzales
North & Northeast - Driskoll Tubbs
Panhandle - Debbie Van Pelt
South - Bill Johnson
Southeast - Mike Tavery
West - Melvin Dudley

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Texas TDCJ

Dir. of Vol. Serv. - Marc Gunn
Mgr. Religious Serv. - C.F. Hazlewood

Jesus with no hands?



There's a church in Germany with a statue of Jesus by the altar. The building had been bombed in the war and the outstretched hands of Christ were broken off in the shaking. As the church was repaired and rebuilt, the church members chose to keep the figure as it was to remind them that they had to be the hands of Jesus. In the aftermath of any war there are more people in need of help. Jesus calls His people, His followers to do exactly what He did while walking this earth as a direct service for Him." I was hungry and you gave me food" Matt 25:35

What have your hands been doing this week? Besides being washed like every 5 minutes! Anytime you feel like wringing your hands in worry, try folding them in prayer. When you start twiddling your thumbs in boredom, consider writing out a note of encouragement for someone. Make sure your hands come together at 7pm daily to applaud those whose hands are helping heal our sick. Ask God to give you healing hands and show you where they are needed most.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org





Be sure to visit our website at www.kairostexas.org. Our webmaster is Cheryl Glasgow. The schedule and location for State Board meetings for 2022 are included here. We have a calendar showing when all the weekends will be held. Check your weekend - we depend on you to keep your calendar updated.

On that same website you will find the current state officers, state meetings and minutes, map of state meetings, committees, and the weekends dates. 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.

KO STATE Reps. Meetings

Date: Nov.12

Time: 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

NOTE: All meetings will be conducted on ZOOM and in person until further notice

Location: Hill Country Bible Church

12124 RR 620 North

Cedar Park, TX

Meeting Minutes Archived

KO Executive Committee Meetings

Date: November 11

Time: 5:00 pm Kairos of Texas Board

Time: 7:00 pm Kairos Outside Board

Location: Hill Country Bible Church

12124 RR 620 North

Cedar Park, TX

**LISTEN
LISTEN**

**L♥VE
L♥VE**

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