

# KAIROS

October 2020

[www.kairostexas.org](http://www.kairostexas.org)

Issue 45

I want to give an enthusiastic shout out to all of you folks who have kept Kairos going during this great time of reset in our land! With all the distraction of COVID, the social unrest, and the elections, you continue to keep Kairos up front, where it belongs! With Zoom, conference calls, and more and more, a return to physical meetings, you continue to advance the business of your advisory councils and you are actively planning to reopen your ministry as soon as God allows it. As many of you have done in your respective units, I was blessed recently to participate in a cookie packaging and distribution for the Darrington Unit. Before that we passed hygiene to the chaplain for Darrington's indigent population and are planning more of that in the future. Additionally, we have engaged the rest of the Darrington community at large with Zoom calls. I give my Darrington brothers and sisters a shout out because I have seen it first hand, but I give that shout out to all of you who are actively doing things in and for your community which will keep Kairos up front.

Scott Baker catalogs many things Kairos is doing in his article below and everything that we can do that will hasten the day we can continue in our ministry. What "normal" will look like, how the ministry may be changed, remains to be seen, but I think we all can look forward to the day we can return to what we so love to do, being the hands and feet of Jesus to the incarcerated and their families through the three ministries, Kairos Inside, Outside and Torch!

With all the things Kairos is doing, we do have three weekends this fall, two of which have already been completed. Kairos Outside Lubbock #19, led by Della Rios-Taylor was held on September 25 - 27, followed by KO Midland #39, led by Anna Leagans, on October 16-18, and KO Abilene #6, to be led by Lucinda Rose which will finish out the fall weekends for KOT on November 13 – 15. A big shout out to you all!

I received the Leader's Report from Della Rios-Taylor earlier this week and wanted to give a huge shout out to Jesus for her servant leadership! Here are her words:

**Ray Sims**  
**KOT Chair**

**Keeping Kairos**  
**Out Front**



**KO Lubbock #19 Leader's Report**

As I look back to April, when this weekend should've happened, before COVID-19 stopped everything, I remember asking God, why did this happen? I know we should not ask, but we are humans. As the months went by and so many people were getting hit with the COVID-19, I prayed daily that God would answer me. Then he answered, people are too busy working, sports, rushing through life, not having time for me. So, I got their attention.

I was hurt when I heard the weekend for April had been postponed. I told myself maybe it's not my time to be a leader. I felt hopeless and sad. But I knew that God had a plan. I had to put my trust and be ready for this weekend to take place. I waited patiently as I prayed. Then one day he did and I knew that we were going to have the weekend. I felt peace in my heart, and I knew this disease was not going to stop this weekend.

We followed all guidelines from both KPMI and the Mercy Center. Health requirement forms were signed by the guests and team. Masks were mandatory, temperatures were taken twice daily. Washing hands daily, use

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## Kairos Outreach Tested - Scott Baker

The 2020 global Covid pandemic has dragged on for much longer than many would have projected. In the process, it has tested the resolution, mettle and faith of many people globally. The poor and the incarcerated have been particularly hard hit. And none of us needs to be reminded of the impacts to our Kairos ministry. I remain, however, very comforted by the heartfelt resiliency, tenacity and love that Kairos has continued to demonstrate to all of God's children and families impacted by incarceration.

My optimism stems from the great news that I get to read every week in the AC Meeting Minutes of our 63 Kairos of Texas Units. We cannot currently present a Kairos Inside or a Torch Weekend, Prayer and Share or a Reunion in any prison or juvenile detention center. So, what is the great news? Many AC's are capitalizing on the time we have been given to strengthen our ministry. For example:

- Our ROCK (Recruiting Outreach Coordinators of Kairos) Team has been very active in promoting Recruiting. They have been conducting excellent training sessions via Zoom on how to establish and execute an effective recruiting program. You might find it helpful to check out their materials, future training, and archived training at <https://www.kairostexas.org/Recruiting-Outreach.html>.
- Fundraising initiatives are being developed to strengthen strained finances and to build sufficient funds to allow Interministry blessings to help other Units in need. And there are reports of Units that are capitalizing on electronic fundraising via social media such as Go Fund Me and Facebook. Others are pursuing grants and letter writing campaigns.
- Many Units are serving those incarcerated by providing Kairos cookies to remind the Residents and staff that they are not forgotten by Kairos and that God loves them. Recent KPMI Variances are allowing us to provide cookies as frequently as every three months, with Unit approval, until April 21, 2021.

**Scott Baker**  
**Vice Chair**



- With another KPMI approved one-time Variance, some AC's are arranging for the supply of basic health care packages for the Residents with a value per package not exceeding \$10.
- Many AC's are pro-actively trying to communicate with those incarcerated to remind them that they are not forgotten, and to share God's love, via letter-writing. These letters have been overwhelmingly appreciated by the Residents.
- Still others are assembling video clips of formerly incarcerated Kairos graduates sharing words of encouragement that can in turn be shared through KPMI for the benefit of encouraging others incarcerated around the US and the world.

Another source of great joy and optimism is that our Kairos Outside Community is now successfully back in business and safely serving KO Weekends. KO Lubbock had Weekend #19 September 25, KO Midland had Weekend #39 October 16, and KO Abilene is planning to commence their Weekend #5 on November 13.

I am sure that there are others who have exciting initiatives their AC's are pursuing and I would love to hear your stories. So stay the course as the day will soon be here where we can all return to actively delivering the Kairos message. Encourage all in our Kairos Community and remember Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God" for we truly serve a mighty God.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: [www.kairostexas.org](http://www.kairostexas.org)

KPMI: [www.mykairos.org](http://www.mykairos.org)



## My Faith Story - Brian Olivrt

My name is Bryan Oliver and I am a deacon here at First Presbyterian in Amarillo. I was raised around this church and ran the halls as a child. I was introduced to the idea of Jesus by my parents who were believers, but at the time I wouldn't call us big church attendees.

When I was young, I felt inadequate and a little out of place. I wanted to be popular and sought the attention and approval of my peers. I did this by acting crazy and funny, and the laughter of others made me feel better. The summer after fifth grade I went to church camp with my friend's church, where I was baptized. I sometimes wonder if this was Holy Spirit led, or if it felt like I was being noticed and liked being the center of attention. No matter the motivation, I do point back to that as being the moment I gave my life to Christ. However it did not diminish the need for attention. As I got into high school I found that I could receive attention by partying. Drugs and alcohol became my means. This affected not only my sports performance and grades, but the relationships of those who had guiding voices in my life. I began to disregard my family and any voice that was that of God. Through my 20s, this continued. I did not focus on being a college student nor did I hold jobs. I bounced in and out of my family's business due to my drinking and hangovers. All the jobs I did have were convenient for my drug and alcohol use. I worked in liquor stores, bars, and restaurants. We didn't have to be to work until late afternoon, and left with cash every night to go party with. It was perfect! However, I did have legal troubles, and was often on probation for DUI and other offenses. I often missed my shifts, and got to where I didn't hold a job. Things got a lot worse when I became addicted to meth-amphetamines. Through all of this I had become comfortable with stealing. I stole from family, friends, employers, and more. At the age of 30, I had a long history of alcohol and drug legal offenses. I found myself charged with two felonies and, for the first time, no one would bail me out.

After I had been in the county jail a few months, I started to read the Life Recovery bible my parents had brought me. I started understanding some of it. I prayed and prayed that God would save me from going to prison. The last place I wanted to go was a SAFF (Substance Abuse Felony Punishment) unit. This was prison with a rehab program. However,

SAFF was in God's plan and I received that judgement. While I was still at Randall County jail, I read from Hebrews 10:32-36. In this passage Paul is encouraging believers to remain zealous in their works for Christ. He reminds them of their earlier sufferings along with those in prison. I don't know that I really understood what the passage meant at the time, but I did hear God tell me that He loves me and people were praying for me. I knew who those people were! It was my parents, and my Dad's First Pres Bible study. My parents had been visiting, and the men in the "Shoulders to Shoulders" group had been writing and encouraging me. I felt the power of the Holy Spirit right there in jail! Soon, I was taken to SAFF in Breckenridge, TX. There I learned more about the disease of alcoholism and the 12 steps. I enjoyed church there, despite being teased about it. The most powerful prayer I have ever felt took place a few days before I was released to a halfway house. At church every Sunday, the inmates would lay their hands on the men who would be released that week and lift them in prayer. I'll never forget that moment, as we were all sincerely praying for Jesus to guide us into the outside world. Once I was released, my very forgiving family allowed me to come home. They helped me get to 12 step meetings. For the first time in my life, I followed suggestions! I was blessed to have a Godly sponsor who encouraged my relationship with Jesus. It was through this fellowship I learned how to be in a relationship with God. I now had a Father whom I could depend on for my sobriety and direction in my life.

I met a girl during my early recovery. She and I followed my parents back to First Presbyterian. The people here welcomed us, and we never felt less than. On April 26, 2008 Jim Bankhead married Elisha and I in the Sanctuary. A glorious moment where the power of the Holy Spirit was felt! Now it is my daughter running up and down the halls of First Pres! While I pray she doesn't have to go through everything I did, I am grateful to have a church family who guides and encourages us towards Christ.

Today I have a sobriety date of November 22, 2005. I am still involved in recovery by attending meetings and being an available sponsor. I am also active in Kairos prison ministry, where we spend time sharing the love of Christ with those who feel unloved and judged. (Hebrews 10:32-39). Without this church and 12 step fellowships, none of this would be possible. God has used this body to save me and create new life!

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## GREAT TRUTHS

### GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 2) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always Catch the second person.
- 3) Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
- 4) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 5) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 6) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 7) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 8) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 9) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

### GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:??

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

### THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:??

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

### GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD??

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster?
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

### SUCCESS:??

- At age 4 success is . . . . Not piddling in your pants.  
At age 12 success is . . . Having friends.  
At age 17 success is . . Having a driver's license.  
At age 35 success is . . . . Having money.  
At age 50 success is . . . Having money.  
At age 70 success is . . . . Having a driver's license.  
At age 75 success is . . . . Having friends.  
At age 80 success is . . . . Not piddling in your pants.

Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way; ?  
**BUT NEVER** forget the blessings that come each day.

**LISTEN**  
**LISTEN**

**L♥VE**  
**L♥VE**

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## Laus Deo

One detail that is seldom mentioned is that in Washington, D.C. there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. With all the uproar about removing the Ten Commandments, etc., this is worth a moment or two of your time. I was not aware of this amazing historical information.

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is displayed two words: Laus Deo. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less.

Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with everyone you know. These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America. Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words.

Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world. So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say 'Praise be to God!'

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, Laus Deo, 'Praise be to God!'

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments.

From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L'Enfant .... a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north, The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross?

What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was NOT, is NOT, in the Constitution. So read on. How interesting

and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy 'One Nation, Under God.'

I am awed by George Washington's prayer for America ... Have you ever read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on!

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love MERCY, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."



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## Kairos Outside - Teddy Carson

2020 hasn't been the year Kairos Outside in Texas expected! COVID 19 and the resulting shutdown has affected all of us. But God is still so faithful!

We had three Kairos Outside Weekends this spring. Then in September, Kairos Outside Lubbock held the first Post-COVID Weekend 9/25/2020. Nine Guests had a wonderful Weekend as they experienced the love and forgiveness of Jesus through the team God called for that Weekend. All nine ladies shared deeply at Closing and were given hope in a difficult time in their lives.

While it's easy to focus on the wonderful Weekends that bless our Guests so much, there is much ministry continuing even when the Weekends cannot. Our twelve Kairos Outside communities have been busy during the shutdown. They used many creative ways to continue providing ministry by keeping in touch with volunteers and Guests, and our Advisory Councils have continued to meet, plan, and serve even if face-to-face meetings weren't possible. All these things will ensure we come out of this season even stronger than before and our communities will be better prepared to serve our Guests with excellence.

At the Texas Kairos Outside Quarterly Subcommittee meeting, we elected officers for 2021. Susan Mannas and Michelle Edwards were elected co-chairs, Charlotte Dalton was elected Vice Chair, and Nancy Patterson was elected Secretary. Congratulations to these ladies and best wishes for a wonderful 2021.

Serving as the Texas Kairos Outside Subcommittee Chair these last two years has been a blessing I will never forget. I've met and worked with some of the most amazing, strong, Godly women (and men) I've ever known. Thank you from the



Teddy Carson  
KO Chair



bottom of my heart for this opportunity. I pray God will continue to bless Kairos of Texas as you share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters who have been affected by incarceration.



**BIBLE IS:**

**B**ASIC  
**I**NSTRUCTIONS  
**B**EFORE  
**L**EAVING  
**E**ARTH

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## New Start - Giddings Kairos Torch

In March of 1992, I chose to be a volunteer at an alternative justice program for youth. These young people were required to attend and participate in this program as a condition of their sentencing for a variety of minor offences. Many of these children came from dysfunctional families where the love and caring they were entitled to was absent. Instead they were confronted with challenges difficult to imagine. What do you say to a child that was punished with cigarette burns to their arms?

These experiences so long ago imprinted in me a desire to engage in prison ministry, and I was so blessed when I experienced my first Kairos Inside weekend and was then asked to engage in a new start at the Clemens Unit in Brazoria. This experience opened the door to a number of prison related programs and opportunities where I was able to learn, grow, and experience the holy spirit working and God's transforming love with both men and boys at the Clemens Unit.

Moving to Austin in 2013 provided me with the opportunity to be a team member with Kairos Outside Central Texas, two different Kairos Inside communities, and to begin attending the Kairos of Texas state meetings.

I share all of this, because I know that God was preparing me for a new challenge, namely Kairos Torch, that was tugging on my heart....

Late in 2019, The [Texas Juvenile Justice Department \(TJJD\)](#) approached Kairos of Texas about wanting to introduce Kairos Torch into their facilities. TJJD firmly believes that mentoring makes a significant impact on the rehabilitation of youth, which is exactly what Kairos Torch is designed to do.

So, depending upon where you are situated, you may have a facility nearby that is very much open to Kairos Torch. For me, that location was the Giddings State School located roughly 60 miles east of Austin.

While Covid-19 has slowed our progress this year, I am hopeful that next year we will be able to proceed with scheduling our first weekend, so it's time to get going!!!!

In addition to forming an Advisory Council, we require volunteers who will commit to mentoring on a weekly basis for 6 months. Note that there are some allowances for special circumstances, but consistent

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Kairos of Texas: [www.kairostatexas.org](http://www.kairostatexas.org)

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**Dickson delaHaye**  
International Rep.



participation is necessary to build the trust and develop positive personal relationships. Also, Kairos Torch allows for husband and wives to participate during the Kairos Torch Weekend and mentoring sessions.

Within 75 miles of Giddings there are numerous Kairos communities. I would like to invite anyone seeking a new challenge, or perhaps you have a desire to work with youth, to contact me to discuss if Kairos Torch is a good fit for you.

We have a multitude of issues to resolve, but fundamentally I have no doubt that God is calling us.

Will you answer His call?

Dickson de la Haye

[dicksondlh@gmail.com](mailto:dicksondlh@gmail.com) 979-236-7345



## Born 1935-1955

The best years to be born in the history of Earth & we got to experience it all. Thank God for all the times, the adventures, wars won, technology developed. Generations after future generations will never experience what we did. What a generation we turned out to be.

To Those of Us Born 1935 - 1955:

~~~~~  
TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED THE 1930's, 40's and 50's !!

First, we survived being born to mothers who may have smoked and/or drank - while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then, after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps, not helmets on our heads. As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter and bacon. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And we weren't overweight.

WHY? Because we were always outside playing...that's why!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day and, we were OKAY. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, Only to find out that we forgot about brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not Have Play Stations, Nintendo and X-boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on

cable, no video movies, or DVDs, no surround-sound or CDs, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet and no chat rooms.

WE HAD FRIENDS, and we went outside and found them! We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and lost teeth, and there were no lawsuits from those accidents. We would get spankings with wooden spoons, switches, ping-pong paddles, or just a bare hand, and no one would call child services to report abuse. We ate worms, and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, 22 rifles for our 12th. We rode horses, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and although we were told it would happen - we did not put out very many eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them. Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parents bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of ... They actually sided with the law! These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers, and inventors ever. The past 60 to 85 years have seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

If you are one of those born between 1935 & 1955, CONGRATULATIONS!

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The quote of the month by Jay Leno:  
"With hurricanes, tornadoes, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of coronavirus and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

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## KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

Chair - Ray Sims  
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Trailer Coord - Jeff Coatney  
Website Coord. - Cheryl Glasgow



## Continued from page 1 - Ray Sims

of hand sanitizer, wearing gloves when serving food were some of the requirements that were met. All food items were put in baggies during snack times. We had signs posted stating all these guidelines throughout the entire building. Our guests and the team did an amazing job following all guidelines.

I was honored to have served as a Team Leader for Kairos Outside #19. God is so faithful. It is an experience that I will forever hold in my heart. Our guests were amazing! God chose these guests to attend KO a long time ago. The guests arrived with pain, anger, and were lost, but they left with a lifestyle of forgiveness and healing. They allowed the Holy Spirit to speak to them as they opened up their hearts to Jesus.

Talks, meditations, and songs were felt throughout the weekend by the guests and the team. Everyone has gone through life with brokenness, but when we give our lives to Jesus, we are freed from all the pain. The guests were touched by the Holy Spirit and God's presence. He never left our side. God gave these guests his encouragement and peace, a LOVE that they will always carry. The guests will find that God has a definite plan for their lives – by submitting their lives daily as clay in the hands of the Potter, that plan will be realized.

There were a few hiccups, but the team was able to work them out quickly, the team worked together and got things done in a timely manner.

At closing all the guests spoke about the weekend. They all said they never felt the love of so many KO sisters. They will all be attending our monthly reunions.

I had an amazing TEAM! Thank you for all your serving on KO-19.

Blessings! Della Rios-Taylor, Leader

Again, Kairos of Texas, I praise God for each and every one of you and am so blessed to be part of God's ministry through Kairos!

Ray Sims

Important websites:

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Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives  
Impacting the World



Be sure to visit our website at [www.kairostexas.org](http://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.



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