

Hill Country Bible Church, Austin, Texas
April 11, 2015: 8:30 AM - 2:30PM

***KAIROS MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is 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 community.*

Chairperson: Jim Irwin

Officers present: Jim Irwin, Bill Salser, Steve Newton, Cissy Kabat, Robert Robinson, Marcia Wiseman, and Larry "Buck" Rogers.

Int'l Council Reprs present: Julie Cole, Thomas Becker, Rhonne Gary, and Larry "Buck" Rogers (at large).

Advisory Councils not represented: Bartlett, Coffield, Hobby, KO Wichita Falls, Polunsky, Roach, Rudd, and Stevenson.

Minutes:

Gathered for fellowship and refreshments: 8:30-8:45 am. Praise and Worship led by Scott Van Pelt and Scott Whitaker: 8:45-9:00 am.

I. CALL TO ORDER: by Jim Irwin. Our devotion was given by Larry "Buck" Rogers taken from I Samuel 15:22 and Hebrews 13:17. Buck then opened the meeting with prayer encouraging all to serve in unity. Jim followed commenting on the referenced Scriptures, i.e. Hebrews 13:17. **"Obey your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting, since they must give to God an account of their service. If you obey them, they will do their work gladly; if not, they will do it with sadness, and that would be of no help to you."** (Good News Translation).

Jim then referred to Buck's message on I Samuel 15:22. **"Has the Lord as much pleasure in your burnt offerings and sacrifices as in your obedience? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. He is much more interested in your listening to him than in your offering the fat of rams to him."** (Living Bible Translation). Jim then challenged all (including himself) to ask is God more pleased with our obedient Kairos service than in the sacrifice of our time and efforts while serving in disobedience and contention. Is not our sacrifice of time and efforts the same as the Hebrews sacrifice of burnt offerings? So what has greater value in God's sight, i.e. our obedience or our time/efforts?

Jim then posed the question. "Is it possible to hinder the work of God while earnestly thinking we are doing His will with our best of intentions?" Some agreed. Jim gave two examples citing Peter's well intentioned conduct. The first was taken from Matthew 16: 21-23 (J. B. Phillips Translation). **"From that time**

onwards Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he would have to go to Jerusalem, and endure much suffering from the elders, chief priests and scribes, and finally be killed; and be raised to life again on the third day. Then Peter took him on one side and started to remonstrate with him (appeal to change His mind) over this. **“God bless you, Master! Nothing like this must happen to you!”** Then Jesus turned round and said to Peter, **“Out of my way, Satan! You stand right in my path, Peter, when you look at things from man’s point of view and not from God’s.”**

Jim appealed to all to question themselves, “...are we not like Peter at times in our Kairos service? At times, do we not challenge our leadership (those saints who have gone before us, our fellow volunteers on the Board and the International Council) insisting we have a better idea or a better way to present our programs?” Just weeks later in Gethsemane, Peter forgot his prior reprimand and that event is recorded in John 18: 7-11 (New King James Translation). **“Then He asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,” that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.” Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”**

Jim asked are we not much like Peter at times. Thinking we are following God’s will with our viewpoint when we too are at risk of hindering the work of the Holy Spirit. Jim asked, does anyone think that our fellow Kairos volunteers and staff, to whom we are accountable, do not love the Lord and Kairos as we do. Do we think they are not godly folks seeking to follow the Holy Spirit as they understand His will? Yet do we not sometimes choose to disregard them and follow our human viewpoint? With no leadership to provide direction and nearly 30,000 Kairos volunteers, we can only imagine the chaos and confusion that would be present if all chose to disregard. Is our God a God of organization and discipline or a God of confusion and free will? In the wisdom of those who have gone before us, did they not foresee the need for organizational structure and copyrighted program manuals/songbooks?

Jim concluded his appeal to serve in unity with a quote from Isaiah 55:8-9 (New King James Translation). **“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”** He posed the question, “Is God not Sovereign and able to bring men and women to salvation in Christ with or without Kairos volunteers even when procedures are placed before us with which we do not agree? Is our program the only way to encourage folks affected by incarceration to choose to journey with Christ? Jim suggested that if we truly believed that, should we not call the governor and suggest all TDCJ chaplains be fired? Kairos has it under control. Or are there just 3 members of the Trinity who have all things under

control and we individual volunteers are not one of those Three. Are we not always to seek to understand the will of the Spirit knowing we do not always have it? Has God not approved of our program and structure by adding 385 prisons/youth correction centers and 86 Kairos Outside communities over the past 37 years as we have learned?

II. VISITORS GREETINGS/COMMENTS: Jim expressed sincere appreciation to our Lord for restoring Julie Cole to health and returning her to our fellowship. Inetta Reddell, a Texas resident and a KPMI Board of Directors member was introduced. Inetta said she is proud of how Texas is doing Christ's work: Christians take off running and we want to persevere and sometimes we forget for whom we are working. It is God's ministry. Chaplain Casey Celum of TDCJ was introduced. He is Region 4 chaplain and visits all the units to see how Kairos is impacting the residents. He reminded us that we need to let God do it.

III. ROLL CALL: Cissy Kabat called the roll. A quorum was established. Minutes of the January 10, 2015 SCC meeting were approved after Scott VanPelt's motion and Alice Findley's second.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT: Bill Salser: Turn in your mileage tickets. The state audit was successfully handled by the Finance Committee with a report from the committee coming later. The Financial Secretary position is no longer a person but a committee of six; Berna Younger, Betty Born, and Tom Stream are doing the grueling task of hand transferring data from the Donor monthly reports to the KPMI Quickbooks Enterprise data base. Bob Cole is on constant emergency call to provide technical support, encouragement, and advice. Then Robert Robinson is telling Bill how much money he can spend. From the 2014 year-end financial reports which everyone received a copy: **a)** from the Profit and Loss Annual Comparison, total contributions are down but less than 1%, **b)** expenses are up 13%, **c)** wisdom of the Financial Committee suggests using the new calculations approach for determining the State Affiliation Fee. Remember the state fee starting in 2014 was determined by tithing the net of the year end bank balance after deductions for equipment/materials investments and inter-ministry gifts made in January. It had its desired goal to reduce "savings" and get more money out and working in the ministry. **d)** on the balance sheet, you will see that we still increased assets at about 3%. Going forward, we will become more sophisticated in our data transfer efforts. This year we will not just be transferring information from one piece of paper to the next but also reviewing each data entry for the proper allocation to the Chart of accounts. Bill encourages each to go back to your AC's and show them the successes some of our AC's are having with fund raising. Allred has always used the Donor Letters approach, but recently Torres (the last 3 years) and several others have been extremely successful following the Allred lead. Also Bill asked that you go back to your AC's and let your Financial Secretaries and Treasurers know just how important their role is in the AC and the ministry. The result of our daily efforts is totally contingent on the diligence they exert in the completion of their roles.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT: Robert Robinson explained how expenses are paid for the SCC meetings. The guidelines for a state rep from a unit is to attend the quarterly meetings held in Austin. We have one rep per unit and to be financially prudent, we have double occupied rooms. If a representative has a spouse that is interested in the ministry, we allow the spouse to share the room at no additional expense to the unit. From time to time, the state has training for others like we did in January, and the expense is covered by the state. Other times, an AC wants a volunteer to experience the state meeting and will pay for that person's room. Some want a room that is not shared. If they want a single room, we ask them to pay ½ the cost of the room (\$60.00). We encourage everyone that wants to attend to come to the meetings. The local council can pay for the room or the individual can pay. At the Saturday meeting, we provide lunch and take a love offering to pay for the noon lunch and donuts for the morning. Hill Country Bible Church provides coffee and the place to meet.

1. Please send documents with the checks. Checks are to be made out to KPMI Texas.
2. Check the numbers and the written amount to confirm that they agree.
3. Have unit name on the checks
4. Make numbers clear to read---a scanner reads the checks.
5. Please say a “thank you” to your treasurers.

VI. CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

1. Each AC is asked to have their secretary ensure that all information on the Master List is correct. Each State Rep. is asked to ensure that it is timely sent to Julie Cole. If information is not correct, please notify Julie Cole, state registrar as soon as possible.

2, Jim Irwin received 3 letters from inmates via a Kairos Outside community. The letters were asking for information on how to get involved with Kairos upon release or parole. The letters were about 3 or 4 months of age and all of the residents were no longer incarcerated. Jim asked what you would do if you were at a Prayer and Share or Monthly Reunion and a resident asked you that question. He suggested that each AC inform the residents and train their volunteers to encourage the resident to write them at a safe address giving their contact information upon release/parole. By checking our Kairos Texas website or our Master List, a volunteer can find the nearest Inside or Outside program where the released/paroled offender may serve. Then pass that information on to the chair of the appropriate AC asking they get in touch with the resident. Kairos has no limitation on the time a resident must be released or paroled before they can join a volunteer team. TDCJ has a restriction on time after release before they will allow an ex-offender to be approved to go inside. However, the local warden and/or chaplain may choose to grant some variance. Jim stressed the importance of responding to the letters of inquiry. Not taking action is inappropriate and counter-productive to our efforts to be a part of their continued transformation.

3. There is a Kairos International Council sub-committee looking at manual revision requests. No decision is expected by annual conference this summer.
4. Executive Director requested that on the EI's, be candid and honest. This is a way for AC's to have input on possible changes. If disagreement is the reason for the "no" answer, please state that. If the administration will not allow an item, state that as well. Again be candid and honest.
5. Each AC should go over the EI with the whole council and next weekend leader. The process is for all present to discuss action plans to move "no" responses into the "yes" responses as we pursue excellence. This is not a punitive tool. It is to see what is going on and helps the Kairos IC sub-committee consider the prospect of changes. Be obedient and do the best you can.
6. ACT training is now 4 hours. The Panhandle region has completed theirs with the South region already scheduled. It was suggested that the regional coordinators pick 3 dates, contact the AC's in their region. The entire council is "strongly urged" to attend ACT. However, four to five from each AC are expected to attend. The state pays for the trainer and the AC has the option to pay carpooling mileage for its members to attend. A love offering will be taken for lunch. Bring your copy of the Jan. 2015 ACOP available for download at the www.mykairos.org website.
7. Each AC should have an agape coordinator: to whom Jaime Gonzeles can send agape. Be sure your weekend dates are on the state calendar. Each AC is asked to provide 40 pieces of agape to Jaime each month. That way Jaime is assured of ample resources to send to other councils for their respective program's weekend.
8. It is the state rep's responsibility to make sure that state has approved each weekend leader and they are timely trained. There should be 3-4 on the leadership track, and twelve to 24 months is the recommended time before a week-end to allow proper preparation. No one should consider leading a weekend who has not completed AKT at least 6 months prior to the weekend. The 12 to 24 months allows for the Observing Leader to also have completed AKT and can step in if the weekend leader is unable to fulfill the commitment. No waivers for a prior leader to step in will be considered if it is due to the AC's inability to preplan for several leaders to be on the leadership track.
9. Mountain View's first death row weekend is May 1-2. Prayer chains were sent around for signatures.
10. The ACOP was revised in January 2015. There are now 14 required positions with no one to simultaneously serve on two required positions. All AC's are asked to now proceed with reassigning members to fill the necessary ("required") positions and ensure that the AC is functioning as asked.

Break out for Sub Committee meetings and lunch. Reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Sub-Committee Reports:

1. **International Council Representatives:** **Rhonne Gary** had nothing to report at this time. **Julie Cole:** Thanks to everyone for their prayers and cards. Teleconference call with Gina Brockmayer: Gina reported how things can be

done after her visit to Texas in January; would like all to follow TX example of giving money inter-ministry, KO at KI closings, sitting together by regions at state meetings. Wisconsin is having weekend#1. Team applications used to have a slot for the pastor's signature-not at this time but looking to put it on again.

Thomas Becker: Nothing new from the Volunteering and Recruitment committee. Branding is like a registered trademark covered by copyright laws. Go to mykairos.org for information. At the annual conference, a communications workshop will be offered two times. **Larry "Buck" Rogers:** Torch: In the 5 year plan, all want to expand. Torch Harris County will hold #3 April 23-25 and Torch Amarillo in July. Amarillo has one weekend/year. There is a 6 months mentoring/resident who goes through the weekend.

2. **Website:** Debbie VanPelt: If an AC unit has a website, there should be one person responsible with a backup person. Debbie needs those persons' contact information.

3. **Outreach/Recruitment:** Dickson de la Haye: One on one is the best approach. Sharing a testimony to potential volunteers gets better results.

4. **Agape:** Jamie Gonzales: Make sure that the contact information on the Master List is correct as this is how Jamie sends agape to the Spiritual leader for the weekends. He double checks with Julie Cole, registrar. There are 7 units which have not sent in agape. 3 came in at this meeting. If agape for Mt. View Death Row #1, May 1-2, send to Debbie Van Pelt

5. **Programs:** Robert Kimmel: EI designees are using the new form though there are problems with the website. If there are repeat NO's on an EI, this is a red flag and needs to be discussed by the entire AC and upcoming leader. The reporting shows that some are not rotating off the AC. Limited younger new volunteers can be due to involvement with their families, involvement with other ministries, and they can't commit to the time needed. EI designees are not judging; they want to know what can they do to help the unit.

6. **Finance:** Bob Cole: Annual audit was completed on 15 units (we never know who will be in the audit). The female financial secretaries are doing better work than the fellows. With New Starts, it is suggested that a seasoned treasurer and financial secretary be on the committee. Include as much info as possible when sending in receipt logs and check copies. With an advance, make sure complete info is on the memo line of the check – unit, reason of advance. A first advance should be cleared before a second is issued.

7. **Clergy Training/Recruiting:** Larry " Buck" Rogers: AC's could consider clergy expenses since they lose time and money from their primary job.....maybe a scholarship from the AC. Clergy helps with confidentiality and are good at recruiting other clergy to serve in Kairos.

8. **New Starts:** Steve Newton: Annual Conference in Fort Worth in July. 29 have already signed up. Proposed workshops being offered are proper agape, starting an AC unit, EZRA, recruitment, interactions with wardens, helping struggling AC's and EI. New Starts will be Luther and Telford. Motion was made by Scott VanPelt and seconded by Robert Robinson to approve Luther and Telford Ad Hoc committees to begin the New Start process. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Advisory Council Coordination: Scott Van Pelt for Ray Sims. Please keep Ray and his family in your prayers as his older son passed away suddenly.

a) CCLI – It would have been a higher cost if the state bought the CCLI for all the units; therefore, each is responsible for their own if they want it. If not, the unit can only use the teal songbooks; no copies or reproductions

b) ACT – encourage potential AC members to attend. It has been difficult in scheduling each region.

c) We need to mentor and shadow to encourage new members as it has been difficult to get 14 members/AC.

d) There should be a limit as to the number of AC members who serve on a team. Who is left for all those last minute needs.

e) An AC should try its best to get 14 required members, Strive for excellence.

10. Kairos Outside: Debbie Van Pelt reported that 9 of the 10 KO units were represented at last night's meeting. Two spring weekends have been held, and the third one is taking place this weekend. 100% of EL reports for last year were turned in. Input from the units was shared on several questions regarding the status of the AC.

11. Registrar: Julie Cole reported that the Spring weekend leaders have had AKT training, dates and spiritual resumes were all approved by the state.

Close of Meeting: Next State Chapter Committee meeting in Austin is July 11, 2015. Meeting was adjourned with prayer and the singing of *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place*.

Respectfully submitted:

Cissy Kabat, Secretary
Kairos of Texas