

Kairos of Texas State Chapter Committee Meeting  
Hill Country Bible Church, Austin, Texas  
January 10, 2015: 9:00AM-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, Steve Newton, Cissy Kabat, Robert Robinson, Bill Salser, Thomas Becker, Rhonne Gary, Mike Stumbaugh, and Marcia Wiseman.

**Advisory Councils not represented:** Briscoe, Clements, Connally, Dalhart, Daniel, Ferguson, Hobby, Lockhart Men's, Montford, Polunsky, Roach, Stevenson, and Torch Amarillo.

**Minutes:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** by Jim Irwin.

- Jim introduced Gina Brockmeyer. Gina is the Women's Ministry Coordinator for Kairos Prison Ministry International. Gina recently came on staff to replace Jo Chapman. Gina conducted Advisory Council Training (ACT) later in the day. Larry Roger's was prevented from attending due to inclement weather. In Larry's absence, Jim gave the devotion referencing scriptures taken from Romans 8:7, II Timothy 2:15, II Timothy 3:16, Luke 17:7-10, Philippians 2:12-14, Mark 7:6, and Ephesians 5:21-22. Jim encouraged and challenged all (including himself) to strive for spiritual transformation by heartfelt intercessory prayer for others, by Bible study and by daily, persistent, personal application of the scriptures we studied. He suggested that in 2015, if we pursued our salvation with "fear and trembling," we would be more likely to avoid arguing and complaining while going about our ministry as unto the Lord Jesus. Doing so would enable us to work in unity as one body to avoid the opportunity for our enemy to bring disruption and division with our best of intentions. From Luke 17, Jim questioned why we seek appreciation or acknowledgement for doing what we committed to do. Our Lord told us that our attitude should be reflected by saying "we are unworthy servants, we have only done what was our duty." (NIV). Scott Van Pelt followed with the opening prayer seeking God's blessing on our meeting.

- Chaplain Vance Drum, Director of TDCJ Chaplaincy department, reported that there are 126 chaplains serving in Texas. The "new era" for Texas began about 20 years ago. TDCJ needs help as the inmate population continues to grow. He asked how can TDCJ redirect their lives? More volunteers are needed with the faith-based programs. Now the legislature, TDCJ, and state executive leadership are expressing this need. At present there are 23,000 trained volunteers, and the recidivism rate declined from 75% to 22%

between 1986 and 2006. Texas is the leader for faith-based programs in the USA.

- Roll call was taken, and a quorum established. Driskoll Tubbs made a motion and Linda Stiles seconded it that the minutes from the Oct.11, 2014 meeting be approved. Motion carried. With the new ACOP and SCCOP, Kairos state structure has changed. There are now 5 required and 4 optional subcommittees: Outreach/Volunteer Recruitment (Dickson de la Haye), Fundraising (Tom Vanhaus), Agape (Jamie Gonzales), Programs (Dr. Robert Kimmel), Website Development (Debbie VanPelt), Finance (Bob Cole), Clergy Training and Clergy Recruitment (Larry "Buck" Rogers), New Starts (Steve Newton), and Advisory Council Coordination (Ray Sims). These positions and chairs were approved the Executive Committee on Jan.9<sup>th</sup>. Scott VanPelt made a motion to adopt and approve this structure and the sub-committee chairs. It was seconded by Alice Finley and carried.

- Financial report: Bill Salser presented copies of the Profit and Loss statement through Nov. 30, 2014, the Balance Sheet with previous year comparison and the 2015 budget. The 2015 budget had previously been approved by the Executive Committee. Total checking/savings is \$713,070.89. Thanks were given to Bill and Bob Cole for getting the budget prepared and sent to Karos within the time guidelines. Executive committee approved motions for financial procedure to compute the state affiliation fee per the same procedure as last year, i.e. 15% will be used for state affiliation fee calculation. Any funds donated to Kairos, another Kairos unit or used in purchasing equipment will be deducted from the AC's total year-end balance before computing the 15% due. These purchases/donations must be done by Jan 31.

- Bill and Jim stressed the need that cash advances be cleared within 30 days, (45 days would be the maximum time). Further, no subsequent cash advance should be made until the prior one is cleared with all receipts provided at that time. Large cash advances need to be replaced by several smaller advances.

Break out for Sub Committee meetings and lunch.

### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

- Kairos Outside: Debbie Van Pelt: Kairos Outside had three Sub-committee meetings last night. All communities were represented but one-Wichita Falls- even with the weather slowing people down. All EI reports were turned in and will be reported. There were 5 fall weekends, Gina Brockmeyer spoke on her vision of where Kairos women ministries will be going.

- Website Design: Debbie Van Pelt: As this a new position we are still in the discovery stage. We are asking that if your unit has a website, please check to see if it has a link on the KOT website. We also need a contact person for that website. Email addresses will be greatly appreciated.As a 501C3 organization, we all need to be presenting the same message to all. That's what this committee will be helping with. It's just an extra set of eyes. We would also like to see if there are any other units wanting to have a website.

- Treasurer: Robert Robinson: Next state meeting is April 10-11; room reservations will be taken by him from March 1- March 15. KOT is working toward an umbrella account with Wells Fargo. If new signature cards are needed for your unit, please change to Wells Fargo.

- I C Rep Mike Stumbaugh: 1) The International Council did a veiled inmate survey asking for thoughts about one on one

hosting. Five Texas units were included in the 26 throughout the USA that were surveyed. These surveys are being “received and digested”. Executive Director Evelyn Lemley would like to know the ripple effects if changes are to take place. These results should be available by summer conference. Mike is also AKT state coordination: There will be the following trainings available: Amarillo: March 6-8 for KI, Huntsville June 5-7 for KI, KO, and K Torch, Waxahachie Nov 13-15 for KI and KO. Everyone can attend-just send in your reservation to Mike. Other IC representatives were either not present or waiting on an IC committee assignment.

- Advisory Council Coordination: Ray Sims: Someone is needed to coordinate setup and tear down at Hill Country Bible Church for the state quarterly meetings. This person would need to meet with the Ed Keefer or church staff who has the key Friday afternoon at 3:00 pm.. Please contact Ray if you can fill this need. CCLI: 20 units are not licensed at this time. The committee needs to find out what each council does regarding using music/songbooks. Each unit can obtain a CCLI license on its own. An evaluation will be made to see if it is cost effective to license at the state level as opposed at the AC. Using Kairos songbooks only are within the guidelines and is in compliance. Ray will check with those 20 units about their use of music. ACT training: chairs and state reps are required to attend annually. Everyone else, especially new council members, are also urged to attend. The training will be done regionally to cut down on travel time. Training is now a 4 hours session.

- Outreach: Dickson de la Haye (Clemens unit) is chair. 15 AC's were represented today. It is necessary that each AC have an outreach coordinator on the council. At this time, there is no clergy materials for training. That can be investigated in coordination with the Chair of the Clergy Recruiting/Clergy Training sub-committee chair (Larry Rogers).

- Programs: Dr. Robert Kimmel (Torres Unit). Inside program EI surveys are reviewed by regional designees. There have been website problems with the historical E I data unrecoverable at this time. In reviewing the EI's, it appears that the same concerns reoccur. Therefore, the entire Advisory Council needs to review the completed E I report and discuss with the next weekend leader what appropriate action can be taken to turn more no's into yes's.

- New Starts:: Steve Newton: The committee will have monthly teleconference calls to stay abreast of happenings. Terrell Unit should have its first weekend in November of 2015. Mountain View Death Row unit is in the works as well as Telford and Estelle. Surrounding inside councils are asked to encourage a few veterans to consider stepping aside from their unit to help the greater need to start up a unit where there is no Kairos presence. Once the new start has its first weekend, veterans have the option to return. Several members of the New Start Sub Committee agreed to be responsible for cultivating interest in Kairos at a

prison near to where they live. The monthly conference calls are intended to follow up on those activities.

- Finance: Bob Cole: 25 attended the Finance subcommittee training for new Fin. Secretaries. Donor has a new screen for Fixed Assets. .

**Chair's Closing Comments:** When a motion comes out of a committee, there is no requirement in Roberts Rules of Order for a second. However, there is no stipulation prohibiting it. Section IX, paragraph 54 grants the chair the discretion to make a motion and/or call for a second when a report is made by a committee. It will be my practice to call for a second prior to voting on a sub-committees motion.

Master list information and contact information updates are due to Julie Cole by Jan 31. Weekend leaders are to be nominated by the AC and approved by the State Chair after their Spiritual Resume (SR) is reviewed by the State Chair and AKT is timely completed. (Manual urges completions of AKT 12 to 24 months prior to a weekend. SR's are to be submitted to Chair and Registrar within 30 days after AC approves the weekend leader's nomination.

State Representatives are responsible for ensuring the AC's weekend leaders are timely trained and approved. It is strongly recommended that both the Weekend Leader and the Observing Leader have completed AKT and have approved SR's on file. This provides for a backup should a leader be unable to participate due to an unforeseen event. The Executive Director is not inclined to approve a waiver to allow a prior leader to step in if the Advisory Council did not properly plan for such events by having both the leader and observing leader trained and approved.

If administration problems arise at a prison, it is recommended that the Advisory Council inform the State Chair or the State Chapter's Advisory Council Coordination Sub-committee Chair of the concern. The SCC Executive Committee will consider the concern and may opt to seek counsel from Chaplain Drum for the appropriate way to best resolve the concern.

The new ACOP, July 14, 2014 revision, states that a volunteer can only hold one voting position on an Advisory Council. In order to ensure one vote per person but facilitate the conduct of the ministry, that individual may serve on another council, if necessary, but does so in an advisory or optional position. That way each Advisory Council will recruit a minimum of 14 volunteers to serve in the required (voting) positions and thereby promote involving new leaders. Also, this precludes discouraging veterans from assisting in a new start program. Given there is not yet a community of volunteers, the SCC New Starts sub-committee appoints an advisory council to enable presentation of the first weekend. After the first weekend, the community then votes to elect members for the Advisory Council positions. The elected council then becomes a voting

member of the State Chapter Committee. A voting member of another council would then need to make a choice as to where to serve should he/she wish to become a voting member of a council that just completed their first weekend.

A question was raised about AC's using Kairos funds to rent or purchase food or equipment for other Christian ministries operating inside prisons. /While Kairos is a ministry, it is a ministry required by law to follow laws/regulations stipulated by the IRS and other state entities where applicable. Local AC's are authorized by the Board to raise funds and use Kairos funds subject to Board policies. No AC is authorized to use Kairos funds to purchase food and/or purchase or rent equipment for individuals or for other ministries regardless of the merits of that need. On occasion, an AC may seek to allow Kairos equipment to be loaned/used by another ministry. In those cases, approval to do so should be directed to the State Chair with an explanation of the circumstances.

As of Nov, 2014, two volunteers were suspended by the State Executive Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm with the singing of *Surely the Presence of the Lord in in This Place*.

The next state meeting will be April 11, 2015.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Cissy Kabat, Secretary  
Kairos of Texas**