

Kairos of Texas State Chapter Committee Meeting
Hill Country Bible Church, Austin, TX
January 11, 2020

Chair: Ray Sims

Executive Committee present: Ray Sims, Scott Baker, Joy Drady, Steve Newton, Bob Crane, Driskoll Tubbs, Joaquin Ytuarte, Julie Cole, John Osborn, Teddy Carson, Debbie Van Pelt and Marcia Wiseman.

Units not represented: Coffield, Dalhart, Darrington, Hightower, Hughes, Jordan, Monford, Polunsky, & Torch Amarillo.

Minutes

Gather for fellowship and refreshments: 8:30-8:45. Praise and Worship: 8:45-9:00 led by Scott Van Pelt, joined by Tony Perez.

Ray Sims called the meeting to order “Welcoming” everyone and recognized those attending for the first time.

Larry “Buck” Rogers, KPMI Board of Directors: There will be a lot of knowledge and wisdom gained here today and because of you leaders of KOT a lot of lives will be changed. All of you here are really heroes.

We must have faith to do this ministry. In order to have faith you have to trust in the Word of God. Without faith it is impossible to please God!

Chapter 11 of Hebrews lists examples of “heroes of faith”: Abraham: God told him to leave everything behind and go to a new land. He trusted that God was able to bring him thru and He did. God told Sarah she would have a child in her old age. She believed that God was able to do it and so it was. God told Noah it was going to rain and he needed to build an ark to save his family. He didn’t even know what “rain” was but he believed it would happen if God said so. They all died in faith: no matter what happened they trusted in God’s words. They set an example for us.

Each year at annual conference we have a ceremony and acknowledge all those who have served in Kairos and passed on. Here in Texas we have just lost one of God’s greatest Kairos servants, Mr. Bill Salser. He mentored and encouraged me for the past twenty years.

You too will be counted as heroes of faith. Matthew 25:36 says, “I was in prison and you came and visited me.” Twice a year we go into prison and pray for them and serve them. We are people of faith and we are heroes. Every weekend we serve, we bare their burdens with them. We lay don our lives so they may live. As we enter another year, keep your faith, trust in the Lord. We have His promise for eternal life and He has sent His Son to be with us who now is the head of Kairos!

The **Roll Call** was taken by Joy Drady, secretary. Those units not in attendance are listed at the beginning of the minutes. Joy asked for **approval of the October 12, 2019 Minutes**. Kelly Gerland made a motion that the minutes be approved, seconded by Driskoll Tubbs. Motion passed. Joy also provided copies of the Affiliation Agreement for Advisory Councils.

Chaplain Tim Jones, TDCJ Director of Chaplaincy: On behalf of the Renee Hinohosa, Director of Rehabilitation and Deputy Director, Chris Carter and from the entire Chaplains Department of TDCJ, “Thank You, KI and KO for all that you do.” You make our jobs easier.

Isaiah 6:8,9: “I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send?’ And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Ministries can never happen without everyone involved. If we are the people of God, you and I as a body make up ministry.

You are fulfilling God’s purpose for your life. “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 We are God’s “work of art” ministering to people who some in the world will never get to minister to. God has a purpose far beyond what we can ever see. When you pray “Help us in Kairos to see them as Jesus sees them” you will become

more effective in Kairos

I remember a song, "Where would I be without Jesus? Where would I spend eternity?" We have a promise to hold on to, a "blessed hope!" One day all the work you've done will be rewarded. Until that happens TDCJ can't pay you. So "Thank You" for all you've done and continue to do.

Evelyn Lemly, KPMI CEO: *Thank You* for your service, your time, your effort and *Thank You* for caring! Most of all, Thank You for sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. We have a specific place that we do that....to those impacted by incarceration.

God has prepared us for right where He wants us to be. Consider the army that God has at work. Multiply the 30,000 volunteers we know are working in this ministry by the number of cookie bakers, prayer warriors and outside support teams. God is at work in this ministry and He's given us awesome programs that work and awesome people and we need more of them!

One thing I want to focus on is "How are we doing?" First ask the question "How am I doing?" Then ask "How are we doing as an AC?, as a state?, as Kairos?"

Do you know what your job is? If everyone tries to do the same job you create chaos. God gives each of us a special task and says "Now you do your task to the best of your ability to honor me." And that makes everyone else work better and we are "better together" aren't we.

Sometimes we think we know what we're supposed to do because "I've done it twenty times." Have you really prepared yourself or are you assuming that you know what you're doing? Ask yourself, "How healthy am I?" Do you know your job and what God has asked you to do? Everyone here has said "Here I am, send me." So, am I a name on a piece of paper or am I there to serve God with the best of my ability and to glorify Him thru my work in Kairos Prison Ministry?

Sometimes people want to do something a different way, but there's a reason we do things a certain way. I encourage you because you have said "Yes" to the Lord, now do it to your best so you can honor God and others that you work with. If you truly said "I'm All In" then be "All In."

If you want to do something the best way, spend a little time up front investing in yourself and in those who you serve with. That way you're glorifying God and honoring those we are serving. If we're doing it for us, we're doing it for the wrong reasons.

Has anyone here not seen a success story (or 5 or 100)? Has anyone not been changed by serving in this ministry because you've seen God at work? So, you have a story to tell. Go tell your story!

I challenge you to make sure your own self is healthy first because you can't give to others if you're not filled up yourself before you go out to serve.

Part of what we do in Team meetings and AC meetings is filling each other up, building unity and a body to serve together, to support and learn from one another and hold each other accountable so we can do the work of the Lord that He has given us which is Kairos. Take it seriously, but have fun with it. It's "fun" to do this work, because what draws people in is the **"joy of the Lord."**

How are we doing the ministry? We have a structured program and it works. God has given us three programs all structured the same by using our stories and testimonies to take God's people on a journey of exploring who they are and who God is. We have a true impact when we are creating the "Accountability Groups" and we're actually teaching them how to live. Continuing Ministry is the foundation that makes us a success. That's where the true miracles happen as we see people change over time. Do you know those stories?

What are we doing to actually run our ministry? Are we glorifying God in everything according to the awesome guidance He has given us? We need to put emphasis on promoting all three parts of the ministry because families are changed when one or more members of a family go thru the programs. Every year 28,000 people participate in our ministry weekends. That should motivate us to do our best.

Doing the work of reports for the weekends ensures that we hold ourselves accountable to do the ministry according to the laws of the land and do our best to honor the Department of Corrections. Leadership is a choice now choose how you will lead.

The scripture Chaplain Jones read didn't say, "Send me so I can be glorified" but "so **He** can be glorified". So, give your best, know your job, get everyone involved. Then go and tell everyone!

Ray Sims, Chair Comments: In 2019: KOT held 87 KI Weekends, 19 KO Weekends, & 3 Torch Weekends totaling 109 weekends.

3404 volunteers served on Inside Teams and 1402 served on Support Teams totaling 4,806 volunteers. That's commitment! Immediate gratification comes as we see the hand of God working in those Weekends. What a blessing to see Jesus Christ impacting individuals including ourselves. What sets us apart from other ministries on the inside is our continuing ministry when we return week after week with support and prayers.

The **2019 Compliance Report*** (color coded) gives AC standards to keep us accountable to ourselves. Column 1 - Weekend Leader's Reports that are missing are flagged in red. Please catch those up. There is help to do it if you need it.

Column 2 - Excellence Initiatives. It's not a grade card. It's purpose is to show where we can improve.

Column 3 - Shows the number of AC meetings by the minutes received at the state level. KI's go to Ray, Scott Baker, and Debbie VanPelt. We can make suggestions that may help to build up your AC.

Column 4 - KOT State meetings: 4 each year, shows attendance of the AC's representative.

Column 5 - Number of Weekends held by each AC. (We would like to see two per year for each AC.)

Column 6 - KPMI Annual Conference. The number that attended from each AC. We encourage every AC to send at least one representative. KOT will consider covering the registration fees again this year.

Column 7 - Affiliation Agreements. This is required by KPMI and we must have them. Send them to Joy Drady. I'd really like to see a lot more green on this report next year. Kudo's to the KO ACs. They got green!

The next several pages are Election Status Report for 2020 done so far. If the number of officers is zero the new elections of 2020 have not been entered in Messenger (?? Shows Chair and Secretary are not entered.) *The Advisory Council Secretaries and the key to Kairos Messenger.* Kairos Messenger's (KM) purpose is to cast a light on our ministry. It is also a very useful communications tool.

KOT is about 12% of the total KPMI volunteers so we plan to grow into the challenge of managing with KM.

Thanks to each of you for your service in KOT and I look forward to serving with you in 2020, a new decade, a new start and a great time to be doing Kairos Prison Ministry.

Steve Newton, Financial Secretary: "Thank You, Chaplain Jones" and all of the Chaplains for supporting KOT. Looking at "Kairos of Texas Financial Summary Report, January 2020"* we see:

- 1) KOT had a very good year. Due to the great fund raising projects and consistence in controlling costs, the Total Contributions are up 9% from last year.
- 2) "Blessings Paid" are monies sent from one AC to another - down 11% from 2018. There are 27 AC's that have over \$10,000 in the bank and 16% of our AC's have less than \$5,000. Please look at the Balance Sheet and find another Ad Council that clearly needs financial help. In the past KOT AC's have always helped each other.
- 3) KPMI Affiliation Fees increased by 11% (Perhaps because we have more Ad Councils than before?)
- 4) What KOT spends on your behalf (Training costs and SCC meeting cost together is more than what AC's paid to KOT. Kairos of Texas does not make a profit.
- 5) Net income was much better than last year.

I am looking for two or three volunteers to join the elite group of three who process data between Donor and QuickBooks for our 62 Ad Councils. To qualify you should be pretty computer savvy and have an interest in accounting. Training will be provided. Please see me if you are interested or know someone else who may want to help.

There is a new rule for reimbursing mileage for volunteer service: max is now \$.14 per mile. However, if you rent a car to drive to the SCC meeting, the full cost of the rental, plus gas purchased, is reimbursable. Budget Rental for a standard car is \$48.90 for 2 days with unlimited mileage. So, you have a choice. (In Oct. KOT paid 60 Check Requests totaling \$10,023 - an average of \$167 each.)

Bob Crane, Treasurer's Report:

- 1) New mailing address for KOT, **PO Box 79084, Saginaw, TX 76179** (Please write it down and use it.)
- 2) With elections, if you have a new AC Chair, Treasurer, or Financial Secretary, your bank account signature card needs to be updated. If the account is with Wells Fargo, please work thru me. If it is with another bank, work with them and inform me of the changes.
- 3) There should be 5 signers on each account: The AC Chair, AC Treasurer, State Chair (Ray Sims), State Treasurer (Bob Crane) and KPMI CEO, Evelyn Lemly.
- 4) The local AC Treasurer is responsible for updating the signature cards with the bank.
- 5) View access only is permitted for the AC Financial Secretary, the State Financial Secretary (Steve Newton) and the KPMI Comptroller (Julie Collins).

This is not a means for us to take money from you. It is a safety measure just in case something happens. We are not going to take God's money out of your account.

Break into Training Sessions for Financial Secretaries, Treasurers & Unit Advisory Councils Lunch

Afternoon Session

International Council Reps:

Driskoll Tubbs, KO Committee: New assignments of Reps to KPMI Committees will be made in February. We are looking for new skits for the Kitchen Teams to share during meals on the KO Weekends. There are skits in the manual and we would like to add some new choices. Please share any ideas that you think are good so we can review and pass them on to other Kitchen Teams. At our next meeting we will start working on potential "Workshops" for National Conference. Last year we offered a workshop for male volunteers working on the Kitchen Team for KO Weekends. You learn a lot when serving on a KO Weekend. You really come to appreciate what the "Guests" on a KO Weekend go thru while having a loved one incarcerated.

John Osborne reported that he "sat in" on the October 29th IC Rep teleconference: Reports were given by each section and a vote was taken **to accept** the KI Residential Community Council Handbook that was written by a brother in white and endorsed by KPMI. It is a useful tool for those inside and also for KI Team members and is available on the KPMI and the KOT websites.

Also, KPMI is requesting that more IC Reps consider being nominated for a national Board of Director position. Texas is allowed to have two Board of Directors.

Dickson de la Haye reported that **Red Gilbert** takes his IC Rep responsibility very seriously. Red has written an article about his efforts to recruit volunteers for the Kairos ministry. Red also works as an advocate for those who are homeless or mentally impaired when they must tangle with the legal system.

Dickson commented that Debbie Van Pelt, in her position as KI Sub Committee Chair, has the potential to create a committee at the KOT level to address issues and distribute info to the KI AC's. Ray said Debbie is currently helping with reviewing the minutes submitted by the KI Advisory Councils in order to give suggestions for issues they may have.

There was general agreement for potentially assigning each of the AC State Reps to one of the KOT committees, i.e. Fundraising, Agape, New Starts, Trailers etc.

Kairos Outside Report: Teddy Carson

The Weekend Leaders need to understand how important the EZRA data is. I highly recommend that the Advisory Councils consider having someone serve as their EZRA Angel who can enter the data and submit the Weekend Leader's Report on time. The EZRA Angel could be the AC Data Coordinator or someone else and they can really help with the Leader to Leader transfer also: can order the new EZRA and set it up for the next Weekend Leader.

Ray Sims introduced a **guest, Shane Kennet** who shared his personal testimony.

I was introduced to Kairos by Tim Bubsy and I just recently visited the Michael Unit and talked to my pastors who agree our church should do something in prison ministry. I've learned there is potential for starting Kairos at the Lindsey Unit or Powledge Unit. So, I'm here for a fact gathering mission to take back to my pastor about logistics. I really care about starting something that my local church people at Lake Highland UMC, Dallas can get behind. My vision is to parcel this information into chunks so that as a church unit we can do the required training etc. and then find the Unit that we can get behind as a community.

(Driskoll Tubbs suggested, "You do need other churches involved to work as a team so you don't get stagner.")

I'm impressed how much is being done for me already, how organized this group is and the emphasis the CEO made in her message about being orderly.

(Tom Barnes noted, "You should be looking at it on two levels: 1) How to get the church involved. 2) How to get it started; and we can help you with both.")

I still have a lot to learn, but it is comforting to know that we have your support.

(Ray Sims noted that Kairos is an ecumenical ministry and many denominations need to be involved. It will be a bigger, broader thing than just one church. We welcome your church's involvement in either a "start up" or an existing unit, as some desperately need "new" volunteers.)

I'm hoping to knock on doors of other churches in the Highlands area (east of Dallas) to invite them to join us. I'm doing recruiting now for serving on Teams that need help so our men can start to get excited .

(Tom Barnes: "Number 1 recruiting tool now is inviting folks to a Weekend Closing.) Yes, and I want to ask our pastors to devote part of a worship service to prison ministry." (Dickson de la Haye: "On the KOT Outreach/Recruiting website is a template for "Kairos Sunday" that gives ideas for putting that together.")

Torch Report: Ray Sims announced that Marcia Wiseman is taking the position of Chair of the Torch Committee as a result of Bill Salser's passing.

New Starts: Tom Barnes

Right now, we have three on paper. Powledge has not made much progress for a while but five people who are interested in Powledge came to the New Start session today. We may be able to merge those interested in Lindsey with the Powledge group.

Ellis Unit is the biggest one and their first Weekend is scheduled in November, 2020.

Crain Unit, (female) which Cheryl has been heading up, will have their first Prayer & Share next Saturday (1/18/20). Prayer & Share really puts the engine in place and will be there motivation to keep going.

I also want to encourage Shane to get children plugged into doing Agape for Kairos right now. There's a place for everyone in your church to serve Kairos.

Chair Comments: Please stay and help clean up. Next meetings will be April 3 and 4, 2020.

Meeting was closed with prayer and singing *Surely the Presence*.

Submitted by: Joy Drady, Secretary

*Reports filed: 2019 Compliance Chart 1/5/20; Kairos Messenger Election Status Report 2020;
KOT Financial Summary with Profit & Loss Comparison & Balance Sheet thru Nov, 2019;
KOT Agape Report 1/11/20