

KAIROS

February 2023

www.kairostexas.org

Issue 54

I am grateful for the ministry of Kairos. It makes me feel good for lots of reasons. In all likelihood, there are many of you who would concur with my sentiment. The Bible is steeped in proclamations of "Gratitude," and mentions the word at least 157 times. It appears more than "thanks" and "thanksgiving" which are only mentioned 72 times.

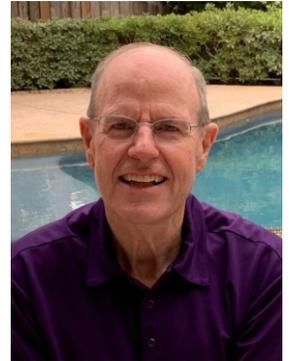
Gratitude is sometimes defined as the quality of being thankful, or the readiness to show appreciation for kindness. In other words, being grateful is equivalent to feeling the presence of God in our lives. It is the same as being in a state of bliss.

When Jesus broke five loaves of bread and two fishes and fed 5,000, He gave thanks. When Christ bowed His head at the last supper with His disciples, He gave thanks. When He was asked to have dinner with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, He gave thanks. The Creator of all sustenance gave thanks and was grateful for simple provisions. How much more should I be grateful?

In 1 Peter 4:10 we are instructed, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Thus, by serving others through Kairos, we are serving God and showing our gratitude for His work in our life.

I am reminded of the teachings of John Wooden, the most successful college basketball coach ever. Most coaches would feel an immense sense of accomplishment for coaching a single team to a National Championship title. John Wooden coached young men to win ten National Championships in only 12 years at UCLA! But John was steeped in great qualities of leadership. After one of his National Championship wins, he made a speech to the young men that was very unusual. Instead of yelling glowing and proudful comments and glitzy praises, he said something to the effect that, "This was a great win. And no one can ever take it from you. But remember, you cannot live a perfect day until you do something for someone who has no chance of ever re-paying you." John and his Team were grateful for winning, and I am grateful for having

Scott Baker State Chair Gratitude



been exposed to the leadership John showered on these young men.

Think about Coach Wooden's humility, and the fact that his message was delivered to a group of young men, many of whom would be bound for the NBA and all of its bountiful trinkets. The coach looks at the future and strives to guide these young men to stay grounded. In short, be grateful for the recognition you are receiving as a decorated athlete but remember that the greatest treasures are the result of humble service and displaying gratitude for what you have.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, we are directed to "16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Gratitude refers to the ability to show thanks for the things you have and that you are grateful for. It helps you get closer to God by always recognizing and thanking him for the blessings in your life "in all circumstances."

It has been said "It is not happy people who are thankful. It is thankful people who are happy." So, by being grateful, we receive the blessing of happiness.

Gratitude is a special gift given to us by God. It is fundamentally about not taking things for granted and being thankful for what we have and receive. Thankfulness is a powerful means of drawing near to God. According to Psalm 100:4-5, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give

Continued on page 6

Our first quarter Texas Board Meeting was interesting and very informative. CEO Evelyn Lemley from Kairos International updated us on what is and what isn't going on around the world in Kairos. Many states and countries aren't allowing Kairos weekends, Prayer and Share, etc. in their prisons. We are fortunate to be allowed to have weekends in the majority of our prisons. At the same time, many of our prisons, for various reasons including staff shortages, are limiting or not allowing Prayer and Share, reunions, retreats, etc., which is basically the Kairos "Continuing Ministry" heart of Kairos!

The Continuing Ministry Committee at the first Quarter Kairos of Texas state meeting had eight K.I. members and one K.O. member in attendance plus me, as I support K.I. for both men and women. Troy Passmore volunteered at our meeting to help me set up Zoom meetings (hopefully starting this year).

At our meeting I went through the first two pages of the Continuing Ministry of Kairos Inside Manuel (pages 305 and 306) explaining and highlighting the purpose and overview described on those pages. I highly recommend everyone reading this who participates in K.I. Read these pages slowly and make sure your Unit's Prayer and Share follow this information.

I just went through Julie Cole's updated K.O.T. Master List of the A.C. units in Texas and found out that the K.I. units Ellis, Ferguson, and Roach, plus K.O. Central Texas do NOT have a Continuing Ministry Board Member. At the time of my last report there were seven K.I. units (one female), two K.O. units, and two Torch units. I pray that by the next K.O.T. Board Meeting all the positions are filled. If they are not filled, I will ask the A.C. Chair to perform the duties of that position.

In the November 2022 Newsletter I gave you the link that the AC Continuing Ministry Chair, the AC Secretary, or the AC Data Coordinator will need to use to enter the information indicated which is required from their unit after each Prayer and Share, reunion, and retreat. If you haven't been doing this, then one of the above designated people needs to go back and fill out the events that have been held last year and this year.

Driscoll Tubbs Chair - Continuing Ministry



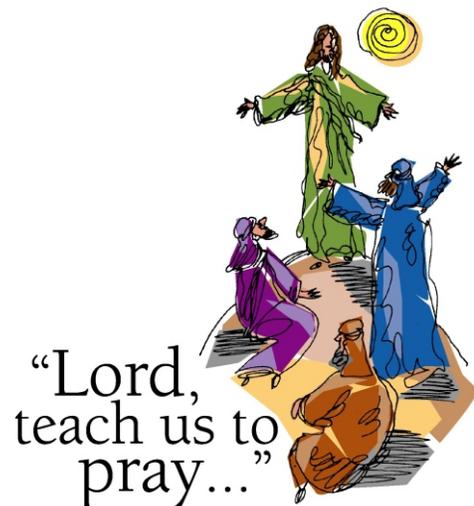
Craig Combs, K.I. Men's Program Coordinator (407-629-4948 ext. 23) sent me the current planned virtual Continuing Ministry Training Course dates for those who hold the Continuing Ministry position on their KI or KO board of directors.

For those who are interested in attending Continuing Ministry events for KO or KI, Registration is required at <https://mykairos.org/training.html>. All times are central standard time.

The dates are:

Kairos Inside
Mon. March 20th, 1-3 pm

Kairos Outside
Sat. May 20th, 11-2 pm
Sat. Aug. 12th, 8-11 am
Sat. Sept. 9th, 11-3 pm
Sat. Oct. 14th, 8-11 am



Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org



Bags of Grace - Helping the Homeless Community - Gregg Peacock

I loved watching God moving in the hearts of our church community – to be His hands and feet! On Sunday (December 18, 2022), Rita and I were at Church Under the Bridge – handing out bags of grace to the homeless community. While we were handing out the bags, another group was handing out blankets and clothes. It was a little chilly but not too cold. Rita said that multiple homeless people were still asking for blankets. We were both frustrated that we did not have blankets to hand out and that it was going to be very cold at the end of the week.

On Monday, Rita and I contacted Chris Stevens from Mission Possible about us providing blankets and warm clothes that they could then distribute to the homeless before the freeze. Chris was on board and wanted to have the items by Wednesday afternoon. I sent out an email to the Bags of Grace community at HCBC on Monday afternoon asking for the blankets and warm clothes by Wednesday afternoon – in a 1 hour time window (1-2pm) at the Lakeline location.

My thoughts were that it was not likely we would get much response – 1) week of Christmas, 2) during work week, 3) 2 days notice and 4) a 1 hour time window. But I was thinking if we could distribute another 10-15 blankets to those in need it would be worth it. I almost brought my small 4 door sedan instead of my old sequoia – because of a likely minimal response. I was so WRONG!!!

I ultimately decided to bring my sequoia and my 2 daughters to wait at Hill Country Bible Church for people to drop off blankets and warm clothes. It was so awesome – we were flooded with an overwhelming response. My daughters kept saying “Dad, we don’t have room in the sequoia to collect all of the blankets and warm clothes!” I responded, “I know, isn't it awesome?” Ultimately, we filled my sequoia to the point my youngest daughter was buried in clothes in the back. We also filled up the bags of grace trailer. Even then, it was a tight fit. It was the best Christmas gift for me personally – getting to share this time of watching God move with my daughters.

People dropping off items were saying that they reached out to their neighbors, family, small groups, etc. to help contribute. One woman said that during her quiet



times God had given her a burden about helping the homeless – knowing that the freeze was coming. But she did not know how to help them. Then she received our email. She said it was an answer to prayer.

Chris from Mission Possible said he distributed the donated items to the homeless camps in and around Austin. He said he delivered blankets, warm clothes, the gospel, and prayer to over 230 homeless individuals.

Thanks again to our church community for stepping up big time to help the most vulnerable and needy in and around Austin!



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the Heart.

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Thank You - Bob Crane



Bob Crane
Treasurer

I offer my thanks and appreciation to every Advisory Council Chair, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. This was going to be a challenging year to update bank accounts. Because Kairos of Texas has a new State Chair, EVERY Kairos bank account in Texas had to be updated. As you know, each account is required to have five (5) signers: the Advisory Council Treasurer and Chair, the State Treasurer and Chair, and Evelyn Lemly, CEO.

In past years, it was... just a bit more challenging to collect all the updates in a timely fashion. Not so this year... I received updated information from EVERY Advisory Council before the State Chapter Committee meeting in February. As a result, I was able to provide the updated information for every bank account to Kris Buchanan, the Kairos National Controller, before mid-February.

Again, THANK YOU for responding to my requests for information in a timely fashion.

Now, for a Public Service Announcement... If your Advisory Council has not yet submitted the 4th Quarter KPMI Affiliation Fee, the State Affiliation Fee, or the Trailer Fee, please do so as quickly as possible. Thank you

Sustainer of Blessings by Dr. Stanley

On January 15, 1919, a huge molasses tank burst in Boston. A fifteen-foot wave of more than two million gallons of molasses careened through the street at over 30 mph, sweeping away railcars, buildings, people, and animals. Molasses might seem harmless enough, but that day it was deadly: 21 people lost their lives with more than 150 injured. Sometimes even good things-like molasses--can overwhelm us unexpectedly.

Before the Israelites entered the land God promised them, Moses warned the people to be careful not to take credit for the good thing they'd receive: "When you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase... then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God" They weren't to attribute this wealth to their own strength or capabilities. Instead, Moses said, "Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth. (Deut. 8:12-14, 17-18). All good things-----including physical health and the skills needed to earn a living---are blessings from the hand of our loving God. Even when we've worked hard, it's He who sustains us. Oh, to hold our blessings with open hands, that we may gratefully praise God for His kindness to us!

What kindnesses from God are you thankful for today?

Who can you help with a blessing you've received?

Thank You, Father, for sustaining me every moment. Please help me to recognize Your kindness, so I may share it with others.

LISTEN
LISTEN

L♥VE
L♥VE

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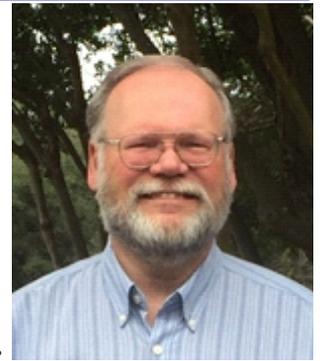
Kairos Torch New Start at the Giddings State School - Dickson dela Haye

In the fall of 2020, I wrote a newsletter article on a Kairos Torch new start getting underway at the Giddings State School, located in Giddings, Texas. This was done in response to TJJD (Texas Juvenile Justice Department) invitation 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. We also currently have Kairos Torch at two other County facilities in Texas; check out - <https://www.kairostexas.org/Torch.html>, to learn more about Kairos Torch in Texas.

Kairos Torch offers unconditional love and acceptance, encouraging male and female incarcerated youth ages 25 and under to share their life journey through participation in a long-term mentoring process. The 2 ½ day Weekend enables the young people to remove their masks, so that the real person can shine forth. The Kairos Torch mission is to engage their reasoning skills to help them make better life choices. The Weekend is then followed by Continuing Ministry that includes one-to-one mentoring of the youth by Kairos volunteers, along with Group Reunions, and Bible studies.

Our first Giddings weekend took place on Nov 4-6, 2022, with 12 boys under the age of 19. To this day, I remain so very touched by the tremendous amount of agape we received, and how much we truly felt lifted up in prayer. Being our first weekend, with the majority on team never having experienced a Kairos Torch weekend, I am so grateful for their patience and encouragement and of course the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit. While there are a few aspects of the weekend we intend to improve upon, particularly around logistics, I have no doubt that by God's grace we accomplished our primary goal to show God's love and to prepare the boys for mentoring.

Since November, volunteers have been meeting with youth every two weeks. We also celebrated the holidays with food, fellowship, and the singing of carols. In January we conducted our first Monthly reunion which consisted of food, music, and the creation of agape to give back to the Kairos community.



**Dickson delaHaye
International Rep.**

It has been a tremendous blessing to see the mentor relationships grow, along with the smiles of the boys and their growing realization that our commitment and love for them is real.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, starting a new Kairos community can be a daunting challenge, but you must have faith and never forget the cloud of witnesses that surround us... Hebrew **12:1**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Plans are already underway for our second weekend in June; to learn more check us out at <https://kairostexas.org/TorchGiddings.html>.

I look forward to the possibility of expanding upon our Kairos Torch family in Texas. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me to discuss it further. Please keep Kairos Torch in your prayers. I know that God is calling us to reach out to these youth... Will you answer His call?

Dickson de la Haye Co-leader - Kairos Torch Giddings Weekend # 1 Kairos of Texas – Torch Sub-Committee Chairperson



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the Heart.

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Michelle Edwards
Kairos Outside
Co-Chair



I recently heard someone say...."Sometimes a year (or three) has been so disastrous and so terrible that entering a new year will automatically mean entering a wonderful new year." I know that our God promises us hope and when we trust Him in all things, the sky is the limit. Let's claim this and have such an amazing 2023 that we have forgotten all of the trials and tribulations of the last three years.

This is an exciting time in our Ministry. Weekends are opening back up, new ones are just around the corner and spring is in the air. Some of the tools that KPMI has made available to us are fantastic. The training is more than I've ever seen and the volunteers stepping up to pull us out of what we've known are phenomenal. Visit the mykairos.org website and explore everything!

The Advisory Council Training is still open for the March 11th date. If you want to register, your Chair needs to shoot me an email and I'll put you down. From there, they will get an email link and downloads to send to you directly. I encourage you to sign up for this. If there is still a need, we can look at getting another date selected.

Recruiting! We've lost so many of our volunteers, so I encourage you to pull those lists of previous team members and guests (Outsides) to come back and join us in this time of growth. How exciting it would be to see new faces and fellowship again with our brothers and sisters.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has been so kind and helpful as I personally move into this new role. While I love my Kairos Outside family, I know that God has opened doors for me to be welcomed into the Kairos Inside and Kairos Torch families. Your humor and wit with all of my slip ups has been refreshing, giving me a great relief that you just can't imagine. I've got some big shoes to fill (ya'll have seen how tall Scott is right??) but I've also got a great group of supporters to help me along the way.

Stay blessed and if there is anything that you want to see, need to see or have questions on, I'm just a phone call or email away. Looking forward to hearing from you and learning about your precious community of volunteers. We couldn't do this without you.

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thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

I read a quote this week, *"In a divided and deeply confused world, as Jesus-followers, we must be known as those who return praise to God with thankful hearts in all circumstances."* I opened this small thought on my mind with, "I am grateful for the ministry of Kairos. It makes me feel good for lots of reasons." And I contend that our participation in Kairos, as servants with thankful hearts, is a key to why we are happy to serve in this ministry and why we derive a great sense of gratitude from the opportunity.



BIBLE IS:

BASIC
INSTRUCTIONS
BEFORE
LEAVING
EARTH





Kit Cummins

Wait for the miracle Encountering 'The Divine'

On December 27th 2005, I took my last drink. Four days before the biggest drinking day of the year, I swore it off for good.

I was at the end of my rope, rock bottom. Divorce, rehab, bankruptcy, and a public fall from grace had found me in my 40th year. All my best moves hadn't worked, and I didn't think I could go on.

So, I cried out for help to the One I had left ...

You see, I had walked away from God in 2004; angry, bitter and disillusioned. Things hadn't worked out the way I planned.

So I surrendered, went and got help, and finally found the pathway to recovery. It's been seventeen years (6,205 days to be exact) since I last felt the need to drink, and gratefully, I'm not thirsty today.

What made the difference? He just wouldn't let me go, and He chased me to the ends of the earth, literally. I fell in love with the God I thought I already knew. I had encountered the "Divine Stalker."

Amazing Grace. I had preached about it for years, but now I finally understood, because I had EXPERIENCED it. And that has made all the difference.

He gave me back what I had lost, and so much more. Today I have a wife who I am completely in love with, the love and respect of my kids, a mother and family who never gave up on me, more friends than I have time to hang out with, and a calling that I love so much you'd have to kill me to stop me from doing it.

When I came to my senses, I made a promise that changed my life forever. "If you ever let me preach the word again, I'll go to the ones that nobody wants to preach to: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner." Jesus called them the least of these.

Then He got busy ... When I needed to see miracles, He showed me things that were so much more than anything I could have asked for or even imagined.

Now, over a hundred prisons, jails, and youth detentions centers later, these are some of the unlikely heroes who saved my life. They helped me find my voice and gave me the purpose I so desperately needed, and they helped me release my shame. I experienced the transformative power of "the least of these."

As you read this, maybe you can relate. He's stalking you too ... Don't quit five minutes before YOUR miracle happens.

Sincerely,
God's Favorite Knucklehead



Praise the Lord

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Getting a Grip on Gratitude

Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?

(NUMBERS 11:22)

The years of weariness caused by chronic pain and frustrations with my limited mobility had finally caught up with me. In my discontent, I became demanding and ungrateful. I began complaining about my husband's care giving skills. I griped about the way he cleaned the house. Even though he's the best cook I know, I fussed about the lack of variety in our meals. When he finally shared that my grumbling hurt his feelings, I was resentful. He had no idea what I was going through. Eventually, God helped me see my wrongs, and I asked my husband and the Lord for forgiveness.

Longing for different circumstances can lead to complaining, and even a form of relationship damaging self-centeredness. The Israelites were familiar with this dilemma. It seems they were never satisfied and always griping about God's provision (Exodus 17:1-3). Even though the Lord cared for His people in the wilderness by sending them "bread from heaven" (16:4), they began craving other food (Numbers 11:4). Instead of rejoicing over the daily miracles of God's faithful and loving care, the Israelites wanted something more, something better, something different, or even something they used to have (vv.4-6). They took out their frustrations on Moses (vv. 10-14).

Trusting God's goodness and faithfulness can help us get a good grip on gratitude. Today we can thank Him for the countless ways He cares for us.

**MY GOD IS AN
AWESOME
GOD**

Texas State Officers

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

Kairos International

Rep. - Susan Mannas
Rep. - Roger Harbert
Rep. - John Osborne
Rep. - Scott Van Pelt
Rep. - Joaquin Ytuarte



Excellence Initiative

State Coord - Michelle Edwards
East - Richard Schreyer
Central - Jaime Gonzales
North & Northeast - Driskoll Tubbs
Panhandle - Debbie Van Pelt
South - Bill Johnson
Southeast - Mike Tavery
West - Melvin Dudley
KO - Becky Terry
Torch - Dickson de la Haye

Committee Chairs

Agape - Amanda Harris
State Training Coord. - Cinda Rose
Audio/Visual - Roger Harbert
Clery Recruit./Train. - David Mosser
Food Coord. - Don & Dawnya Wineinger
Fundraising - Anna Leagans
Music Coord. - Scott Van Pelt
Newsletter - Bettye Keefer
New Starts - Marcia Wiseman
Recruit./Outreach - Chris Wilson
Registrar - Julie Cole
Trailer Coord. - Jeff Coatney
Website Dev. - Chery Glasgow
KI Chair - Debbie Van Pelt
KO Chair - Michelle Edwards
Torch Chair - Dickson de la Haye

Texas TDCJ

Dir. Vol. Svcs. - Chris Carter
Deputy Dir. of Chap. - C.F. Hazlewood

Important websites:

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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 2023 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 2023

Dates: Feb. 11, May 13, Aug. 12, Nov.11

Time: 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Location: Hill Country Bible Church

12124 RR 620 North

Cedar Park, TX

Meeting Minutes Archived

KO Executive Committee Meetings

Date: Feb. 10, May 12, Aug. 11, Nov. 10

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



The official mascot of 2020.
Washes his hands insensately.
Always wears a mask.
Rearrange the the letters in
raccoon it spells CORONA!

LISTEN
LISTEN

L♥VE
L♥VE

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