

# KAIROS

November 2022

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

Issue 53

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and we are now in the wonderful season of Advent. Advent looks both back to the first coming of the Messiah, but it also looks forward to the hope of His second coming. In Isaiah 9:6 we see the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”; and indeed, He has come. We now live in the age of the church which gives us hope, but we still live in this broken world.

The first theme of Advent is hope. Hebrews 11:1 assures us, “Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the assurance of what we do not see.” In this broken world we have the church, and we have the means of offering hope to the incarcerated and their families through the ministry we love - Kairos. Over the last three years we have come through the pandemic, and we are now on the other side. In 2020 we had a total of twelve weekends. In 2021, there were twenty weekends, and we finish 2022 with eighty-two weekends. That gives me great hope for a return in 2023 to whatever the “new normal” will be. Pre-COVID a typical year was 120 weekends.

Going forward, changes are in store for the business of Kairos, of that, I am sure. I cannot elaborate specifically, but as these changes occur, I would encourage each Kairos volunteer to be open-minded and open hearted. Post COVID Kairos, I predict, will look a little different than the Kairos we knew before the pandemic. We have all lost volunteers, yet we know that God will continue to provide the means for this ministry to do it well. We need to be bolder in telling our story than we have ever been.

We also need patience. It has been three years since some of our Kairos Inside communities have seen a weekend. I want to call out the Wainwright



**Ray Sims**  
**State Chair**  
**Hope Through Kairos**

Advisory Council. Kudos for them in their response to back-to-back weekends cancelled during the same week in which they were to be held. The first was the escape that led to the tragic murders of the family from Houston. The weekend was scheduled to happen when the escape occurred, and it was cancelled. The very next weekend was also abruptly cancelled for reasons of security. How were the disruptions managed? With grace. The weekend leader, Jim Mouch, has conducted two series of team formation meetings, and is now the longest serving leader that I know of. He continues to lead the Wainwright community through to when #39 will be held, even writing daily devotionals to keep the team engaged. When he resumes the weekend, now scheduled for April, he will hold his third set of team formation meetings. The advisory council has played well the cards dealt them, engaging the community in hygiene drives, letter writing campaigns etc., not to mention having to dispose of two weekends worth of cookies and food at the last minute. In short, we always need to be ambassadors for Kairos, putting our best foot forward. We need always to be aware that this is their house, and we are guests. It is our privilege, not our right, to bring the hope of Christ to those behind the prison walls.

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### **Driscoll Tubbs Chair - Continuing Ministry**

Like so many activities in our society Kairos is still having problems, especially in our continuing ministry. Staff shortages are the main culprit, forcing most prisons to have to limit the number of weekends of Prayer and Share, or limit or not allow Reunions and Retreats. All of this makes it more important that our AC's build a strong relationship with the warden and Chaplain in our prisons.

We held elections for our 2023 Texas Board at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter KOT Board meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We had 2 contested Board positions that required a second ballot (Vice Chair was a tie). Only about 50% of the Kairos Inside chapters were represented even though we allowed virtual voting. It is a shame that an IC Representative and the Vice Chair were elected by such a small showing when an AC Chair can send someone to vote for that AC. As an AC Chair, you are responsible for your council to be represented at all state meetings. The local chapter can also elect a state representative even though they are not on the board, but can be designated as their representative when the AC Chair cannot make the state meeting.

At all four State Kairos of Texas Board Meetings, there are committee meetings held for different areas of interest where you can get more information about your areas of interest. These include Agape, Fundraising, Excellence Initiatives (EI), New Starts, Trailers, Outreach (Volunteer Recruitment), and Continuing Ministry. There are State Sub-committee Chairs for each break-out session and they head up these meetings. All members of Kairos are invited to these Quarterly meetings and you may be reimbursed by the State for your travel.

We discuss both Kairos Inside (Men and Women facilities) and Kairos Outside at my meetings at the KOT Board meetings. I will discuss basic information such as Reunions, Prayer and Share and Retreats, but at each meeting will start off centering on one of these for KI or KO.

Important websites:

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

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

The Continuing Ministry Coordinator for each KI AC is supposed to coordinate the Prayer and Share, Reunion and Retreats for their KI AC Unit. This doesn't mean that he or she has to attend all of these; it means they need to organize a committee and help plan the meetings. All of this is covered in your Grey KI Program Manual on pages 305-343.

The Continuing Ministry Coordinator for each KO AC is supposed to coordinate the KO Reunions which should be held a minimum of 4 times a year. The first one should be scheduled 2 to 3 weeks after a KO Weekend and should include all prior team members and guests. This first Reunion is to explain and use the S.W.A.P. Card. All of this information and more information on the S.W.A.P. groups is explained in the Pink Manual for KAIROS Outside on pages 185 – 189.

I will continue to stress that the Advisory Council's Continuing Ministry Coordinator and the AC Chair need to be trained on how to enter information about which KI unit they are entering for, date of the event, type of event (Prayer and Share, Reunion or Retreat), the number of participants and the number of team members from the AC that attended.

You can go to [www.kairosmessenger.org](http://www.kairosmessenger.org) to enter the information in messenger. Go to the box that says programs, which will send you to another page for Continuing Ministry. The rest is self-explaining. Only the AC Continuing Ministry Chair, the AC Secretary and the AC Data Coordinator can enter the information into Messenger.

Mr. Craig Combs (407-629-4948) with KPMI holds a zoom meeting each month (the next one is January 18, 2023, at 1:00 PM (Central Time)) to train people (especially the AC Chair and Continuing Ministry Coordinator) how to enter the information in KAIROS Messenger. You have to register in advance for this Zoom event (it lasts about 2 hours). This Zoom meeting instructs you how Prayer and Share, Reunions, and Retreats should be held including schedules for the leaders who runs the event. You should go to [mykairos.org](http://mykairos.org), then go to meetings, then go to Continuing Ministry where the schedules for Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside and Kairos Torch will indicate when the next Zoom training meeting is to be held.

In closing it is preferred that the Continuing Ministry Coordinator for both KI and KO have a committee to help with planning and the organization of the events planned.



## Thankfulness - Scott Baker

I am thankful for many things.

For example, I am thankful for John Wooden who is the all-time winningest college basketball coach in America with 10 National Championships in his 12 years at UCLA. I am so thankful for him because of his tremendous impact on young men. He loved his players and wanted to mentor them before they entered the world of excessive NBA wealth. He noted to his Teams that, "You cannot live a perfect day until you do something for someone who has no possibility of ever paying you back." This advice is life-changing and reminds me of the character displayed by all of you who are reading this Kairos of Texas article.

Another person I am thankful for is Mother Teresa. She famously said, "I believe that being famous before the audience of the world isn't nearly as important as being faithful before an Audience of one. I believe that making a big name for yourself while you're here doesn't compare to leaving a big hole in the hearts of others when you're gone. And I believe the way you do that is love." Isn't this what all of you believe?

I am also thankful for Mother Teresa's advice:

- People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

- If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

- If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

- If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

- The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

- Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

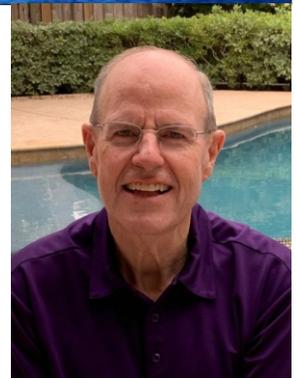
I am thankful for some of Denzel Washington's advice:

- "I pray that you push your shoes way under the bed at night so that you have to get on your knees in the morning.

- Don't aspire to make a living. Aspire to make a difference.

- Put God first in everything you do. Everything I have is by the grace of God."

And I am thankful for the Pastor who has had the single biggest impact on my life, is a strong supporter of Kairos, and who has made my Kairos service a most fulfilling mission for me. Pastor Rob Renfroe has a



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

strong following of men in our church who want to be more like Jesus. Rob does not sugarcoat his messages to men. He recently reminded us, "The most important decision you will ever make is what you decide to do with Jesus." When we stand before God and He asks us why we should be allowed into heaven, every one of us will give an answer that begins, "Because ..." And what you say next will reveal who or what you have trusted in. Your answer will either be, "Because I have done this for you, God." Or your answer will be, "Because Jesus died for me." I can tell you that if you trust in yourself and in your righteousness, you will be lost."

As I write this article, I am exceedingly thankful as well for all of you who are reading this article, because you are serving Kairos. This ministry serves our incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as women who are impacted by having loved one's incarcerated. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus tells us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." We have prayed and you have responded. And I never cease to be amazed at the blessings this ministry produces for each of us.

Covid has adversely impacted our lives, and the Kairos ministry, in many ways. In 2019 we completed 109 Weekends of the 118 we had scheduled. In 2020 we were limited to 12 Weekends and in 2021, 20 Weekends. While we are still encountering Covid related impacts including staffing shortages, we should complete 82 Weekends in 2022. I am thankful that we are recovering quickly, as a result of your dedicated efforts. I am hopeful that 2023 may result in our hosting closer to 100 Weekends.

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## The Thankful Test - Rich Villodas

I recently took a survey that revealed my most-used words on Facebook: “spiritual,” “awesome,” “wonderful,” “Knicks.” (Being the New York sports fan I am, those words don't really go together.) But the survey brought to mind an important, hypothetical scenario: If God were to run a report of the words I use regularly, how high would the words “thank you” be on that list?

Now, to be clear, I'm not talking about whether we say thank you when someone holds the door or gives us a gift. (Everyone does that.) I'm talking about a life that is shaped by gratitude and thanksgiving.

### The thankful test

One of the ways to assess our level of gratitude is to take a simple test. Let's call it the “thankful test.”

The test is based on three simple questions that offer a window into our lives and reveal how prominent gratitude is. They are:

- How much time do you give to comparing?
- How much time do you give to complaining?
- How much time do you give to coveting?

### Comparing, complaining, coveting

I know firsthand how easy it is to root my life in these three activities. No matter how successful or celebrated I may become, there's something in me that says it's not enough.

This especially comes to the surface whenever I see someone with more than I have. I'm reminded of this famous response from John D. Rockefeller after a reporter asked the question, “How much money is enough?” Rockefeller responded, “Just a little bit more.” I've been there. Just a little bit more book sales. Just a little bit more congregants in our church. Just a little bit more followers on social media. It's easy to give our lives to comparing and forget that what God has given us is good.

It's also possible to complain our way out of gratitude. Certainly, there's much to complain about, but human nature has a way of fixating on everything that's wrong. There is beauty surrounding us every day. Will we allow ourselves to focus on problems so much that we miss out on the gifts God has set before our very eyes, thus losing our sense of wonder? It's no wonder Jesus said we need to become like children or we will never enter and see the beauty of heaven.

Just as concerning is the common experience of coveting (desiring what someone else has). I remember

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Rich Villodas is the lead pastor at New Life Fellowship Church in Queens, New York. He's the author of *Good and Beautiful and Kind* and *The Deeply Formed Life*, which won *Christianity Today's* book award in 2020. He lives in New York with his wife, Rosie, and their two children. To learn more about Rich, visit [richvillodas.com](http://richvillodas.com)



fondly the joy that filled my heart when I purchased my third car. My first car – purchased in 1998 – was a 1989 Oldsmobile Royale. There was nothing “royale” about it. My uncle sold it to me for \$1,500. Within two months, it broke down. My second car was a 1988 Nissan Sentra. I know you're probably thinking, “Rich, you're going backwards.” A man in my church sold it to me for \$1,000. Well, the Sentra sent me to the mechanic far too many times in the first few months. Soon after the purchase, it broke down.

My third car was a 1995 Nissan Altima. I absolutely loved it ... until I saw a friend driving a Jaguar. After riding in it, I looked at my car and thought, *what a piece of junk. I need a Jaguar in my life.*

Comparing. Complaining. Coveting. The stories change, but these three enemies of gratitude remain.

### Thankful hearts

How, then, can we ensure we're living with hearts shaped by thanksgiving? Psalm 107 helps us:

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!* – Psalm 107:1

We learn an important lesson in this short verse: Gratitude is formed as we set our hearts on God's goodness.

Gratitude is the awareness that we are the recipients of goodness. It's a deliberate, contemplative examination of the gifts already in our possession. To live this way is fraught with challenge because society perpetually reminds us of everything we don't have.

Our country goes through a unique, 48-hour cultural whiplash every year. We gather around our tables on Thanksgiving and offer words of gratitude for God's provision. And that interaction *with* God and *within* our families can begin to transform us. Then,

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## “I Asked God” poem by Claudia Weisz

“I Asked God”

A poem by Claudia Minden Weisz

I asked God to take away my pride,  
And God said, “No.”  
He said it was not for Him to take it away,  
But for me to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child  
whole,  
And God said, “No.”  
He said her spirit already is,  
While her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,  
And God said, “No.”  
He said patience is a by-product of tribulation;  
It isn’t granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,  
And God said, “No.”  
He said “I give blessings;  
Happiness is up to you.”

I asked God to spare me pain,  
And God said, “No.”  
He said, “Suffering draws you apart from  
Worldly cares and brings you closer to Me.”

I asked God to make my spirit grow,  
And God said, “No.”  
He said I must grow on my own,  
But He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me,  
And God said, “Yes.”  
He gave me His only Son, who died for me.  
And I will be in heaven someday.

I asked God to help me love others  
As much as He loves me,  
And God said,  
“Ah, finally, you have the idea.”

## Amazon Smile - Bob Crane



**Bob Crane**  
**Treasurer**

Put Your Amazon Christmas shopping to work for Kairos.

If you shop on Amazon (and who doesn't?) are you using the Amazon Smile option to generate a donation for Kairos Prison Ministry International? Your shopping can help fund the ministry with almost no effort. Simply by shopping at **smile.amazon.com** and selecting Kairos Prison Ministry as your charitable organization to support, Amazon will donate to KPMI. Here are the results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022...

*AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you've selected, Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc., in the amount of \$855.98 as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers between April 1st - June 30th.*

*Thanks to customers shopping at **smile.amazon.com** or using the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned ON, everyday purchases make an impact. So far, AmazonSmile has donated:*

- \$11,764.77 to Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.\*
- Over \$377 million to US charities
- Over \$422 million to charities worldwide

If you use a credit card to shop, think of this as double-dipping to benefit both you and Kairos. You earn the points, miles, or cash back from your credit card and Kairos get a donation from Amazon because you made a purchase. It's a win-win!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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just a few hours later, Black Friday arrives, and we say with our lives, “*God, it's not nearly enough.*”

The psalmist kept his eyes focused on God in gratitude for his love. The writer of Hebrews tells us we can do the same: We, with unveiled faces, can fix our eyes on the Author and Finisher of our faith. We can stay there – for longer than a moment – and dwell in the goodness of what he's done for us and the love he's shown us.

In Hebrew, *hesed* is one of the most important words in Scripture. It speaks to the consistent, ever-faithful, relentless, constantly pursuing, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained love of God. Focusing on this will produce gratitude. But we have to remain in it to be formed by it.

Examine your life in light of God's love. Consider the mercy God has shown you. Ponder the forgiveness God has lavished. Reflect on the provision God has bestowed. Contemplate the generosity of God toward you in Christ!

It's easy to fix our hearts on what we might not have. But when this happens, our hearts, as well as our hands, close. As we give our attention to what we have received in Jesus, our hearts and our hands have a way of opening.

When we begin to recognize the gifts already present in our lives, things begin to change inside us:

Our comparing turns into contentment.

Our complaining turns into praise.

Our coveting turns into gratitude.

So then, “*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!*”

### A practice around your Thanksgiving table

Lead those with you on Thanksgiving in this prayer:

Lord, it is so easy for me to fall into the trap of comparing, complaining, and coveting. Give me the grace to set my heart on the gifts already before me. May the gratitude I have lead to greater generosity in life. In Jesus's name. Amen.

1. Take a moment to read Psalm 107:1 together. Read it aloud three times. You can read the first sentence and let your friends or family respond with the second, if you like.

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!* – Psalm 107:1

2. Consider how you've been comparing, complaining, or coveting. Take 20 seconds of silence to offer these things to God, and ask for his grace to help you live with contentment, praise, and gratitude.

3. Go around the table and share one thing you are grateful for this year. (If it's a large group, you can limit the amount of sharing.)



## Baker - Cont. from page 3

We are approaching the end of another year, and for Kairos this means that we are thankful for all who have served the ministry so faithfully. I want to thank each of you for your service in 2022, and I look forward to your continued service in 2023. I would also like to say a special word of thanks to Ray Sims for his leadership as our State Chair for the past four years. He has faithfully led Kairos of Texas through our nation's most challenging pandemic of the century, and we are emerging strong having grown in the number of AC's we have to serve the ministry. I personally look forward to working with all of you in 2023, and to Ray's wise counsel as we navigate through the next few years of opportunities!

In this Thanksgiving season, and we are all thankful for our multitudes of blessings. I would like to remind us all of Psalm 100:4-5:

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

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## Kairos Outside - Michelle Edwards



**Michelle Edwards**  
**Kairos Outside**  
**Co-Chair**

What a wonderful year we can celebrate this 2022. All 12 of our Kairos Outsides held weekends and most of those held two. We saw salvations, renewed faith, healing begin with families and personal relationships. We witnessed forgiveness, tears of joy and sorrow, and we also felt the mighty power of Jesus. We overcame low team members, tornados, guests in fear and anxiety of sharing their shame. God did it!

The hearts of our Kairos Outside volunteers for these ladies and these families is one that we see so often with Inside and Torch. While our programs target a different audience, the end result is all too familiar. What a blessing it has been to see these communities grow, the bonds become tighter as new friendships blossomed, and learning that we are not alone in this journey.

For 2023, the Kairos Outside set several goals.

These are:

1. Strengthen our Continuing Ministry through Reunions and SWAP groups
2. Recruiting be one of the top agenda items within our Communities
3. Growth to our weekend teams by working on the 1/3 former guests' goal
4. Working on the relationships with our Torch and Inside AC's
5. Fundraising.

We are excited to see where God will take us and what lays ahead for us in this upcoming year.

On a personal note, I have learned so much about Kairos over the last few years as the Outside Chair. It has been an honor to work with these Advisory Councils and see how God can work miracles when we don't see how things can happen. Thank you for trusting me with your hearts and I look forward to working with a great team on the State Advisory Council. We have some mighty warriors who wear their armor daily and I am blessed to work with all of you.

Blessings for a Happy New Year and may joy and peace find you and yours this holiday season.

## Prayer and Share - Sherman Armstrong



**Sherman Armstrong**  
**Briscoe Unit**

Last night at Prayer and Share we had 46 men in attendance, a mix of graduates and non-graduates of Kairos, which is a cause for celebration of what God is doing among our brothers-in-white. Also, new men continue to join us on Thursdays looking for a place to belong, searching for acceptance, fellowship and the hope that comes from being connected to God's people.

1. Forty-six is the largest gathering on a Thursday evening that we have had for Prayer and Share since Briscoe's reopening to volunteer activities! To be clear, we are not concerned with numbers; we are concerned with the men God places before us to minister to, but it demonstrates how many men-in-white are choosing "church" over Thursday night football, a tremendous thing!

2. One testimony last night from a volunteer speaks to how Holy Spirit was moving among us as the brothers-in-white met in their groups. I'm going to share this with you and I hope I can tell it as clearly as it was told to me.

This volunteer shared that all the men in his group were new to Kairos and had not been on a weekend before. As the men were discussing God's grace, there was one gentleman who had some questions about God and His love for us. It was then that another man-in-white began gently sharing the Gospel with this man and the rest of the group. I'm told he did an excellent job of laying out the story of what Jesus has done for us, and when he was finished, the man who had been asking questions turned to this volunteer, and with his hand placed on his chest said, "When that guy was talking I felt something right here."

Listen, would you like a God-story like that to share with someone? The reason I don't mention the volunteer's name is because it really doesn't matter. It could have been any one of us. It could have been you! It's what God loves to do; to include us in what He's doing in our families, neighborhoods, at work or school, and in prison.



## An Amazing Graduation - Kit Cummins

From the first day we met, I knew Marques was an influencer.

I could tell from the way the other boys treated him. How they looked up to him. If I wanted to get through to them, I needed to get close to him.

It was about six months ago, and I was in the midst of my year-long Power of Peace Project at the Eastman Youth Development Campus, Georgia's toughest juvenile prison.

I began to ask him for advice about some of the things I was trying to accomplish in this very tough place. He became my go-to guy and started using his considerable influence for peace. I had gradually won his trust and respect.

When he went home a few months later, he said he wanted to stay connected with me and asked if I could be his mentor. That answer was easy.

On Thursday, we may have made history. My young friend joined me in making a presentation to the Board of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. It might have been the first time a boy from a juvenile facility in GA stood before this board and talked about what worked.

He talked about the effectiveness of the program and how his life has changed. He has a job. He reaches out to me weekly. He's staying out of the streets. And he just passed his first college class with an 85.

He received a standing ovation. I'm so proud of him.

For me, I needed a truly strong and connected kid to show me that lasting transformation is actually possible for these very hard-to-reach boys. Marques has given me that hope.

Working together, he will learn how to mentor other kids who are in the streets and in youth gangs. He now has a shot at growing into the man he is capable of becoming.

What's next for this young man? He says he wants to go back inside juvenile prisons and change some lives.

There is hope for this young generation. **Peace.**

And speaking of Eastman, 21 boys received Certificates of Achievement on Oct. 18 for their work with the Power of Peace Project.

It was an amazing day, with dignitaries including Commissioner Tyrone Oliver of the Department of Juvenile Justice, former NBA star Jumaine Jones and national political analyst and radio show personality Rashad Richey coming together to celebrate the achievements of these boys.



**L-R - Kit Cummins, Marques, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver of the DJJ in Georgia**

They created posters depicting their heroes and talked about their Champions of Peace — Nelson Mandela, Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and other iconic peacemakers — who serve as models for them, examples they can look up to and whose lives offer alternatives to the streets and violence.

There is beauty and brilliance inside of these kids. Light that no one has seen — not even the boys themselves. We are letting that light shine.

Huge thanks to Commissioner Tyrone Oliver, Regional Director Curtis Mathis, and Director Keith Wynn for trusting me with these boys.

Keep praying for the boys of Eastman. God is definitely up to something.

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**The Holy Alphabet**

**Texas State Officers**

Chair - Ray Sims  
 Vice-Chair - Scott Baker  
 Secretary - Kyan Kirby  
 Treasurer - Bob Crane  
 Financial Secretary - Steve Newton



**Kairos International**

Rep. - Susan Mannas  
 Rep. - Roger Harbert  
 Rep. - John Osborne  
 Rep. - Julie Cole  
 Rep. - Joaquin Ytuarte

**Excellence Initiative**

State Coord - Scott Baker  
 East - Michelle Edwards  
 Central - Jaime Gonzales  
 North & Northeast - Driskoll Tubbs  
 Panhandle - Debbie Van Pelt  
 South - Bill Johnson  
 Southeast - Mike Tavery  
 West - Melvin Dudley

**Committee Chairs**

Agape - Amanda Harris  
 State Training Coord. - Cinda Rose  
 Audio/Visual - Roger Harbert  
 Clergy Recruit./Train. - David Mosser  
 Food Coord. - Don Wineinger  
 KOT Newsletter - Bettye Keefer  
 Music Coord. - Scott Van Pelt  
 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. Rehab. Prog. Div- Chris Carter  
 Deputy Dir. of Chap. - C.F. Hazlewood

The Holy Alphabet... This is Beautiful

Whoever came up with this one must have had some Divine guidance!

*Although things are not perfect  
 Because of trial or pain  
 Continue in thanksgiving  
 Do not begin to blame  
 Even when the times are hard  
 Fierce winds are bound to blow  
 God is forever able  
 Hold on to what you know  
 Imagine life without His love  
 Joy would cease to be  
 Keep thanking Him for all the things  
 Love imparts to thee  
 Move out of "Camp Complaining"  
 No weapon that is known  
 On earth can yield the power  
 Praise can do alone  
 Quit looking at the future  
 Redeem the time at hand  
 Start every day with worship  
 To "thank" is a command  
 Until we see Him coming  
 Victorious in the sky  
 We'll run the race with gratitude  
 Xalting God most high  
 Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad,  
 but...  
 Zion waits in glory.....where none are ever sad!*

"I AM Too blessed to be stressed!" The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. Love and peace be with you forever, Amen.

Important websites:

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

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





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 2022 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

**NOTE:** All meetings will be conducted on ZOOM and in person until further notice

**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

#### **Sims - Cont. frm page 1**

As I leave this season of my life as chair of Kairos of Texas, I have great hope in and for both the new leadership of KOT, Scott Baker, the new chair, and Michelle Edwards, vice-chair, along with the steady service of Steve Newton, Financial Secretary, Bob Crane, Treasurer, Kyan Kirby, Secretary, and our IC reps, John Osborne, Joaquin Ytuarte, Roger Harbert, Susan Mannas, along with newly elected Scott Van Pelt and all the sub-committee chairs. They will serve all of us in Kairos of Texas well. It has been my privilege to serve you as chair these past four years.

**LISTEN  
LISTEN**

**L♥VE  
L♥VE**

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





### **Precious Promise**

Song by Steven Curtis Chapman

Oh what a precious promise,  
Oh what a gift of love;  
An angel tells a virgin that  
She's gonna have a son.  
And though it's a precious promise,  
She wonders how can this be;  
What will the people say  
And what if Joseph can't believe.  
And her questions and her fears  
Are met with an overwhelming joy  
That God has chosen her.  
Oh what a precious promise;  
Mary waits as heaven comes to earth.  
Oh what a precious promise,  
Oh what a gift of love;  
Joseph makes his choice to do  
What few men would have done:  
To take Mary as his bride,  
When she's already carrying a child  
That isn't his own.  
Oh what a precious promise;  
Mary and the child will have a home.  
And shepherds stand on a hillside,  
Their hearts racing with the news the angel told them;  
A star's light fills up the dark sky,  
As the night of precious promise is unfolding.  
Oh what a precious promise,  
Oh what a gift of love;  
The waiting now is over and  
The time has finally come.  
For the God who made this world  
To roll back the curtain  
And unveil His passion for the heart of man.  
Oh what a precious promise,  
Lying in a manger in Bethlehem.

### *The Meaning of Christmas*

Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;  
Born with neither riches nor with fame,  
Yet Wise Men came from all around to  
bring Him their gifts,  
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched as He slept,  
and gently rocked His bed;  
Their voices singing softly in His ear;  
His Mother and Father both gave thanks to God above  
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear.

They knew His life upon this earth  
would not be filled with wealth,  
They also knew He would encounter strife;  
But most of all,  
they knew that He would be a loving Child,  
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate  
this Birth of Jesus Christ,  
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;  
For it's not the Christmas wrappings,  
nor the gifts that lie within,  
But our gift of love to others in every way.

**P.S. MERRY CHRISTMAS**