

KAIROS OF TEXAS

ISSUE 4

www.kairossoftexas.org

August 2010

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL Summer Conference 2010 San Antonio, Texas



The Riverwalk



The Alamo

Important websites:
Kairos of Texas: www.kairossoftexas.org
KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org



FROM THE STATE CHAIR



**by Louis Esquivel,
State Chair**

Speaking with Kairos attendees from all over the USA and out of the country, they all said the same thing; they enjoyed the Summer Conference and San Antonio. To all the volunteers who worked so hard, and such long hours, thank you, and thank you for a job well done. Special thanks go to Chuck and Susan Roach and Marvin Barnes for their leadership and planning, what a marvelous job. Also thanks to Jerry and Kathleen Fedrick for all their work and planning in picking up attendees at the airport, well done, and of course the volunteers who worked at the registration desk and the golf cart drivers. Thank you to Kat & Jaime and to all the Pastors and Clergy. What a great job you did, the memorial service was outstanding, the volunteers who did the music - how great and wonderful that was, and also to all who did workshops, all workshops were informative and well attended, some even had attendees sitting on the floor. Thank you volunteers for making the Summer Conference in San Antonio, one to be remembered.

A reminder to all AC Chairs and Council members, please have your nomination committees in place for your elections in October. Please have all positions filled; a fully staffed AC Council is a healthy council. You can find the procedures for elections in ACOP; ideally one third of the council is replaced.

REMINDER: The state is also holding elections; for the state elections send your nominations for state officers to David Ross ramswest@aol.com by Sept. 3rd. Elections will be held at the Oct State Board Meeting.

Lord make me the instrument of Your peace,

Where there is hatred may I bring love, Where there is malice, pardon,

Where there is discord, harmony, Where there is error, truth,

Where there is doubt, faith, Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, Your light, Where there is sadness may I bring joy.

Oh Master, may I seek not so much, To be comforted as to comfort,

To be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love,

For it is in giving that we receive, It is in losing our lives that we shall find them,

It is in forgiving that we shall be forgiven, It is in dying that we shall rise up to eternal life!

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FROM THE STATE KAIROS OUTSIDE CHAIR

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**By Willa Bellard
KO State Chair**

What an awesome time of fellowship and learning we experienced at the Summer Conference with our sisters and brothers from all over the world. One thing we learned is that there have already been 18 revisions to EZRA in it's short debut to Kairos.

Australia shared their Kairos Outside program for men in which people have shown a huge interest. We look forward to a pilot program in the United States very soon.

Many of our guests have asked about the children of incarcerated parents (C.H.I.P.). We are now able to share with them a mentoring program for these children. The contact information can be found by calling 1-800-298-2730 x22 or www.mykairoscommunity.org, and they will be directed to an agency in their area.

Texas KO was well represented with 6 of our 8 units present. KO is extremely grateful to the Roach Unit for their financial contribution of \$2000, which allowed some women to attend the conference that otherwise would not have been able to. A special thanks also goes to KO Midland for seeding into the ministry of KONT, which allowed another lady to attend the conference. We are blessed.

We enjoyed the many workshops presented at the conference - there wasn't enough time to attend them all. One that was very helpful was "The Big Picture - How all the Kairos Ministries Fit Together" (KO, KI, KT). We had multimedia material that was shown continuously in the Tiger's Den with people sharing their life journey.

We are very excited about our new KO start-up at Lubbock, Texas. There will be more on that in the next newsletter.



From a grateful mom...

Hi! My son (step) is in the Rudd Unit and called to tell me he had a wonderful time with Kairos this weekend. He told me with such enthusiasm that this is what he wants to do when he gets out. I haven't heard him EVER sound this good and excited about life. Thank you for following the Lord in such a manner that it impacts those we couldn't reach. I hear hope of a future in him now and can't stop praising the Lord! Thank you so much.

FROM AN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE



By John Kennell
IC Rep

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What can I say that has not already been said? You have to expect some glitches, and there were some, but overall everyone who participated; from Volunteers, IC Members, and Board Members enjoyed a Texas welcome and had a great conference experience.

As Chair of the Program Evaluation Committee my main goal was to get approval by the KPMI International Council to proceed with a plan to make the KPMI Excellence Initiatives (EI) mandatory for all programs, Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch. The current EI's on the KPMI Website are not mandatory. They all have some deficiencies and with the new Kairos Inside (Red) Manual becoming effective in 2011; the EI for Kairos Inside will have a lot of changes.

The IC did approve the motion to proceed with making the Program Ministry EI's mandatory. The next step is to formulate a plan by October 1 that outlines the steps to make the EI's mandatory. Following the IC vote the Program Evaluation Committee met and worked out a plan to evaluate what is needed.

The workshops on Friday and Saturday were great. One that I attended that Mike Springer gave on Kairos Software Support gave me a new perspective on EZRA. Mike stated that on the average every version of EZRA has about 30 changes in it. When asked how often versions are released; Mike said every month. More reason for a leader not to order their EZRA until it's needed. Coming out in the near future will be a software tool that will combine the information from EZRA and Donor into one database to support fundraising and recruitment.

In Loving Memory



During the Kairos Prison Ministry International Summer Conference July 29th, 2010 at San Antonio, Texas there was a candle-lighting memorial service for all who have gone to be with God in the past year. These are the Texas names that were remembered: Alex Brown, Joyce Crichlow, Dave Gibbud, Mary Holder, Virginia Martin, Shirley Meyer, Cornelia Moore, Mac McCullen, David "Bunky" Rankin, Sam Samford, Frances Schuchardt, Donna Strause, Dyann Ketchum-Tobey, Roberta Turner. They are sorely missed.



KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

Chair - Louis Esquivel
Past Chair - Ed Keefer
Vice Chair - Bill Salser
Secretary - Audrey Rivera
Financial Secretary - Bob Cole
Treasurer - Becky Fisher
International Rep - John Kennell
International Rep - Ed Davis
International Rep - Julie Cole
International Rep - David Ross
International Rep at large -
 Larry "Buck" Rogers
KO Chair - Willa Bellard
KO Chair Elect - Julie Cole
KO Secretary - Shirley Shead
KO International Rep - Kim Roubison
TDCJ Chaplaincy Liason - Bill Pierce
Torch - Dean Cooke

Committee Chairs:

Agape - Jaime Gonzales
Advisory Council - Bill Salser
Communication - Audrey Rivera
Data Collection - Pat Searcy
Financial Committee - Bob Cole
Food Control - Glenda Robinson
Fund Raising & Sponsorship -
 Mike Fisher
International Committee - Ken Sellers
Music Committee - Dale Mayer
New Starts Committee - David Savage
Newsletter - Bettye Keefer
Observer Program Coordinator -
 Stephen Searcy
Outreach Chair - Michael Hill
Program & AC Compliance -
 Joe Nance & Jim Irwin
Registrar - Julie Cole
Summer Conference - Chuck Roach
AKT Training - Mike Stumbaugh
Asset & Trailer - Robert Robinson
Clergy - Tom Damrow
Website Coordinator - Bettye Keefer

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust your dog to watch your food,
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS ADULTS HAVE LEARNED

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to the wall.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut thar held it's ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food, I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same satisfaction from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

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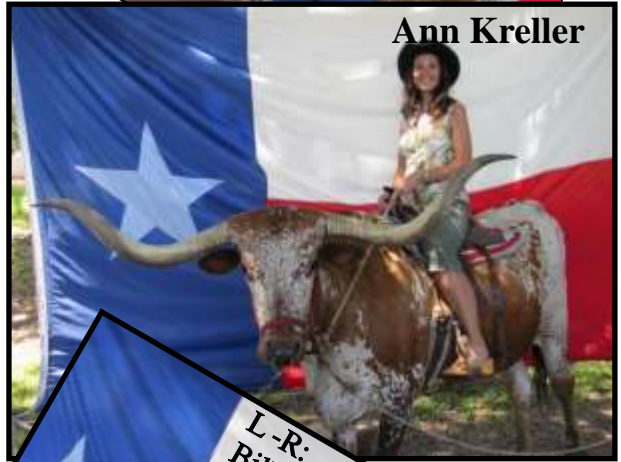
Willa Bellard



Louis Esquivel



John Thompson



Ann Kreller



John Kennell



L - R:
Bill Pierce
Debbie Van Dyke
Marvin Dunbar



Audrey Rivera



L - R:
Rey Bonachea
Teann Yeager
Juan Camacho

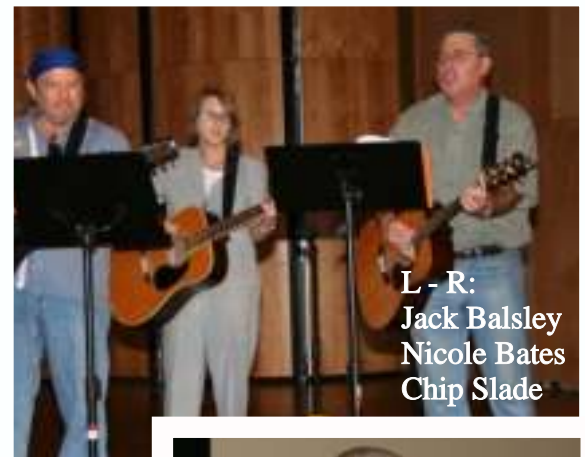
For more pictures go to:
www.kpmi2010conf.com/gallery/main.php



Gary Curry & Ed Keefer



Dale Mayer
Texas Music Chair



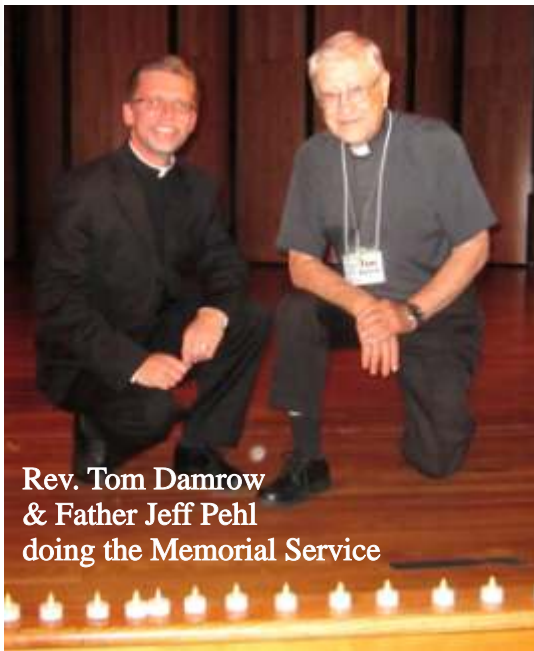
L - R:
Jack Balsley
Nicole Bates
Chip Slade



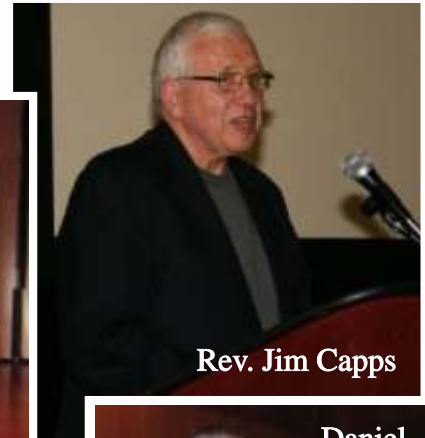
Rev. John Quigley



Lee Turner



Rev. Tom Damrow
& **Father Jeff Pehl**
doing the Memorial Service



Rev. Jim Capps



Russ Gorrell
Karla Gorrell
Kat Whatley



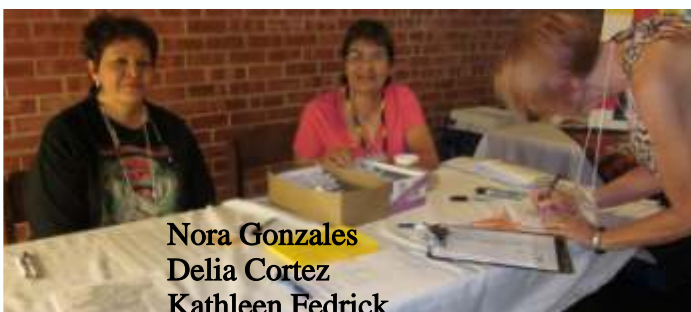
Daniel Garcia



Cam & Bil Holmeyer



Audrey Rivera
Ann Kreller



Nora Gonzales
Delia Cortez
Kathleen Fedrick



Liz Hoelscher



Leah Harbison
Maritha Tate

Just a fraction of our wonderful volunteers

For more pictures go to:

www.kpmi2010conf.com/gallery/main.php



Some of our International Delegates at the Friday night banquet

Left to right:

Peru - Juan Camacho
 Alabama - Teann Yeager
 Colorado - Wayne Park
 Nicaragua - Mario Reyes

Honduras - Mike Miller
 Costa Rica - Carlos Cunningham
 Texas - Kathleen Fedrick
 Texas - Jerry Fedrick

Not Pictured:

Australia- Tony Carter
 Australia - Lyle Jones
 Canada - Bonnie Vrieswyk
 Canada - Keith Vrieswyk

Article by Teann Yeager

This was Juan Camacho’s first trip to the USA. Mario Reyes from Nicaragua, Carlos Cunningham from Costa Rica and Juan all had their photos taken on the Longhorn steer. Mike Miller from Honduras was glad to return to the US for a visit. He and his wife received the ministry call to move to Honduras to pastor a church. Wayne Park and Daniel Garcia (KPMI staff) helped translate and lead a workshop for them.

Having the conference in Texas helped with the language barriers although each spoke a different Spanish they were able to communicate with several conference members and university staff. Each felt that the conference was very educational and they welcome attending next year’s conference. Meeting individuals in person gives them the opportunity to discuss concerns and issues that emails and letters do not address. They did get to tour the Alamo and Riverwalk and had a meal there at a Mexican restaurant and all enjoyed the activities and sights of S.A. The bus driver was great at talking slow and giving Wayne Park time to translate at each sight.

All of our International representatives said that they have similar problems: First is transportation needs. Funding to purchase a van was at the top of the list. Having to rent vans or pay for transportation is a large amount of their budgets. Second was fundraising as they do not have the ability as we do in the US to have fundraisers. Finding a US church to sister with them is what each are looking for. Carlos from Costa Rica has connected with a sister church Asbury UMC in Huntsville, AL. The others are still looking and praying a church will step up and connect with them. Since their countries have economical issues finding team members is a struggle in that the team members are losing wages from not working when volunteering to be on a team. All have asked that we continue to pray for them and Kairos in each of their countries.



**Sharrel
Blankenbaker**



In Loving Memory

Grandmother Called A Hero August 3, 2010

Article by Pat Searcy

She and one of her grandsons traveled from Felt, Oklahoma to Amarillo to pick up two of her grandchildren at the airport. Sounds pretty normal and everyday but in a matter of minutes it was no longer ordinary. She and her three grandchildren; ages 5, 12, and 16 stopped at a Love's Country Store for a drink before heading back to Felt, Oklahoma. Suddenly a stranger attempted to abduct the 12 year old, so that is when the grandmother shielded all three. The stranger then pulled out a gun and shot the grandmother in the back. The grandmother later died at the hospital.

Law Enforcement praises the grandmother as a hero during a news conference Wednesday, August 4, 2010 according to the Amarillo Globe News. The actions of this special lady were not at all surprising to anyone who knew her. Her name was Sharrel Blankenbaker. This very special lady was part of the Kairos Prison Ministry of the Dalhart Unit in Dalhart, Texas. She always gave 100 per cent to everything she did.

From the very moment you met her you liked her. She always had a smile and a hug. You were usually greeted with a holy kiss. There was not anything she would not have done for you. Even if she had worked all day in the kitchen during a Kairos Weekend she would ask if there was something she could do to help with the cookies or letters or whatever there was to do - and always with a smile. You could feel the joy in her when something tickled her, she sometimes could not let it go, so she would just start laughing again.

A personal note is that Sharrel read people so very well. I know that many, many times I would be feeling down and from out of nowhere I would feel a hug. It would be Sharrel. She also made me laugh. She would try to tell a joke and somewhere along the line she would miss parts that would be funnier than the joke.

She and husband Dale lived in Felt, Oklahoma. They have three sons and eight grandchildren. Both were dedicated to the Kairos Ministry and to so much more. There was never any doubt that Sharrel was a Christian, she loved the Lord and was always willing to share that love in so many ways.

On August 7, 2010 there was a memorial service celebrating the life of this wonderful woman. As the service continued these same words were repeated over and over, she loved everyone, she was so kind, she loved the Lord and would share that love with all. I will also repeat these words, Sharrel was loving and caring; she really cared about everyone. She especially cared for the residents of the Dalhart Unit. Love and care went into all that she did for Kairos. I know that I will miss her as will all of us who loved her. The Kairos Ministry at Dalhart will miss her also. I will not say good-bye, but see you later Sharrel. All our love!!

A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTIAN

'A man or woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ that a person should have to seek Him first to find them.'

When I say that 'I am a Christian', I am not shouting that 'I am clean living. I'm whispering 'I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven.'

When I say 'I am a Christian' I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say 'I am a Christian' I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say 'I am a Christian' I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say 'I am a Christian' I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say 'I am a Christian' I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say 'I am a Christian' I'm not holier than thou, I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow.

To submit stories, pictures, articles and corrections please email: Bettye Keefer, bettye.keefe@yahoo.com.

I would also appreciate any human interest articles for this newsletter.

If you or someone you know has had a God-moment please write an article describing just how God has worked in the life of a sister or brother-in-white due to Kairos.

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It is possible
to give away
and
become
RICHER!
It is also possible
to hold on
too tightly
and lose everything.
Generous people
shall be rich.
By watering others
they water
themselves.

Prov. 11:24-25





Would you like to know what goes on at State Board Meetings? Go to kairossoftexas.org and click tab: State Information, then State Meetings. Scroll down to Past Minutes and click on the one you're interested in.

On that same website you will find the current state officers, state meetings and minutes, map of state meetings, committees, and when the weekends are to be held. Also you will find this current and past newsletters, as well as KPMI newsletters. There are links to TDCJ & KPMI websites.

You will be able to download and print agape for your weekend. There are also the trailer schedules, the observer program, financial guidelines, registrar guidelines, cookie guidelines, and information on ordering supplies. There are many forms on file that can be downloaded:

And last, but not least, is information about Kairos Outside including structure, forms and information, newsletters, and mission field. The minutes for the KOT meetings can be found on the website.

Please take a look and see if you think we need to add anything. Also be sure to check the weekend schedules. We depend on you to keep them updated.



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I just want you to know how grateful I am for the Kairos organization. My son's dad passed away on July 6th at the age of 37 due to Massive Bilateral Pulmonary Emboli. Once my son and I received his personal belongings we found the wonderful words that were sent by members of Kairos that visited the Hightower Unit in the spring. I believe it was in April. After he attended the Kairos weekend he was on fire for God and was looking forward to spending time with our son. Every letter he sent me in the last 6 months talked about Kairos, Bible studies and the reading of his Bible. I truly believe that his walk with God was the strongest it has ever been. The last month and a half has been very challenging for our son and me, but I know that God does not give you more than you can handle. I found your email address online several weeks ago but I could not bring myself to type the words that I wanted to say to you and this awesome group of Christians. I think providing that ministry is an awesome opportunity and I want you to know how important it was to our loved one. I don't know who he prayed and worshipped with that weekend but I want everyone that went to the Hightower Unit that weekend to minister to know that your work is truly appreciated. Again, I want you to know to never give up continue to do the Lord's work because I know that it *helped our inmate. Again, thank you for being a part of his life.*