

KAIROS OF TEXAS

ISSUE 8

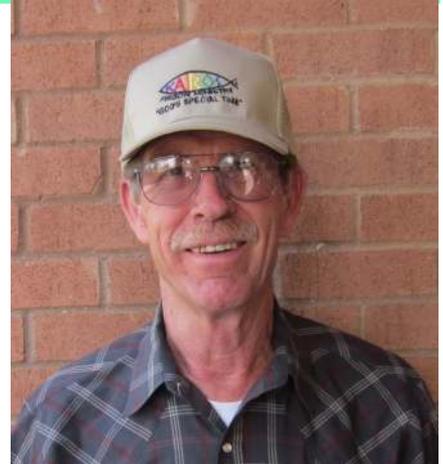
www.kairosotexas.org

July 2011

FROM THE STATE KAIROS CHAIR



Bill Salser
KOT Chair



Great things just keep happening! We have received word that the Chaplaincy Program in TDCJ will remain intact for the next two years thanks in part to the lobbying efforts of many supportive volunteers. Torch is starting its comeback in Texas as Dean Cooke will tell you. We have two new Ad Hoc programs; Kairos Outside Central Texas and the Kairos Inside Lockhart Men. Most of our Advisory Councils are getting accustomed to the reporting procedures and the vast majority now submit the reports in a timely manner. We do still have some work to do in this area but I am confident that we will be successful on all counts by the end of the year.

Our July State Chapter meeting was a great success largely in part to strong and emotional reports by Kim Roubison and Angela Johnson. Most of us had very little idea what Kairos Outside is until Kim defined the true difference between KO and KI. Fundraising is not the same, recruiting is not the same; not because the programs are different, but because the average volunteer is different in socioeconomic conditions and self esteem.

Angela followed with a brief status report on the current events at Lane Murray, a Lady's Kairos Inside community. Angela pointed out that the volunteer base is small and has very few men supporting the program. They are struggling with volunteer community burn out. Many travel long distances to participate in meetings, weekends, P&S, reunions and retreats. They have chosen to forgo the scheduled fall weekend and focus on a community wide recruiting effort while they rebuild their energy levels.

Throughout the second quarter, we have been hit with reminders that communications was a critical need now in our ministry. These ladies opened doors of transparency that we need to respond to. Kim conveyed that KO is a supporting ministry for our KI participants and is deserving of our total support, financially and physically. Angela conveyed a most critical point that we all must take into account that programs, even by the book, will not survive without a critical mass (number of active volunteers) and a constant, aggressive recruiting effort. If we believe that Kairos is committed to a lasting presence in our units we must recognize that we have to replace ourselves.

Thanks to the Leader's Reports and the new Excellence Initiative checklists we are gaining a new picture of Kairos of Texas. We're not great masses of eager volunteers, but 48 communities of approximately 50 to 70 **active, dedicated and stretched servants**. The picture is good because it is real and an answer to Louis's question of 2009. As the EI says, "We cannot improve on something we cannot measure". We must all take heed to Angela's message and recognize our own vulnerability to failure if we do not truly focus as active Advisory Councils on the recruiting effort.



From the Torch State Chair



Dean Cooke
Torch Chair

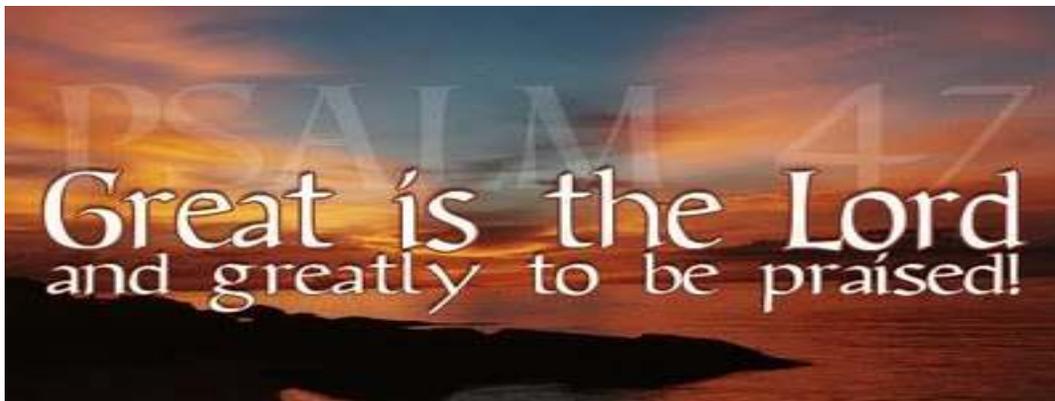


Well here we are on the downhill slide to the end of 2011. I don't think time is a constant, I think it is speeding up. The reason I say this is because it was at the first of the year that there was a push to get Torch going again in Texas. Torch International is trying to get Torch into more states as well as getting a couple of units up and going in Texas.

As you may recall, Texas had a Torch weekend in Amarillo way back in 2005, and because of various reasons there was not another weekend. Last month a group of people got together and started work on getting Torch started back up here in Amarillo.

The group that came together was made up of many people that had worked the first Torch so they were very excited at the prospect of starting anew. There were two couples that have stepped forward to be leaders of the next two weekends, and that is a blessing that only comes from God. At this point we are going to try and have the first weekend next year if everything, such as training and team meetings, can be completed in time.

There has also been talk of some possibilities of Torch coming to the Dallas, and maybe the Midland areas, if everything can come together. There is a lot of work that needs to be done, but I have found that when God is working and the people are willing, that the blessings of God will be spread among the people. We are his disciples and we are called to spread the word, so I ask you to be in prayer for Torch so that the youth can hear of the love that the Lord has for them and the great things He has in store for their lives.



Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org



From the KO State Chair



**Julie Cole,
KO Chair**



Kairos Outside Ministry has been very active this past quarter. KO Lubbock had their first weekend which was held April 1-2, 2011. Joyce Atkinson was the leader and there were 20 guests. Jo Chapman, KPMI Women's Ministry Coordinator, served as Advising Leader. As we heard the guests' comments at closing, it was obvious the weekend carried out the purpose of KO, which is to demonstrate God's grace and love through Christian support for women who have relatives who are/have been incarcerated.

We are working very diligently on a Kairos Outside Texas website. A preliminary draft has been given to Jenny Smith, KO North Texas, who will be the webmaster. Hopefully within the next few months, it will be ready and will provide necessary information to Kairos volunteers and potential guests.

The KO State Sub-Chapter voted to continue sending outside observers/reviewers to all KO weekends. After much discussion, it was unanimously decided that the benefits of an outside person coming in to the weekend were numerous. I certainly congratulate all communities on making this decision – it speaks highly of their desire to put on a weekend that fulfills the purpose and goals of Kairos Outside

On April 30, 2011, there was a resident participating in the Forgiveness Service on Lynaugh #25 while his wife was participating in the Forgiveness Service on KO Midland #23. This was truly God's Special Time for this family.



**A FATHER
SAYS
THANKS!!**



This father had a unique way to thank Kairos for helping his son, Paul Washington, who was recently released from the Wallace Unit. That's because Paul's father is Dr. Raleigh Washington, President/CEO of Promise Keepers. Raleigh and his wife, Paulette, were so grateful for the impact Kairos has had on their son's life, they wanted to do something to show their appreciation. At present, Paul is a resident at Stepping Stone, a halfway house in Midland. The facility houses 50 men with about half of them being Kairos graduates. Raleigh offered his services for a fundraiser to benefit Kairos and Stepping Stone. On June 25th, approximately 110 folks gathered at Stepping Stone to hear Dr. Washington as he shared a message of "Transformation" - how God can change a man/woman when the world has given up on them. The residents of Stepping Stone were our hosts – providing a barbeque meal and taking care of our every need. They are so proud of their 'home.' Worship and praise was led by "The Boys" band of West Texas. A wonderful time was had by all.

A LETTER WRITTEN TO A MAN ON DEATH ROW

As the Father of the man whom you took part in murdering, I have something very important to say to you. I forgive you. With all my heart, I forgive you. I realize it may be hard for you to believe, but I really do. At the trial, when you confessed to your part in the events that cost my Son his life and asked for my forgiveness, I immediately granted you that forgiving love from my heart. I can only hope you believe me and will accept my forgiveness.

But this is not all I have to say to you. I want to make you an offer - - I want you to become my adopted child. You see, my Son who died was my only child, and I now want to share my life with you and leave my riches to you. This may not make sense to you or anyone else, but I believe you are worth the offer. I have arranged matters so that if you will receive my offer of forgiveness, not only will you be pardoned for your crime, but you also will be set free from your imprisonment, and your sentence of death will be dismissed. At that point, you will become my adopted child and heir to all my riches. I realize this is a risky offer for me to make to you. You might be tempted to reject my offer completely, but I make it to you without reservation. Also, I realize it may seem foolish to make such an offer to one who cost my Son his life, but I now have a great love and unchangeable forgiveness in my heart for you.

Finally, you may be concerned that once you accept my offer you may do something to cause you to be denied your rights as an heir to my wealth. Nothing could be further from the truth. If I can forgive you for your part in my Son's death, I can forgive you for anything. I know you will never be perfect, but you do not have to be perfect to receive my offer. Besides, I believe that once you have accepted my offer and begin to experience the riches that will come to you from me, that your primary (though not always) response will be gratitude and loyalty. Some would call me foolish for my offer to you, but I wish for you to call me your Father.

With love,
The Father of Jesus

In Loving Memory



During the Kairos Prison Ministry International Summer Conference August 2-6, 2011 at Manchester N.H. there will be a candle-lighting memorial service for all who have gone to be with God in the past year. These are the Texas names that will be remembered: Jon McRaney, Ray Pickard, Linda Ray, Bill Taggart, Gary Franklin, Roy Newman, Butch Alexander, B.J. Rone, Sharrel Blankenbaker, Geneva Skow, Jim Nesbitt, Dorothy Bock, Jim Abbott. They will be sorely missed.

Important websites:

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Perspectives from ex-offenders, Paul Tankersley and Mark Hutchins



Paul Tankersley



Mark Hutchins

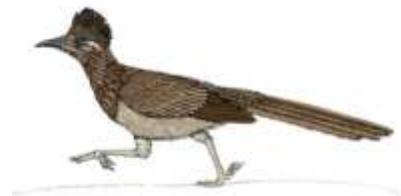
When I first opened my mind to accept God into my life, I began to see the miracles that were already around me. One of the first ones that I was able to recognize happened as I was praying for release from prison. I decided that I needed to be less selfish, but still really wanted out myself. So I started praying for my friend, Bob, to also be granted parole. Bob had been turned down for parole for almost all of the 16 years I had been in, at that point. As Bob's next parole date neared, my Bible reading at that time was in the book of Judges. Reading about the story of Gideon I began to pray for Bob and myself, "Lord, if you wish me to be released I would like for you to answer my prayer in the fashion that You answered Gideon. Let Bob be my sheepskin. If he makes parole then I know that you wish me to make parole also."

I lost track of the following days and didn't realize it was the day when Bob went up for parole. Later in the day Bob approached me and a fellow Christian brother at our assignment. After asking how we were doing, Bob immediately broke down into tears, "I made parole today!" he cried. We fell to our knees in prayers of thanksgiving and hugs. That evening during my prayer time, that still, small voice announced that here was my sheepskin! I replied that Gideon was allowed a confirmation; and as a confirmation of my prayer I asked to be allowed to see Bob leave through the gates. On the day of Bob's departure, while getting signed out of the various institutional departments, Bob arrived at our job location. Taking his papers through the gate I ran then to our supervisor for his signature. Returning to Bob, I handed his release papers to him through the gate. As I watched him walk away, the still, small voice announced, "Here's your other sheepskin!" Five months later I was also granted parole.

I was a bad actor from the time I was 13 years old, and I started my long line of felonious acts. In June of 1993 I followed a man home from a bar and hit him on the head with a hydraulic floor jack handle. I took his wallet which had 18 dollars in it.

I was sentenced to 18 years in prison, where I became involved in gang activity and extortion. I served almost all of that sentence. In 2007, after 14 years of being a rotten individual and lying to my mom that I was a Christian, God used Kairos to change my life.

Kairos is God's love and I haven't been the same since experiencing God's love. He has blessed me and since I've been out of prison, I've plugged into a church. I also met and married a wonderful Christian wife who is a principal of a school district in San Antonio.



May you **always** have
LOVE to share,
HEALTH to spare,
and **FRIENDS** that care.

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Perspectives from an ex-offender - Leo Freeman



Leo Freeman



Brother Blessed

July 19th, 1973, brought about the most tragic incident to ever occur in my life. It not only impacted myself, but one other family; as well as our immediate families and friends. That day, through a series of unavoidable circumstances, I killed a deputy sheriff and his wife. As a result of that I was sentenced to death and, in fact, had three execution dates. The last one found me enjoying my final meal. Yes, you read that right, I enjoyed that meal. You see that night would be my release from prison and death row. Yes, I would be executed, but my pardon was already assured. God had sent His Son to intervene in my behalf to bring me salvation and redemption.

It was as if Jesus had come to be, not only my attorney, but for every person in the world. He laid down His life that all of us would be afforded a wonderful opportunity to receive salvation and be saved. It was with delight that I claimed my own salvation, and I no longer feared death. Rather I embraced it, as it meant my time on earth was done, yet my joy in eternity would come.

Within days Ramsey Clark, the former Attorney General of the United States, took my case and freed me from death row. As a result of that I was given two terms of 99 years. This was the 25th of March, 1983. At the time I felt certain I'd be free within a few more years. Ten years later I was still in, and then twenty years later I was still in. At that time I began to despair thinking I might die in prison after all.

Then another blessing came to me, someone submitted my name to attend Kairos. Overnight there was an uplifting of my spirits, though I had yet to attend Kairos. Finally the weekend came and it was the most enjoyable experience of my 36 years straight in prison. My faith was reaffirmed, renewed, and reborn. Those men who came inside, those women who cooked for us outside showed love like none of us had ever known. So many men had never known Christ and His people, or realized that they too were worthy of love. From feeling abandoned we went to knowing we were loved, valued, and had many new friends in Christ.

How I wish every prisoner, man or woman, could have a Kairos weekend. It is by far the best rehabilitation program I've ever experienced in prison. Thank God for Kairos and wonderful brothers and sisters chosen to serve in Jesus' stead. I have now joined in that effort along with my wonderful wife.

**Be kind to someone this week. Be kind to every person you meet.
You might be amazed at what God will do with a simple act of kindness.**

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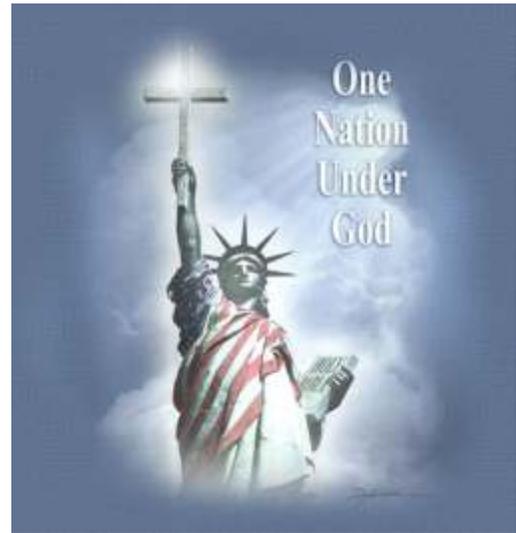


KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

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ABC's of the abundant life

All persons need salvation - new life.
Believe God loves you.
Come to faith in Jesus for eternal life.

THE NEW JARGON

- Blamestorm – A discussion centered around finding an excuse, or a scapegoat – for failure.
- Data transport system - briefcase
- Percussive maintenance – Hitting a computer or other electronic device in an attempt to get it to work.
- Presenteeism – The opposite of absenteeism – an obsession with being visible at work regardless of how productive you are.
- Xerox subsidy – Using the office photocopier for personal reasons.

What happens if you fall in love with:

A chef – You get buttered up.
A chauffeur – You get taken for a ride.
A gambler – He cheats on you.
A telephone operator – He gives you a phone-y line.
A trash man – He dumps you.
A clockmaker – He two-times you.



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Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed him 'playing church' with the cat.

He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.

She called out, "Johnny, stop that. The cat is afraid of water!"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian School asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results:

God is like BAYER ASPIRIN

He works miracles.

God is like A FORD

He's got a better idea.

God is like HALLMARK

He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like COKE

He's the real thing.

God is like TIDE

He gets the stain out others leave behind.

God is like GENERAL ELECTRIC

He brings good things to life.

God is like WAL-MART

He has everything.

God is like ALKA-SELTZER

Try Him, you'll like Him.

God is like SCOTCH TAPE

You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

God is like DELTA

He's ready when you are.

God is like ALLSTATE

You're in good hands with Him.

God is like V-O 5 HAIR SPRAY

He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like DIAL SOAP

Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

God is like U.S. POST OFFICE

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor ice will keep Him from

God is like CHEVROLET

His appointed destination.

God is like MAXWELL HOUSE

The heartbeat of America.

God is like BOUNTY

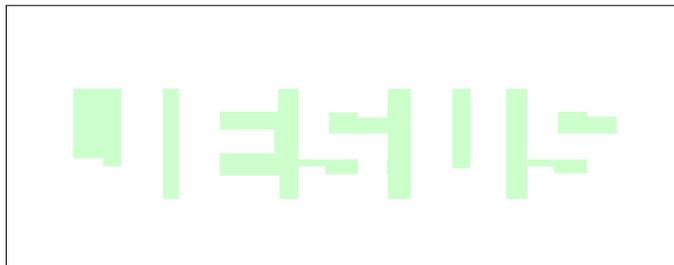
Good to the very last drop.

He is the quicker picker-upper. He can handle the tough jobs, and

He won't fall apart on you.



Look for the invisible inside the visible



You may not can see Him, but He's always there



MASTER OF THE KEY

I saw God's children crying today after seeing the parole board.
I heard someone say, "I can't go home," Some were even mad at you Lord.
He said, "I know it's hard my child and you cannot understand,
But as the months and weeks go by you will begin to comprehend.
Your freedom does not come from men; your release date belongs to me.
I make the final decision, it's not up to TDC.
Remember the walls of Jericho, how with the sound of trumpets they fell.
Remember how my Son gave you the victory by taking the keys from hell.
Trust me - don't fear these prison walls of stone.
Because you possess the only key, which is faith alone.
It might come early, but never too late.
Because my time and my time only, will my children walk through that gate.
So take heart, my child, and keep your eyes on me,
Because I, Jesus of Nazareth, came for this reason, to set the captives FREE.



Written by a man-in-white at Lynaugh Prison in Ft. Stockton, Texas

HEART MENDERS

Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.
A sharp tongue can cut your own throat.
If you want your dreams to come true, you mustn't over-sleep.
Of the many things you wear, your expression is the most important.
The best vitamin for making friends is B1.
The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.
The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge.
One thing you can give and still keep is your word.
You lie the loudest when you lie to yourself.
If you lack the courage to start, you have already finished.
One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.
Ideas won't work unless you do.
Your mind is like a parachute; it functions only when open.
The Ten Commandments are not multiple choice.
The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime.
It is never too late to become what you might have been.
Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't.
Believe everything happens for a reason.
If you get a second chance grab it with both hands. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.



Love one another as
I have loved you.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostexas.org

KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org





Be sure to visit our website at www.kairossoftexas.org. Our webmaster, Bill Darnall, has done an amazing job of putting this all together. The new schedule and location for State Board meetings for 2011 are included here. We have a calendar showing when all the weekends will be held. Check your weekend - we depend on you to keep them updated.

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. You will also find this current and past newsletters. 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 or add anything.

by Audrey Rivera



This Kairos Weekend I knew was going to be extraordinary. We recruited enough volunteers to host 30 offenders in prison for our short course in Christianity. We learned six weeks before the weekend that the Warden **would** allow us to serve high-risk offenders serving time in medium custody. Though this **is** part of the Kairos penetration plan; it is rare that a Texas Prison Warden allows us to do so. This was the most extraordinary weekend I've experienced in my life to date!

As the team began its final preparation the day before the weekend began, it was no secret there were 10 offenders in our group of 30 who practiced the Muslim faith. Our motto is "listen, listen, love, love" and as much as I love to talk; you can bet I made a sincere, conscious and diligent effort at the listen part. I felt I did well with my table family of six offenders and three volunteers. All three of us volunteers bonded well in our small group community of nine and the offenders blossomed. They bonded well with each other, were attentive and extremely cordial. We really did have the easiest small group community on the weekend as we shared the love of Jesus Christ.

It was the first full day of the weekend when the offender next to me softly spoke and brought to our attention that she was Muslim. Only the power of God allowed this statement to pass in one ear and out the other without fazing me. The weekend continued. Our second day was in full force and the same offender sitting next to me softly spoke the words: *"Never have I experienced such love from a faith and certainly not among the Muslims. I think I'm going to convert to Christianity."* Again, only the power of God could restrain me from jumping up and down, screaming and dancing with joy. However, I know all the angels in heaven were blowing their trumpets and rejoicing as this offender was counseled, in seclusion from all the others, with a clergy volunteer praying the sinner's prayer. She was not the only Muslim convert for the weekend. I identified three others; the rest I am unaware, as there was much to attend with my group of nine. I wouldn't be at all surprised (but God never ceases to amaze me) if all 10 Muslim offenders had converted to Christ.

I arrived home from the weekend to learn of the news; Bin Laden had ceased to exist on this planet while I was away, serving the Lord. This world has been impacted by the Al Qaida leader and terrorist. However, I can only imagine the impact this had on the former Muslims we served who've now come to Christ.



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