

# KAIROS OF TEXAS

ISSUE 14

www.kairossoftexas.org

January 2013

## From the KOT State Chair

Bill Salser

Most of us except the Financial Secretaries should have closed out our 2012 Kairos year by now and from all I can see it was a very good year. We had two new starts and a restart of Torch Amarillo. We have faced new challenges with the pressure on TDCJ to adequately secure Prisons while all able bodied officers are following the money to the oil patch and the resulting restrictions on Kairos programs.

I think 2013 will be a breakout year for Kairos Prison Ministry International, Kairos of Texas and for most all of our AD councils. Tom Kemner as the interim Executive Director did a stellar job assisting KPMI and all of our Kairos family during the transition in 2012. Now our selection committee and Board have selected Evelyn Lemly as our new KPMI Executive Director. The following article will provide you with a hint of the quality she brings to our table. We will learn much more in the upcoming year.



Here at home, we had a phenomenal January State Chapter Committee meeting with the largest state gathering ever. Chaplain Pierce provided us with a spirited vision of activities at TDCJ from the addition of more chaplains to a doubling of the Volunteer Services Staff that assist us with our application process. TDCJ is even more adamant to promote Faith based programs and even expand programs on current facilities. Bob Cole chaired a special orientation session for approximately 20 Financial Secretaries. Thomas Becker and Jim Irwin, with the assistance of John Kennell, co-chaired a first ever AD Council Chairs Introductory workshop for approximately 30 participants. The state meeting itself focused on the job of organizing our new committees and introducing new members to opportunities to serve at the state level.

Discussions at the Regions tables and at all the committee meetings were open and fruitful. We will once again see a good year of growth starting with our ladies of KO Central Texas and their # 1 weekend. Kevin Resnover, the KPMI Coordinator of Kairos Torch, will be in Texas on February 19 to finalize the formal agreements with the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. A Torch 101 orientation program is being scheduled for the following Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Houston. We also have serious interest in a new program at the Young Medical Facility in Dickinson by both the Chaplain and staff and a strong contingent of past Kairos volunteers.

We have seen many of our programs start using the Donor program for what it was originally designed to be; a fundraising tool. The process starts slow but is a tried and true method for raising money. Several other programs have also developed good repeatable methods of fundraising and are sharing their expertise with anyone who asks.

Our biggest challenge continues to be in Outreach, but even here we made some significant progress this last year. We now have the ability to reach more potential volunteers because we are becoming more visible at the state level and in churches heretofore not aware of our programs. I anticipate that we will have more general recruiting presentations alerting groups of potential volunteers to all our ministries at one time and encouraging cross over support from one aspect of our ministry to another. We are all a part of the same family and we can all present the big picture.

**2013 will be the best year ever for Kairos in Texas!!!!**



## New Executive Director to Lead Kairos Prison Ministry International

*Evelyn Lemly to Orchestrate 30,000 Volunteers in 10 Countries*

**WINTER PARK, Fla., Jan. 14, 2013** /Christian Newswire/ -- The board of directors of Kairos Prison Ministry International ([www.kpmi.org](http://www.kpmi.org)) has announced the appointment of new executive director Evelyn Lemly (photo) to oversee its work in 34 states in the United States and nine international countries.

Lemly brings a diverse background in corporate business and nonprofits to her role in leading the 30,000 volunteers of Kairos. She assumed new responsibilities January 1, 2013.

"The mission and focus of Kairos Prison Ministry International resonate with God's call on my life to serve," said Lemly. "I embrace the holistic approach of Kairos that has proven successful in bringing this important segment of our society to the knowledge of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ."

Kairos Prison Ministry International focuses on three strategic approaches. Kairos Inside brings the transformational grace of Christ within prisons through initial weekend meetings and, ultimately, accountability groups and mentoring. Volunteers with Kairos Outside minister predominantly to female family members of the incarcerated and facilitate participants' re-entry into the outside world. Kairos Torch focuses on redirecting the values and life direction of youth offenders.

"We are thankful for the direction of God in sending Evelyn Lemly to join His work at Kairos," said Ed Keefer, chairperson of the Kairos board of directors. "As a proven business leader, financial manager, thinker and strategic planner, she is uniquely gifted to build upon the strengths of Kairos and to lead its wide-sweeping programs to accomplish our mission."

The board of directors, international council, subcommittees, staff and volunteers from the 10 countries served will gather in Orlando Feb. 6-9 for their semiannual meeting. In addition to business sessions, the face-to-face dialogue of partners will unify the ministry and celebrate what God has done, according to Lemly. Lemly will be installed as new executive director of Kairos Prison Ministry International at a special dinner Feb. 8.

"I am eager to build on the success of the work God has accomplished through His servants at Kairos," said Lemly. "With His help, as we go forward, we will make an even greater impact on people for Christ." *Kairos Prison Ministry International is "Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting the World" by taking the love, grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to incarcerated adults and youth and their families. From simple beginnings as a short course in Christianity inside a Florida prison in 1976, Kairos has grown into an international ministry serving more than 430 facilities in 10 countries. More than 30,000 volunteers give over three million hours of service each year. To learn more about Kairos or to donate to its ministries, visit [www.kpmi.org](http://www.kpmi.org) or call 800-298-2730.*

To schedule an interview with Evelyn Lemly, contact Ty Mays at 770-256-8710 or [tmays@inchristcommunications.com](mailto:tmays@inchristcommunications.com).

[Christian Newswire](#)



### True Love

"For God so loved the world  
That He gave  
His only  
Begotten  
Son  
That whosoever  
Believeth in Him  
Should not perish  
But have everlasting life."  
John 3:16



Important websites:

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

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

## A Resident's Reflection



I was inspired to write you after coming to the closing of #20. It is always a boost of the spirit for me. I continue my walk. I appreciate the love from all of you.

I admit that the "love" was new to me. I had so many people in life love me and then disappear. I didn't trust love. I now understand God's love. I know that it is so much larger than me.

We will have a group of new guys to focus on pulling into God's way. I have a duty on the inside to lead by example. I listen to the guys get up there and tell you how they feel when they are on their "Kairos High". I am here for when they walk out that door back into the place where peer influence is heavy. I am the guy who has already battled to be my own man. As you know, it is a battle to walk in God's path. It is also a constant battle to be a better man.

A lot of the guys will fall weak and give up just to keep friends (who aren't even real friends). But there are a group of us guys who are highly respected by the other brothers, who encourage the new brothers to discover themselves in God.

I smile because I am happy. Kairos initiated something greater than we can imagine. It helped me become a better person and man. I do still face some lonely times due to my family and old friends not trying to do the "God thing," but I am blessed because I know God, and I am real with myself. I know you guys hear "thank you" all the time, but I can't say it enough.

It is after the food is gone, and the only incentive you have to come to Kairos is love for God and brothers that I realized how much you guys do for us. No matter what your reasons are, the least we can do is be real with you guys and ourselves.

I will never stop growing and trying to be a better man. Thank you for the love.

This is an awesome program and you guys are just relentless! If the talks don't get you, and the music doesn't get you, and the food doesn't get you, and all the agape doesn't get you, and the singing doesn't get you, and the family discussions and stories don't get you, then you bring more food, and if that doesn't get you then you shower us with love. You guys are relentless.

**LISTEN LISTEN LOVE LOVE**

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Who is KAIROS? You are KAIROS. We are KAIROS! All of us, as active members of our local KAIROS community, we participate in the hands-on ministry activities fulfilling the greater purpose of KAIROS Prison Ministry International (KPMI).

We participate in a ministry that lives out a Body of Christ vision found in I Corinthians 12:12; *“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ”*. And so it is with KAIROS which requires community participation for the long-term health of the ministry. We accomplish this by recruiting new volunteers and raising sufficient funds to finance its program. We are also called to serve with a spirit of obedience and servant-hood as found in I Corinthians 12:26; *“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together”*. When the KAIROS program is led outside the riverbanks the ministry is jeopardized and we all suffer. Likewise, when we operate the ministry within the riverbanks we are praised and all of us benefit from the blessings.

Compliance with the established policies and procedures of KPMI adds legitimacy to who we are and honors who we represent. Are we perfect? Absolutely not. Will we make mistakes? Yes, guaranteed. But we are called to strive for perfection, to become better with each day, and seek continuous improvement in all we do to operate this great ministry.

We made one step toward improvement through Advisory Council Orientation at the KAIROS of Texas (KOT) State Chapter Meeting. Members from local Advisory Councils were introduced to the Advisory Council Operating Procedures, Accountability Procedures, Periodic Reports, and the Excellence Initiative. We experienced open discussion, we raised a lot of questions, and we offered helpful suggestions. It was a blessing to see the Body of Christ vision being fulfilled through action.

There are other tools available to assist in our pursuit of improvement. Some of these are the Ministry Program Manual, the Ministry Financial Policies and Practices, Advisory Council Training, Advanced Kairos Training, and Weekend Leader Report. Learn more about these at [www.mykairos.org](http://www.mykairos.org).

As Chair of the KOT Compliance Committee it is my goal to assist you in your pursuit toward improvement. Feel free to contact me at any time for answers, assistance, or suggestions.

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## Twas 11 Days Before Christmas

Twask' 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38

When 20 beautiful children stormed through Heaven's gate.

Their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air

They could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there

They were filled with such joy, they didn't know what to say

They remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day.

"Where are we?" asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse.

"This is heaven." declared a small boy. "We're spending Christmas at God's house."

When what to their wondering eyes did appear,

But Jesus, their savior, the children gathered near.

He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same.

Then He opened His arms and He called them by name.

And in that moment was joy that only heaven can bring

Those children all flew into the arms of their King

And as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace,

One small girl turned and looked at Jesus' face.

And as if He could read all the questions she had

He gently whispered to her, "I'll take care of mom and dad."

Then He looked down on earth, the world far below

He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe

Then He closed His eyes and He outstretched His hand,

"Let My power and presence re-enter this land!"

"May this country be delivered from the hands of fools"

"I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools!"

Then He and the children stood up without a sound.

"Come now my children let me show you around."

Excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran.

All displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can.

And I heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight,

"In the midst of this darkness, I AM STILL THE LIGHT."

Written by Cameo Smith, Mt. Wolf, PA



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With bills piling up, an ailing elderly relative and her own son to care for, April Terry was feeling the full brunt of her husband's imprisonment. Kairos, the Greek word meaning "in God's special time," couldn't have been a more fitting name for the prison ministry that one year ago began transforming the Terrys' lives. "I grew up in the church, but neither of us attended church" as adults, Terry said of herself and her husband. "We weren't necessarily living an obedient life before he got incarcerated; we were just living. When he got incarcerated, the changes started happening. I started going to church and getting stronger, and then he found out about Kairos. After that, it snowballed."

Kairos Prison Ministry International is a three-pronged, faith-based program whose volunteers aim to positively alter the lives of incarcerated men, women, juveniles and their loved ones with weekend spiritual retreats.

Kairos Inside brings a trained volunteer team of clergy and lay people into a prison to offer 42 of its inmates a three-day course in Christianity, according to the Kairos' website. Kairos Outside also involves lay people and clergy in a weekend, but works as a support group for the female family members of the incarcerated. Kairos Torch starts with a weekend retreat inside the prison and continues with a mentorship program for six months thereafter, according to the website. Known as KPMI, the organization is carefully structured, its curriculum set forth by a manual every Kairos program in the world uses, said Rex Mason, coordinator of regions for Kairos of Texas.

"The structure is set up so that the inmates inside the prison should not be able to tell that everybody on the team has not been there since Day 1," Mason said. "When you've got people in lots of states working from the same book, it's not always easy to get the things done that we need to. We have some additional opportunities to excel ... but we make a go of it." Mason, a Ballinger resident, began volunteering with Kairos Inside in 2000. Explaining to a nonmember the experience of being part of the Kairos team is difficult, he said, and not unlike a Navy SEAL describing to a civilian why he does what he does. "Going into a Kairos weekend is different than any ministry I have ever been involved in," he said. "It's an opportunity to walk beside the Holy Spirit and watch Him work miracles in one of the most miserable places in the country."

Terry, who lives in Big Spring, can attest to the changes Kairos invokes. More than a year ago, Terry attended Kairos Outside in Andrews while her husband participated in Kairos Inside at the prison where he is incarcerated. "My husband can be very 'it's my way or no way'," Terry said. "He's the type that doesn't apologize even if he knows he's wrong. He has really softened. He does daily devotionals now. I've been here trying to take care of the bills and his granddad and our son, and I was overwhelmed; he could tell over our phone conversation. He called me back and said, 'I have a Scripture for you.' For him to go to the Bible and say, 'This is what I want to read to you right now,' it's (proof that Kairos) just really opened him up."

For Terry, the personal changes the Kairos Outside retreat prompted were just as amazing, she said. "You are surrounded with a bunch of women that feel what you feel being the loved one of an incarcerated person," she said. "It's a chance to bond with other women who know what you're going through and continue that relationship with (them). It's great support because now there are people I met on my weekend that — if I need prayer for anything, or I'm going through a struggle — I can email them or pick up the phone and it's an automatic support."

Julie Cole, who lives in Midland and has been a Kairos volunteer since 1999, said feelings of isolation are common among women who are grappling with a loved one's incarceration. "They're embarrassed to tell people

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what's going on in their life," Cole said. "It's really sad to say that some churches, when they find out (a church member is related to an incarcerated person) really discourage them from attending. Instead of embracing them, they shun them."

**Kairos Outside**, however, takes the focus off the participants' loved ones and puts it back on them, Cole said.

"Most of them seem really grateful; they come with the idea that the weekend is going to be about their loved one in prison and they find out the weekend is about them," she said. "It's about making them stronger. The majority of women that come are Christians. Some are very strong Christians; some have been to church but have fallen away, and this brings them back to that. They usually all say they feel more worthy because of what they've learned during the weekend."

Terry was so touched by the love and support she received at the retreat that she decided to join the **Kairos Outside** team. "For a long time I struggled with 'Where am I supposed to be in ministry?'" she said. "As soon as the weekend was over, I said, 'This is it. This is why I have gone through what I have gone through,' and I want to give back to women what I had been given during that weekend."

"Establishing a support system also is an integral component to **Kairos Inside**," Cole said. "It's been proven: If (released inmates) don't have family or close friends, somebody to go back to, a potential job or something, their chances of success are very, very low," Cole said. "Men and women are getting out of prison every day, and those people could easily end up being our next-door neighbors. We need to teach them how to be productive, decent members of our society. It's a segment of the population that shouldn't be ignored."

While relationships — with others and, primarily, Christ — are at **Kairos'** core, Mason said the ministry is different from most like-minded Christian endeavors because it is not evangelistic. "We don't teach them a lot of Scripture," Mason said. "Some Christian people who don't know anything about it are hesitant to get involved because they think if it's not evangelistic, you're not going to get the job done. But I would guarantee that there is as much evangelism going on in the unit on a one-on-one basis as there is in any church service you might get involved in."

Added Cole: "It's an interdenominational group as opposed to nondenominational. There's Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics (involved). We focus on what we have in common, and what we have in common is a belief of Jesus Christ. We do not do baptisms or have communion. We don't have all this peripheral extra stuff out there so it makes for a very simplistic, good weekend."

For the Terrys, **Kairos'** format was just what they needed. "It's been beneficial to our marriage, our relationship; all the way around it has really blessed us," Terry said.

The quote of the month is by Jay Leno:

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of swine flu and terrorist attacks. Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

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## NOAH'S ARK

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark

**One:** Don't miss the boat.

**Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.

**Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark

**Four:** Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**Six:** Build your future on high ground.

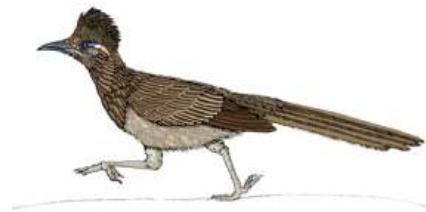
**Seven:** For safety's sake travel in pairs.

**Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**Nine:** When you're stressed, float awhile.

**Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**Eleven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



### **Model for Prayer:**

**Praise:** *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.*

**Priorities:** *Your kingdom come, Your will be done.*

**Provision:** *Give us this day our daily bread.*

**Personal relationships:** *Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

**Protection:** *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

**Praise:** *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.*

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## KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

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TDCJ Chaplaincy Vol Scs. - Stacie Woods  
Torch - Dean Cooke

### Committee Chairs:

Agape - Jaime Gonzales  
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Website - Bettye Keefer/Bill Darnall  
Compliance/Program Training -  
Thomas Becker  
Clergy - Tom Damrow  
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International Committee - Ed Davis  
Music Committee - Dale Mayer  
New Starts Committee - David Savage  
Outreach Chair - Michael Hill  
Region Coordinator - Rex Masons  
State Training (AKT) - Mike Stumbaugh  
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## *The fruit of the Spirit*



**Love** And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5

**Peace** May the Lord show favor toward you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:26

**Faithfulness**

Great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:23

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song. Psalm 28:7 **Joy**

**Goodness**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

**Gentleness**

Pursue a goodly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11b

Meanwhile, the saints stand passionately patient, keeping God's commands, staying faithful to Jesus. **Patience** Revelation 14:12

**Self-Control**

A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out. Proverbs 25:28

But the fruit of **Kindness** the Spirit is love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galations 5:22-23a



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Be sure to visit our website at [www.kairossoftexas.org](http://www.kairossoftexas.org). Our webmaster, Bill Darnall, has done an amazing job of putting this all together. The schedule and location for State Board meetings for 2013 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, remove or add anything.

## A Pastor with GUTS!

**Thought you might enjoy this interesting prayer given in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate. It seems prayer still upsets some people.... When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is *what they heard*:**

*Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance.*

*We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.*

*We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.*

*We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.*

*We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.*

*We have killed our unborn and called it choice.*

*We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.*

*We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.*

*We have abused power and called it politics.*

*We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.*

*We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.*

*We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.*

*Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.*

*Amen!*

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