

Torch Launch - HOUSTON

Bill and Dawn Wratney



We are part of a team that is attempting to light the Kairos Torch in Houston. For those who know what Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside is but does not know what Torch is, I would like to share the definition.

Kairos Torch is prison ministry designed for young offenders (25 years and younger) in either juvenile facilities or adult institutions. The mission of KPMI is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the lives of incarcerated men,

women, and youth as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

We had the privilege of joining the Amarillo Torch team as they did their Kairos Torch weekend #3 from July 19th through July 21st, in an effort to see how it is done. During this weekend we were their guests as observers in an effort to prepare for our weekend #1 in Houston. We were truly blessed by God during this weekend because everyone of this Torch team in Amarillo allowed Jesus to work through them in order to reach these incarcerated youth. And it is our pleasure to share with you some of the things that we had observed.

During this weekend, the participants from the facility were both boys and girls, ages 12 to 17. As they were introduced for the first time some of them were excited about what they were about to be a part of, others were unsure and others came in very tentative. There were a couple of them with cold faces and hard hearts. But the Torch program is designed to show these participants the “masks” that we all wear and the “walls” that we put up around ourselves to protect ourselves.

As the weekend progressed and the Torch team followed the designed weekend outline we witnessed changes in the attitude of some of the participants. For example, the program has certain times set aside for the participants to talk one-on-one with their assigned “guide”. During these sessions there was good conversation between the guide and participant. There were still a couple of them that didn’t want to open up but for the most part these participants were receiving God’s love and sharing openly with their guides.

Another example that we observed was during the “Father Forgiveness” part of the weekend (which follows the “special dinner” on Saturday evening). The mood became serious and the participants were given an opportunity to release the un-forgiveness in their hearts and throw away the masks that they have been wearing and receive a blessing. A God moment happened at this point. We witnessed the Holy Spirits involvement in the blessing part because the participants broke down into tears when given this blessing.

Then toward the end of the weekend, as the tables preformed their “skits”, there was another God moment. The skit for one table was to act like a family of ducks. And to see these incarcerated teenagers act silly in front of us and their peers is a testimony to the power that Jesus can have on anyone’s life.



But the best part about the Torch design is not the weekend itself, but it is the mentoring that follows the weekend. The Mentoring leader shared with the team that a lot of the participants wanted to know if their guide was also going to be their mentor. This showed us that they were developing a strong Christian relationship with the body of Christ.

We are sharing our experiences with you in an effort to build Torch communities and show the value of this program with others.



In Loving Memory

During the Kairos Prison Ministry Summer Conference Aug 1, 2013 at Norman, OK, there will be a memorial service for all those Kairos volunteers who have gone to be with God in the past year. The names we have so far are: Denise Garza, Johnny Porter, Edd Ashton, Roland Bomberger, Halsell Davis, John Dawson, Ike Johnson, Billie Fairchild, Dave Stewart, Brabara Carey and Lyndal Cannon. If you know of anyone we've missed please contact me ASAP. Contact me at bettye.keefe@yahoo.com along with their next-of-kin so that I can send them a card. Thanks, Bettye

God's Special Time Behind the Walls

Jack Kirsch

God's amazing love shined down into the Walls Unit of TDCJ-ID in Huntsville, TX, and onto the faces and hearts of forty convicts (two did not attend due to health issues) during the weekend of March 15th – 17th. Souls were washed and cleansed and lives were changed, thanks be to God!

I had the honor of serving these men as a steward and witnessed God's awesome love, which was a true blessing for me to see. They were bathed in His love from the very start of each day and throughout the three-day weekend with hugs and handshakes from the Kairos volunteers. For many of these men, a hug or even a handshake was something they hadn't experienced in many years. And to experience this simple act of love from total strangers was overwhelming to some.

Throughout the weekend, these candidates were nourished with food for their bodies and for their souls. They learned the true meaning of God's unconditional love and departed with a new sense of purpose in their lives. It is my opinion, based on my experience, that being able to reconcile and forgive the past will help them forge ahead for a better future for themselves and those around them.

The Kairos ministry has made remarkable changes in the lives of thousands of men throughout the US over the years. One of the stewards who served with me this weekend attended the fourth Walk ever in the state of Texas, on the Ferguson Unit back in the 1980s. He has remained faithful and active in the Kairos community since then, as have I since my Walk nine years ago, at the Clements Unit in Amarillo, TX.

Praise be to God for the success of Kairos and for the efforts of Bob and all of the Kairos volunteers who made the Walls Unit Walk such a remarkable experience. God bless them and their families.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org



On a recent visit with the Warden of Mountain View a couple of the Mt. View team learned that our sisters in white are in dire need of toiletries! They receive only 5 small (motel size) bars of soap each week to wash their hair and bodies and anything else. They also receive a small cup of mint flavored baking soda for their toothpaste for the week. So with that in mind, the Lord, Kairos Mt. View and some outside help came to the rescue. We were able to quickly raise the money necessary to purchase shampoo, body wash, deodorant, paper bags and then get toothpaste donated by a wonderful soul all for all 600+ ladies. This was truly God at work with each of us that day and the days of planning in advance. We had a family from one of our churches offer to get the bags ready to go into Mt. View, staff at a local dollar store and a willing husband load up the SUV, and then great officers to help the whole day.

Of course there was a little and I stress little problem when we weren't on the calendar but what's new? A quick call to the warden and we were in! There were 15 from the team who worked hard unloading approximately 550 boxes of shampoo, body wash, deodorant and toothpaste into 7 carts. The officers were all great helping us in every way possible including loading and unloading the carts to have all the contents x-rayed before being allowed on the grounds. Then it was time for the long walk to the gym to bag up all the toiletries. We're talking approximately 622 bags of toiletries to distribute. The team took turns going to different dorms including cell block, agg seg, protective custody, and yes, death row! God was certainly with us that day! After we passed out the bags we then left the rest for the warden to hand out to the indigent population.

It was awe inspiring to see the women's faces when they realized what was going on! Watching them open bottles and take in the wonderful smells that we on the outside often take for granted.

Afterwards we had our regular 2nd Saturday program with 71 in attendance. We were all exhausted and a little stinky at the end of a fantastic day!



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Meditate on God's attributes & praise Him for who He is. Ps 146:1-2

Because your thumb is your strongest finger and it points to GOD



Pray for the salvation of your loved ones and the church growth. Eph 6:18-19

Because when your hand is held like this your second finger is pointing out to others.

Confessing and repenting to God for our weakness and sins. 1 Jn 1:9

This is our longest finger and where we need the most help.

Ask God for peace and for your daily needs. 1 Sam 1:27

This is the weakest finger, so use it when asking for yourself.

Thank God for what He has done for you, your family & the church. Eph 5:20

The palm is the biggest part of the hand so we use it to thank GOD for EVERYTHING!!

I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

The pinky is the hook that lets you grab hold of scripture.



“Lord, teach us to pray...”

Lisa Harbert is a volunteer at Briscoe Unit for Kairos Inside. She has worked in this unit for many years. She is a part time pastor, and a full time partner with her husband in their business. She is very passionate about her service to God and to Kairos.

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Texas Capitol Prayer Initiative - July 2013

As citizens of the great state of Texas, we humbly ask that you pray for our Governor, Senate and House of Representatives leadership and all those who will participate in the government. It is imperative that we begin with prayers for:

Preparation. We prepare to encounter God by confessing our sin. The precious blood of Jesus cleanses and prepares us to truly relate to God. Thank God for forgiving your sins, for making you His child. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in prayer, the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth (John 16:13, Ephesians 6:18).

Protection. Jesus came that we might have LIFE ! This promise is for every man, woman & child, each created in His image. We are His greatest handiwork. Pray for the needy, fatherless & those in authority over us—that we might be an instrument of His grace and mercy to a hurting world (Psalm 91, 1Timothy 2:18).

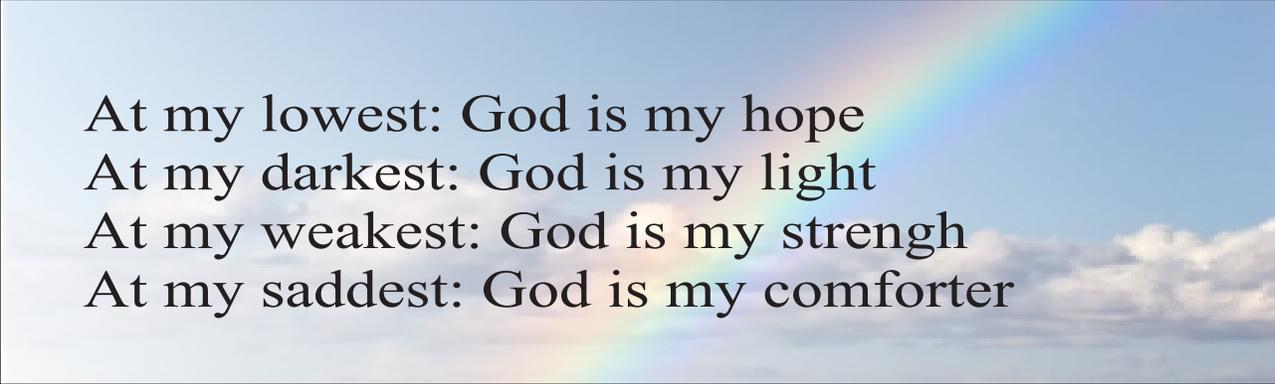
Provision. Jesus is our provision. He made the way of reconciliation between man & God. We approach God in Jesus' name because of His righteousness, not our own. If we are faithful to seek him, turn from our wicked ways; then, He will hear our prayers and heal our land (John 14:6, 2 Chronicles 7:14).

Praise. Thank God in advance for answered prayer. Thanking God increases faith by fixing our attention on Him, not the problem. We bring everything to God in prayer & praise, made to be anxious about nothing (Psalm 100, Philippians 4:6,7).

Peace. We do everything possible to live at peace. The conflict of LIFE is a spiritual battle resulting in physical death. Our battle is with the forces of darkness that oppose the will of God. Pray for His Way, His Truth & His Life to reign in every life (Matthew 5:9, John 14:27).

Passion. It is the passion of Christ that redeems and restores Life. He gave His life, that we might have life eternal. God keeps His promises to us. He is looking for people who will stand in the gap for concerns beyond our personal needs. We pray expecting God to grant results in prayer (1 Peter 3:12, Ezekiel 22:30).

AS YOU PRAY - 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 1 John 1:9:



At my lowest: God is my hope
At my darkest: God is my light
At my weakest: God is my strength
At my saddest: God is my comforter

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Three Trees

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, 'Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty.'

Then the second tree said, 'Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull.'

Finally the third tree said, 'I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest Tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me.'

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, 'This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter, and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, 'This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell it to the shipyard.' The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, 'I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one,' and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces, and left alone in the dark. The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.

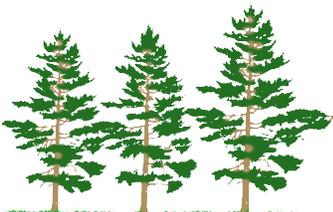
Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said 'Peace' and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, God will give you great gifts.

Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His Ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.



LISTEN
LISTEN

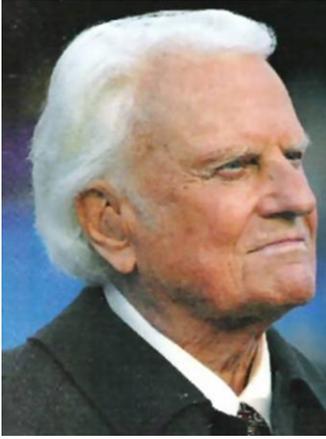
LOVE
LOVE

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Billy Graham is now 90 years old with Parkinson's disease.

In January 2000, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor. Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you.' So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, 'I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.' Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are. No problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.' Einstein looked at him and said, 'Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going.'

Having said that Billy Graham continued, 'See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion.

You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am ... I also know where I'm going.'

"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point."

Billy Graham's Prayer For Our Nation

'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!

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called 'One nation under God!'

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Hearts in Harmony - KO Amarillo

Kairos Outside of Amarillo main annual fundraiser is an event that we call “Hearts in Harmony”.

Fundraising is always a big challenge as with any Kairos Outside group, however in Amarillo, it cost nearly \$10,000 for us to put on a weekend and we have found that this one annual event has been a huge success over the past 3 years and so we are preparing for our next one which will be September 22, 2013.

Hearts in Harmony is designed as a showcase of “PRAISE” where we connect locally with the talent in our region to give them an opportunity to be seen as well as entertain our guests who so graciously purchased tickets to attend this awesome event. They donate their time and talents for free and we cannot say enough good things about these amazing folks with all this talent. We have had several performers return year after year and we suspect they enjoy doing it as much as we enjoy having them!

Not only do the guests get to enjoy the amazing music and performances, but they are also provided with a delicious meal, and also have the opportunity to bid on silent auction items that have been donated from area businesses, as well handmade crafts and unique collectables.

The entire council is responsible for obtaining items for the silent auction and we have already started procuring them early in the year. We have had such things in the past as a diamond ring, diamond bracelet, leather coat with fur collar, art pieces from local artists, and many gift certificates from local businesses. To make the gift certificates particularly inviting we try to “dress them up”. For example: With a massage certificate, we will put a soothing aroma candle and scented hand cream. Or: With an oil change, we will fill a bucket with car washing items.

In addition to the auction, we sell tickets to the event - \$25.00 a ticket or a table for \$200.00. We have had many individuals purchase tickets and then just give them away. Also involved have been churches that buy tables for their members and/or Sunday school classes.

The food for the meal is sometimes provided for free from a generous donor, or maybe a local grocer. It is prepared entirely by a vast group of individuals involved in Kairos Outside or by friends of those involved in Kairos Outside. In most cases, the amount of money spent on food (generally under \$500) is minute in comparison to what is raised by the event.

What we have found by doing this event is there is no limit to the generosity that can be obtained, if everyone will work together and just ask. The outcome is a blessing beyond measure, on the night of the event as we see the seats fill up and the smiles come across every face, then again, as we hold our next Kairos Outside weekend and watch the transition from hopelessness and despair turn to hope, and joy unspeakable, as friendships are formed, and we witness yet again the mighty Love and Power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

So far, we have raised between \$6,000, and our best was \$10,000.

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I ran into a stranger as he passed by, 'Oh excuse me please' was my reply.

He said, 'Please excuse me too; I wasn't watching for you.'

We were very polite, this stranger and I. We went on our way and we said goodbye.

But at home a different story is told, how we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal, my son stood beside me very still.

When I turned, I nearly knocked him down. 'Move out of the way,' I said with a frown.

He walked away, his little heart broken. I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed, God's still small voice came to me and said,

'While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use, but the family you love, you seem to abuse.

Go and look on the kitchen floor, you'll find some flowers there by the door.

Those are the flowers he brought for you. He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.

He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise; you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes.'

By this time, I felt very small, and now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his bed; 'Wake up, little one, wake up,' I said.

'Are these the flowers you picked for me?' He smiled, 'I found 'em, out by the tree.

I picked 'em because they're pretty like you. I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue.'

I said, 'Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today; I shouldn't have yelled at you that way.' He said, 'Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway.'

I said, 'Son, I love you too, and I do like the flowers, especially the blue.'

FAMILY Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives.

And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you hink? So what is behind the story?

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?
FAMILY = (F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER (I)
(L)OVE (Y)OU



Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.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 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.



Bits & Pieces.....

HATE has 4 letters, but so does LOVE .

ENEMIES has 7 letters, but so does FRIENDS...

LYING has 5 letters, but so does TRUTH...

HURT has 4 letters, but so does HEAL...

Transform every negative energy into an aura of positivity...

It's your perception that makes the difference in the way you feel.

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