

KOT Chair Elect - Jim Irwin



First, I want to thank all Texas State Chapter Advisory Councils for entrusting me with the Kairos of Texas (KOT) Chair’s responsibilities for the coming year. Like you, I am a volunteer who loves this ministry we call Kairos. However, this year I have been given a different role than my fellow volunteers. I am humbled by the challenges that lay ahead and I covet your prayers for wisdom.

I hope to have the opportunity to better know many more of our nearly 2,700 Texas volunteers this coming year. For those whom I will not be able to do, I felt it appropriate to share a little about myself. I do so as my way of encouraging all to prayerfully support me in this coming year. For me, I find it difficult to give heartfelt assistance and support to someone I do not really know or understand. So I offer the following for your consideration.

I surrendered control of my life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ at 30 years of age. I have been a student of His Word for 45 years and strive to continually draw upon it for wisdom and guidance.

During those years, I read a book by Oswald Chambers entitled “*My Utmost for His Highest*.” It was inspirational and affected my life challenging me to focus on why I was doing the service that I provided. Paul also said it in Colossians 3:17, “**And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of our Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**” I find it helpful to do a frequent “gut check” and continuously reflect on that verse while serving in Kairos. I tell myself that I am not doing it for me or even the folks in white. I am not doing it for praise from volunteers, but rather I am doing it for the Lord Jesus so that one day I can look Him in the eye and hear “...well done good and faithful servant.” With that thought in mind, the gratitude for what I (we) do will be directed to the carpenter and not to the tools as the incarcerated and their families are blest by our acts. If you do not now do so, please reflect on that as you serve in Kairos.

Years ago, I used to read a newspaper cartoon called “Pogo.” I still remember his words “...I have met the enemy and the enemy is us.” Too often we blame Satan for all of our Kairos struggles and he is indeed ultimately responsible. But I also note that often, we Kairos volunteers are directly responsible. Like Paul the flesh is alive and well and that flesh/spirit (Romans Chapter 7) battle goes on as we serve. Please pray for your local Adv. Council and your state leaders as we deal with those problems in addition to the day to day administrative challenges of keeping Kairos compliant with your KPMI policies and procedures.

As our respective program manuals state, not everyone involved in Kairos is called to serve due to the rigorous structure of our program. There is a way to request change and that is through our local AC state representative to the KOT Executive Committee. When warranted, such requests are passed on to the KPMI Executive Director or the International Council for amendments to the program manual or policy changes. Until then, each one of us has the responsibility to the Lord Jesus to faithfully follow the directives of the respective program manual. If we are unable to do that, then I believe we are allowing



As a first-time Inside Servant of Kairos, I never understood the significance of this song we sing at the end of every meeting. I would snicker with some of the other first-timers, unintentionally disrespecting the deep meaning many seasoned leaders seem to hold for the different hand motions and traditional phrasing in use for this song.... Now that I have been through the Briscoe #11 Kairos Weekend, I believe that I understand a little more why this song is held in high regard.

Bettye Keefer asked me to put my first-time experience into words as we were leaving the Kairos Weekend graduation on October 20th. She seemed to be interested in the perspective of a new person to one of these events. In an effort to not allow the outside world to distract me or risk watering down the impact of this event upon me, I felt led by God to pull over to the side of the highway and write this viewpoint down somewhere between Dilley and San Antonio, immediately after leaving the Briscoe facility.

As one can imagine on my first day, I was a bit apprehensive about entering a jail and attempting to interact with convicted felons. I wasn't primarily concerned for my safety but rather my ability to connect with any of them. Coming from very different walks of life, I thought that they would be hardened cases, only coming for the cookies and great food instead of wanting to hear anything I might desire to share with them. What could we possibly have in common? Would they only see a pampered, silver-spoon, pretty boy with a dazzling smile? Or, would they see something deeper and identify with our common need for a Savior?

What I saw shocked me to my foundations.... Rather than a room full of hard-hearted felons, I saw a room full of hurting young men, deeply in need of Grace. Instead of hearts of stone, I only saw hearts of ice, made cold from their experiences and quickly melting in the warmth of God's love. These guys seemed to initially mirror my own emotions on that first day, as they appeared to be measuring us to see what they could reveal without being rejected, wondering if they would be accepted for who they are and curious to see what was in store for them this weekend. In the face of unconditional Agape, these cold, isolated, hardened criminals were collapsing into the arms of their loving Father.

Someone made the comment this weekend that they had to "come to prison to go to Church" and, now that my weekend is complete, I agree with that statement. What I saw this weekend were broken young men who have stopped believing they were worthy of love. These guys had come into agreement with the horrible curses likely spoken over them by their parents, friends and even the guards watching over them... ***"You will never amount to anything", "You aren't worthy of love or forgiveness", "There's no point in trying to better yourself in jail because you're just going to end up back in prison... You're a two-time loser."*** They had stopped believing in themselves and most had lost hope. In the face of such brokenness, I was convicted of my own pride. I used to think I was "God's Gift to God" and was going to do great things for Him. Now, I understand what Jesus was trying to tell Peter when He asked Peter to feed His sheep in John 21:17. The best way we can display our love for God is to love what He loves.... especially when He can't get this message to them directly Himself.

When most people think of a sacrificial servant, Mother Teresa usually comes to mind from her time serving the leper colonies of India. The act of serving people who can do nothing for you in return appears to be part of the Heart of God. This experience has shown me that, in many ways, our prisons now hold the "leper colonies" of this century. The young people of these correctional facilities are commonly viewed as "unclean" and beyond hope, much like the groups Mother Teresa served. However, true servanthood requires us to proclaim hope to the hopeless and extend the hand of brotherhood to the ones who need it most.

Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place (Continued from page 2)

I will forever carry the images of tattooed, dangerous, violent young men crying the joyous tears of redemption, love and acceptance while shouting at the top of their lungs, "**WE ARE THE CHURCH!**"... The intimidating Aryan Nation gang leader giving me a rib-crushing bear hug while telling me, "I love you brother!", while tears ran down his cheeks... The Prison Chaplain challenging the many first-time salvation and rededication inmates to respond to this gift of God with their own Christian leadership in the jail's general population, fighting back his own emotions as he demonstrated his love to them as a proud Spiritual Father.

There is no doubt that God is using the Kairos Ministry in a mighty way to establish His kingdom presence with the outcast and forgotten. I felt incredibly humbled to be invited by God to participate in a harvest I had done nothing to cultivate. These men were ripe and waiting to be picked because of the planting, watering and care over many years by people who may never hear of these conversions. It was amazing to see that the prayers of the righteous are truly powerful and effective (James 5:16) and I cannot think of a better place to invest my time and energy for the Kingdom of God.

KOT Chair Elect - Jim Irwin (Continued from page 1)

ourselves to be used of the enemy to disrupt this ministry we love so much and likely have not been called of God to serve in Kairos. As the manuals state, there are other ministries and ways to serve Christ in prison and we in Kairos will prayerfully support those who opt to move on to other programs. My prayer for all volunteers is to please come with a humble and servant heart and please lead when asked, please follow when needed or please gracefully step aside. What a blessing to commit our limited resources to growing in ministry in lieu of resolving volunteer concerns. Kairos service is a privilege and not a right.

Finally, I would like to direct attention to our Lord's words in Luke 16:10. My translation says "He who is faithful in the little things will also be faithful in the bigger things." Another way to say it is he who is not faithful in the little things will also not be faithful in the bigger things. So my request for all of us is that we be faithful in every small thing we are called to do and that we do it with passion for Christ. If we are faithful in the little things (e.g. mopping floors, dumping trash, unloading supplies), we will be faithful also in the bigger things (e.g. attending prayer and share, timely filing financial reports, timely holding elections, holding monthly or bi-monthly AC meetings/recording AC minutes, volunteering to serve in leadership positions, recruiting replacements so we can grow, etc.).

Early in my Kairos Inside service, I thought life was all about the weekend and the blessings in serving. Then as I grew in my understanding, I saw that we are all Kairos. There is no KOT versus the respective AC's or KPMI versus KOT. We need not think of ways to avoid paying our 15% tithe to KPMI. We are not adversaries but fellow servants. Also, I am called to serve via sacrifice of self and time. I am not called to just be involved and enjoy the blessings of the weekend. I am called to commit my life and time in service so that prayer and share can be experienced by the manual for the incarcerated. I am called to drive a guest to a KO weekend. I am called to serve in leadership so we can conduct local AC and state business and thereby render unto Caesar (the IRS) the required financial documents. We are a not-for-profit corporation and bound by specific legal constraints. We are also part of a larger ministry involving nearly 30 thousand volunteers in 34 states and 9 foreign countries that has a proven track record. It was developed by His saints over many years and obviously succeeds.

Thank you for allowing me to share things which I trust will be better understood as we move into 2014. Let's all commit to be faithful in the small things so we will be faithful in the bigger things of recruiting, recruiting, recruiting and fund raising to expand our service for Christ. I truly covet your prayers and your willing support. Please know your KOT Exec. Committee is ready to assist and support your AC at any time. My contact information is on our Master List. In Christ, Jim.



Recently I rotated off the Allred Ad Council as the chair. As I look back at both the time I served on the AC and the time since, a mixed bag of thoughts surface. In many ways I enjoyed being the chair and in other ways I'm glad to turn the leadership over to someone else. I fully support the rotation practices outlined in the Ad Council Operating Procedures. Routinely adding new people to the AC, and the Chair role is healthy. It develops new leaders with new ideas and new enthusiasm. When the same group or the same person serves permanently, staleness happens which eventually damages the ministry.

Some of the good things about being the "past" Chair are that I don't have to work so hard. No meeting agendas to create, no scheduling facilities to have meetings, no recruiting new weekend and support team leaders, and no applying pressure on Outreach activities. Simply said; it frees up a lot of time.

One of the greatest understatements of all time is that Kairos is a time consuming ministry. In the Allred model, if you attend all of the Allred sponsored Kairos activities and the quarterly KOT meetings on Saturdays in a year, Kairos would consume 34 out of 52 Saturdays. Rotating off of the AC helps reduce that commitment.

On the other hand, I do miss being involved. It is easy to identify with those of you who more or less are "permanent" members of your AC's or sitting as the Chair. You may be thinking that you are in the middle of every policy or personnel discussion. "If I give that up, I won't know what's going on behind the scenes." It is tough going from being the center of the information loop to totally out the loop.

During your role as AC chair, you were guiding the AC along a strategic plan. Being out of the loop could make you wonder; is the AC still following the plan? Maybe the thing you will miss the most is the camaraderie held with the other AC members. Perhaps you are retired and your time commitment is less of a challenge than those who are raising a young family and pursuing a career.

These are some of the reasons for the "mixed bag of thoughts" about leaving the AC chair role. Perhaps you know other reasons that you are reluctant to give up the AC leadership. For example, maybe no one is willing to step up and take your place.

Bottom line - in spite of how it feels personally, the health of Kairos is the primary consideration. New leadership is a healthy practice. For those of you that don't have anyone to take your place. Think about the challenge of Outreach. Outreach not only includes bringing new people into the ministry, it also includes bringing new people into leadership. So for those of us who take it personally, I recommend sticking to a proven practice - TRUST GOD. Kairos is His ministry and he will see to it that it stays healthy.

LISTEN LOVE
LISTEN LOVE

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org





I haven't come down from the spiritual mountain top from KAIROS Lane Murray weekend yet. I feel as though my face is still glowing from being in the palpable presence of God for more than 30 hours.

Days began early with meeting at the prison gate at 6:30am and ended late leaving the prison gates after 7:00pm to go to team meetings and then to our rooms. Each morning as we drove into the prison parking lot, each car load of volunteers began the day reciting The Lord's Prayer in unison. Once we reached the community room, the team individually prayed over each table member (participant and volunteer.)

We sang each participant into the community room each day in celebration of another day of God's outpouring of love into their lives. Each day was filled with spiritual talks, meditations, praise and worship, and chapel services, and all the girls were given opportunities for individual spiritual counseling/prayer should they want it.

At closing, each table family answered three questions in addition to open mike.

In what spiritual condition did you arrive? From memory, this is what I heard.

Broken, hopeless, angry at God, worthless, forgotten, spiritually dry, not worthy of God's love, and much more.

What did you receive during this weekend?

God's Agape love, hope in a new way to do time inside, forgiven, freed from bondage of unforgiveness, spiritual food and tools to grow, and much more. (lol-soft toilet paper – 8 squares – inside they only get 6 squares of scratchy thin toilet paper each time they go to restroom – who would have ever known that soft TP could be such a powerful form of Agape love.)

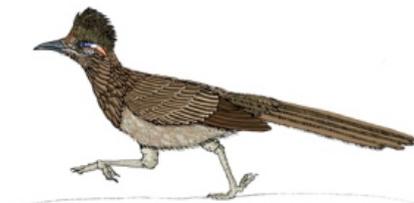
What are you taking with you from this weekend?

New life in Christ, God's love, a new community of friends that they can trust (something that does not exist much inside), tools to grow, living hope flowing through them, restoration, release from learning to forgive themselves and others, and much more.

The Kairos community continues to support our inside sisters in their walk with Jesus through weekly Wednesday evening prayer and share groups, attending monthly reunions which our inside sisters plan, and quarterly 1-day retreats.

I praise God for all the prayer support that you provided for this retreat and want to thank you personally for your prayers. I saw God work miracles this weekend and know that many (me included) are drawing closer to Him as a result. Praise God - to Him goes the glory!

With much gratitude, Nancy Scott



Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org

The Penny

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live... The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely!

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband; He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment..

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United States of America ."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?" "No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!" "And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment... I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Fortunate for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient.



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Chaplain Jerry Satterlee

I have been the Briscoe chaplain for six years now. I realize I may be coming to the end of the road in that capacity. I could never have imagined what was in store for me six years ago. I jumped off a cliff and came to do this ministry. Most people thought I had lost my mind literally. Others made a funny little joke about it. They would bait people and say "did you hear that Jerry went to prison?" Then they would grin and say he is a chaplain and get a good laugh. Well, six years have come and gone along with my physical capacities. I have to say I don't regret any of it. Yes, I have been through some real stress and anxiety at times. The end result is hard to summarize up in a few words. Somewhere down the road a story will be written about all of this stuff that we have been through. The real story is the many young men that has had their lives changed by Kairos and the other volunteers that have given their own faith away to these men. Even their families reap the rewards of our ministry. We have not only impacted them, but their families. Children, parents, spouses, siblings and the total family unit is impacted by what has happened at Briscoe through Kairos. Some day in Heaven Moses and others will ask us about what this was like. We are still in awe of Moses, David, Paul, and others. I think the great ones of our past heritage will also be in awe of this present heritage. I think we are making history for a new era. Kairos and its faithful servants are writing a new chapter in Heaven's book of faith. It will go down along side of the other great legacies of faith. It is a current story of ultimate ministry. What is true faith? It is to do Kairos in a time of great self-service. What is in it for me? It is to see right before your eyes what God is still doing. Where else can you get a deal like this?



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Emergency Telephone Numbers - *These are more effective than 911*

When -

You are sad, phone John 14

You have sinned, phone Psalm 51

You are facing danger, phone Psalm 91

People have failed you, phone Psalm 27

It feels as though God is far from you, phone Psalm 139

Your faith needs stimulation, phone Heb 11

You are alone and scared, phone Psalm 23

You are worried, phone Mat 8:19-34

You are hurt and critical, phone 1 Cor 13

You wonder about Christianity, phone 2 Cor 5:15-18

You feel like an outcast, phone Romans 8:31-39

You are seeking peace, phone Mat 11:25-30

It feels as if the world is bigger than God, phone Psalm 90

You need Christ like insurance, phone Romans 8:1-30

You are leaving home for a trip, phone Psalm 121

You are praying for yourself, phone Psalm 87

You require courage for a task, phone Joshua 1

Inflation's and investments are hogging your thoughts, phone Mark 10:17-31

You are depressive, phone Psalm 27

Your bank account is empty, phone Psalm 37

You lose faith in mankind, phone 1 Cor 13

It looks like people are unfriendly, phone John 15

You are losing hope, phone Psalm 126

You feel the world is small compared to you, phone Psalm 19

You want to carry fruit, phone John 15

Paul's secret for happiness, phone Colossians 3:12-17

With big opportunity/ discovery, phone Isaiah 55

To get along with other people, phone Romans 12

ALTERNATE NUMBERS

For dealing with fear, call Psalm 47

For security, call Psalm 121:3

For assurance, call Mark 8:35

For reassurance, call Psalm 145:18

ALL THESE NUMBERS MAY BE PHONED DIRECTLY. NO OPERATOR ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY.

ALL LINES TO HEAVEN ARE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY.

FEED YOUR FAITH, AND DOUBT WILL STARVE TO DEATH



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Clergy - Tom Damrow
Program Committee - Driskoll Tubbs
Financial Committee - Bob Cole
Food Control - Glenda Robinson
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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
Trailer Coord - Scott Van Pelt



Christians One-Liners

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited-until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are *funny*, they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the *back of the church*.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

The phrase that is guaranteed to wake up an audience: "And in conclusion."

If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

To make a long story short, don't tell it.

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

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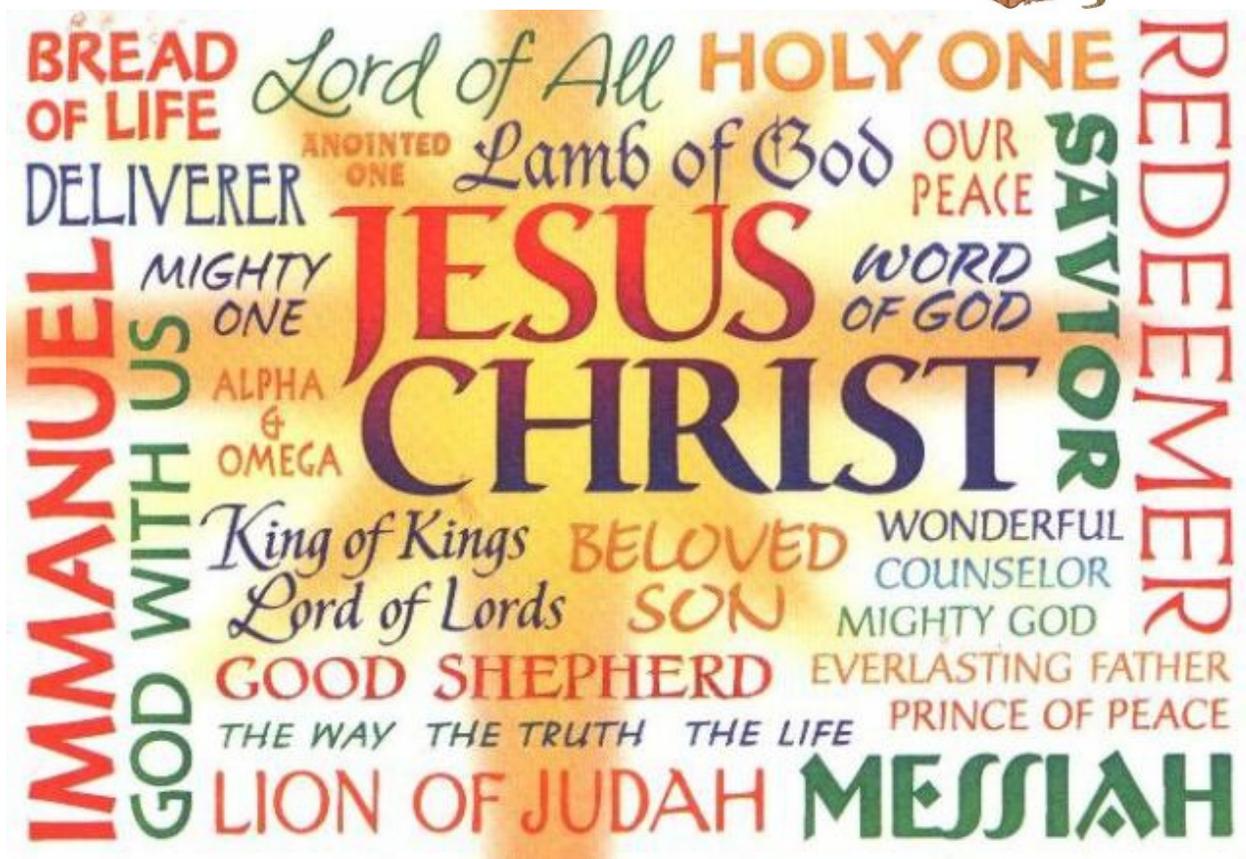


Be sure to visit our website at www.kairossoftexas.org. Our webmaster, Bill Darnall, has done an amazing job of putting this all together. The schedule and location for State Board meetings for 2013 are included here. We have a calendar showing when all the weekends will be held. Check your weekend - 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.



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