

Torch Chair - Buck Rogers



Crime among youthful offenders is the most rapidly growing segment of corrections. The number of institutions for youthful offenders has doubled since 1995, Kairos Torch is an introductory two and a half day program for youth, ages 25 and under, who live in juvenile detention or correctional facilities. The program is designed to encourage the participants to remove their masks and develop a mature means of making better choices, thus building their self esteem. Torch offers unconditional love and acceptance, encouraging young men and women to share their life journey through participation in a long term mentoring process.

Kairos has had a presence in Texas for some years now by doing a weekend for young men and women; then doing six months of mentoring. Texas is excited about the new Torch start-up in Houston (Katy); which had their #1 weekend in November. Comments were: 'great job', 'powerful', 'can't wait for the next one'. Torch in Texas is looking not only to expand in Houston, but also in other counties. I would like to see Torch in every region in Texas. We believe in the Kairos mission: "By sharing the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ." Hearts and lives of the incarcerated are being impacted, and they are becoming productive citizens not only when they get out, but in the facilities before their release. Torch is a great way for a husband and wife to serve together, and for anyone who has a passion for the future generation. Pray for the Torch Programs in Texas.

2014AD in the year of our Lord

As many people do, on New Year's Eve, I spent a few moments pondering the year past and the year that lies ahead. Thoughts of New Year's resolutions went through my brain. Unlike like most people I make resolutions because I always like to improve upon things – spiritually, mentally, physically, and financially. Last year I fasted from sweets (deserts) for a whole year. Can you imagine working two Kairos weekend without a single cookie (: it was tough but I did it. Most people resolve to lose weight or get in better shape; they start exercising. I believe we all think about our spiritual well being "a closer walk with thee". A scripture I shared at the State Chapter Meeting and would like to share with my Kairos community is *III John 2 "Dear friend, I pray that you may be in good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well" (NIV)*. I pray that as we go forward into 2014 that we continue to focus on our soul getting along well, Evelyn Lemly, Kairos Executive Director stated in the Kairos E-News #28 "I continue to focus on our spiritual health as a ministry. I am asking us – is this God's ministry, and if so, are we operating to honor Him and to "listen, listen, love, love" for one another? As we bond together and remember we are here serving God to share the hope, love, and truth of Jesus Christ, as Kairos, we will grow in our spiritual health and be stronger daily." As we bond together in team meetings, across cultural divides and denominational beliefs, our souls start to prosper as we minister to those who are impacted by incarceration; they will see the Jesus we love. Blessings and Peace.



Next KOT meeting is April 5, 2014!

In Loving Memory



Obituary for:

Fern Elizabeth Hlavka Lane Gaffaney was born on July 28, 1948 to Mabel Ruth Bonniwell Hlavka and Donald Hlavka. Liz was the first of their four wonderful children. Some of Liz's passions were her love for God, her family, and the ministries she was involved in. Liz became a Christian at a young age. She grew and matured in her faith through worship, Bible study and through the support of the body of Christ. Her love for Jesus manifested in several different ways. She loved worshipping God through singing and playing the organ; so He used her as a music minister/organist in many different churches. Liz and Buzz (first husband) were involved in Kairos,

an international prison ministry, for many years. After Buzz died, Jo Chapman, founder of Kairos Outside, a sister organization of Kairos, asked Liz to start Kairos Outside in Texas. Kairos Outside is an organization that supports women who have a loved one incarcerated. Liz prayed, learned about the program, raised funds and trained lots of people and then successfully started the first chapter in North Texas. As people learned about KO, more people asked her to start units in their areas. She helped establish 5 other units throughout the state. Liz loved her family and especially adored her grandchildren. They brought constant delight to her! Whether it was teaching them how to sew, baking cupcakes, taking them swimming or just brushing their hair, they always brought joy to Liz!

Liz died on January 16, 2014 with family and loved ones by her side.

MY KAIROS HISTORY

By Liz Lane Gaffaney

My involvement with Kairos started in the mid 1980's. My husband at that time was Douglas S. Lane whom we called 'Buzz.' We were active Christians and active in church ministries locally, as well as a national ministry called Cursillo. Cursillo is known by many other names though all have the same fundamental background. Since "Buzz" was active in Cursillo, he was asked to participate in the first "Kairos Inside" weekend in Texas. Kairos is an equivalent of Cursillo that has been modified and the gospel message of love taken into the prison setting. I attended the closing ceremony for this first Kairos Inside weekend in Texas and was set on fire with the desire to serve the Lord in whatever capacity He wanted me to do. The Kairos movement progressed and was eventually taken into the women's prison. I was in the first Inside Kairos Women's weekend in 1994 or 1995. Even though that weekend was planned, it didn't fly very smoothly. The weekend was delayed a few times. Jo Chapman is the person who observed the first Kairos Inside for Women. Jo came to me and asked if I would consider starting Kairos Outside in Texas. I was invited to observe a Kairos Outside weekend in California about April 1994. What an incredible weekend of love that was shared with the loved ones who had someone on the inside. It was overwhelming. The love bug had struck again!

By this time, Buzz had died of cancer so I was pretty much on my own to do my own 'thing'. I PRAYED AND PRAYED AND PRAYED!!! The Lord put people in my path that had no idea what I was thinking about – people whose husbands were in prison would stop and start talking to me about their problems – on and on as you know how the Lord works!! My church had small groups that met weekly and this group just surrounded me with more confidence that all this was God's doing and to keep moving ahead and PRAYING! After I started Kairos Outside in North Texas, I helped get 5 other Kairos Outside groups started throughout Texas.

In Sept 1995, the first Kairos Outside weekend was held in the Fort Worth area at a Roman Catholic Retreat House. I think there were 8 people who attended and about 25 team members. We worked and worked to raise funding and love letters for each of those attending. Some of these people are still working within the ministry today and have led more recent weekends. Yes, the ministry has expanded. We have weekends throughout the state of Texas as well as nationally and internationally.

– Just get us started talking about 'our' weekend!!

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org





Rejoice Always

To those of you who've ever received an email from me know my scripture tag line: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV) This pretty well sums it up for me!**

I have run the course on a few Kairos avenues over the last 13 years. This year I start a new season as KOT Financial Secretary. Looking into the future this year is quite overwhelming, but that's just the way I felt when I served on my first Kairos Team. Yet everyone pulled together, I did my part, we moved from one Weekend activity to the next and when it was all said and done; marveled and basked in the glory of God! Words just can't describe the feeling of the Holy Spirit that takes place. Every Kairos avenue I have ventured has been much like this; from leading a Weekend, to hosting a Summer Conference and now I feel the humbling humility, overwhelming spirit yet confidence in God that I have come to know in this ministry.

I will mention my experience that when it comes to money things get different; discussions heat up, controversy flairs and soon this becomes the most scrutinized subject of all subjects. We all already know, God doesn't need our money and whose money is it anyway? It all belongs to God and we are just stewards of it. However, we've all seen people change when it comes to money issues and scripture reads: "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." -**1 Timothy 6:10 (NRSV)**. I don't know a Kairos volunteer who doesn't believe this.

I will strive hard to be one of the best stewards of the Lord's money and work in unity with not only the KOT AC's and State Chapter but the Int'l ministry as we are ALL Kairos. Allow me to share a story that speaks volumes to our survival:

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closest companions. After a while, they decided to distance themselves; one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.

The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

I look forward to each New Year in Kairos and each new venture as the best one yet to come!

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To all my Texas friends. Nobody asked for them, but here are some little known Texas facts:

Beaumont to El Paso: 742 miles (actually I think it is even longer-closer to 800!)

Beaumont to Chicago: 770 miles

El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas

World's first rodeo was in Pecos... July 4, 1883.

The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water.

The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full time coach for Rice University in Houston.

Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.

Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.

Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978.

The worst natural disaster in U.S. history was in 1900 caused by a hurricane in which over 8000 lives were lost on Galveston Island.

The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was "Houston..."

King Ranch is larger than Rhode Island.

Tropical Storm Claudette brought a U.S. rainfall record of 43" in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July 1979.

Texas is the only state to enter the U.S. by TREATY, instead of by annexation. (This allows the Texas flag to fly at the same height as the US flag and allows Texas to leave the U.S. at free will!

A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.

Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.

Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period after Dr in Dr Pepper.

Texas has had six capital cities:

1. Washington-on-the-Brazos, 2. Harrisburg, 3. Galveston, 4. Velasco, 5. West Columbia, 6. Austin
The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the U.S. which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. (by 7 feet).

The name Texas comes from the Hasini Indian word "tejas" meaning friends. Tejas is not Spanish for Texas.

The State animal is the Armadillo. (An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies! They have one egg which splits into four and they either have four males or four females.

(Well... I thought it was interesting anyway!)

The first domed stadium in the U.S. was the Astrodome in Houston.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS - TEXAS STYLE, Some folks out in west Texas got together and translated the "King James" version into "King Ranch" version: Ten Commandments, cowboy style. Cowboy's Ten Commandments posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Fairlie, Texas.

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|------------------------------------|--|
| (1) Just one God. | (2) Honor yer Ma & Pa. |
| (3) No telling tales or gossipin'. | (4) Git yourself to Sunday meeting. |
| (5) Put nothin' before God. | (6) No foolin' around with another feller's gal. |
| (7) No killin'. | (8) Watch yer mouth. |
| (9) Don't take what ain't yers. | (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff. |

That's kinda plain 'n simple don't ya think? Y'all have A NICE Day NOW, Ya Hear?

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St. Paul, the apostle, spent time writing letters of encouragement to the newly formed Christian churches. In his letter to the church at Corinth, he writes “Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus – in all your speaking and in all your knowledge – because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you”. This is a prime example of the art of appreciation.

In this day and age of emails, cell phone calls, texting, and other forms of communication, when you receive the daily mail, do you open the handwritten envelope first because you can’t wait to see who has written and why. Or do you hold those letters aside to savor and enjoy after you are finished sorting out bills and tossing out the junk mail?

Whatever your approach, you no doubt recognize the importance of the note that comes in an envelope with personal handwriting and possibly a decoration or two. Indeed, in an age when even birthday greetings are sent by email or Facebook, the personal note is appreciated more than ever before.

When approaching my position as newly elected Kairos Outside Sub-committee chair in 2013, I carefully reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the position. A goal added to my list was taking the time to personally write an encouragement and thank you note to all the Advisory Council chairs and weekend leaders. These volunteers spend much time in preparation, meetings, phone calls, and State leadership appreciated all the hard work and effort given to attaining the goals of successful communities and weekends. Please prayerfully consider writing one note of appreciation to someone in the days ahead.

Our beloved KO sister, Liz Lane Gaffaney, was called by God to spread the ministry of Kairos Outside in Texas. When she assisted North Texas, Houston, East Texas, and other communities, she showed her appreciation to volunteers in a variety of ways. Liz will be greatly missed by the Kairos Outside Community. “She continued to encourage and love all guests, teams, and supporters throughout the years and her quiet determination and perseverance to get things done placed several KO communities on solid footing” said Paulette Booth, KONT immediate past Advisory Council Chair. Thank you dear Liz for your art of appreciation!

Texas IC Rep. - Kairos Outside

Julie Cole



I have just returned from attending a Kairos Outside trainers’ meeting in CA. Every time I’m in this type of setting, it reinforces the scope of this ministry. It’s even bigger than Texas!! KO is located in 27 states and 5 countries equaling 72 communities. Culturally, we are very different yet, we are all united by one Purpose – to demonstrate God’s grace and love through Christian support for women who have been impacted by incarceration; and one Set of Goals - to provide a safe place; to offer unconditional love and acceptance in a Christian setting; to encourage the sharing of one’s life journey; to create an opportunity for a relationship with God; to foster Spiritual growth, and to promote participation in Support Groups. These are all lofty ideals which each community strives to meet.

As I visit with those from other areas in the US, the one thing that stands out to me and seems to be different from other states, is the relationship that KO communities and KI units enjoy in Texas. When I share about what we do, I’m so proud to tell of KI units helping to support a KO; of a KO representative speaking at a KI closing and on and on. Our regional concept – the conference calls, sitting at tables at the state meeting - help to encourage that relationship and it can only get stronger. So, thank you to each KI unit for realizing that by KO supporting the families of incarcerated men and women, we are truly ministering to the whole person.

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Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David 's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson . He brought the house down.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A. The area around Jordan . The banks were always overflowing.

Q. Who is the greatest baby-sitter mentioned in the Bible?

A. David He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua , son of Nun.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

PS... Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?

Yup, it's in the Bible. It says . . 'He-brews'

**LISTEN
LISTEN**

**L♥VE
L♥VE**

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Roger Harbert - Communications Chair & Technical Adviser



My name is Roger Harbert, and I was recently named as Technical Advisor and Communication Chair for KOT. My role is a new position for KOT, so we will all learn together how for me to best serve in this role. At least for now, I will be responsible for setting up the KOT sound system and projectors for the quarterly KOT meetings and offering my technical advice regarding any Audio-Visual needs for KOT, including A/V requirements for individual units.

I have been serving in Kairos for the past 6 years at the Briscoe Unit in Dilley, Tx, and was honored to be the Weekend Leader for Briscoe #9. My wife Lisa and oldest son Ryan are also dedicated Kairos volunteers. Our family loves Kairos and we know that Kairos does have a great, positive effect on the incarcerated brothers and sisters.

I would like to make sure that each KOT unit has proper Audio-Visual equipment for the weekends and other unit events. I have realized that having a good, reliable sound system is essential for the success of the weekends. If people can't easily hear what is being said, they could be missing something that could have a great impact on their life.

My goal is to get information back from each unit regarding the status of their A/V equipment. Does your unit have its own equipment, do you share equipment with other units, what condition is your equipment, etc. I will be putting together a survey within the next few weeks that I will distribute to the units so that we can put together a "needs list" for each unit.

I look forward to serving KOT in this capacity, and I welcome any suggestions or comments as I learn how best to fulfill my new role.



Praise the Lord

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org



On Jan. 26th at the Lufkin First United Methodist Church, long time church member Deneice Marshall, and Benita Bennett received several very prestigious honors from the State of Texas. The awards were being given in recognition for their work in the community and for the State of Texas.

Benita Bennett, Lufkin ISD and Deneice Marshall, Kairos Prison Ministry Volunteer and Chair of Hobby Unit Advisory Council, are great examples of my definition of a hero a.k.a. volunteer. Heroes are found in everyday life, and many exhibit qualities of fearlessness, faith, humility, inner strength, and helpfulness. My heroines are real people who want to make a small difference in the world. If needed, they are willing to serve as a committee of one. Their lives exemplify the true essence of Christian faith in action. They are willing to risk their lives to save another. Most of their work would never be considered easy; in fact, it is physically, mentally and emotionally exhausting. Although, you will seldom ever hear either of them complain. In fact, they quietly carry out the work with little to no fuss with a smile.

The ladies assist people who are struggling to deal with real life issues such as drugs, teen sex, abuse, neglect and poverty. Reaching out equally to old, young, sick, homeless and handicapped individuals in need of support. You can find them hard at work in the lowliest of places, including prisons and community gardens. Where most programs end or perhaps never go, you can see Benita and Deneice hard at work.

Both ladies are like all of us everyday people who have overcome adversity, struggled with issues such as being a single working mother, started their lives over, and dealt personally with issues like sexism and racism. They refused to let life's challenges define them and in the process became inspiring survivors of life to those around them. The participants in their programs use words to describe call them like encouraging and motivating

The State of Texas & Governor Rick Perry calls Deneice Marshall a "Yellow Rose": Women who are recognized for their significant contributions to their communities and to the state in the preservation of our history, the accomplishments of our present, and the building of our future. No surprise, Mrs. Marshall chose to share this honor with her friend at Risk Teen and Truancy Coordinator Lufkin ISD, Benita Bennett.



**Deneice
Marshall**



THE STATE OF TEXAS

*To all to whom these presents shall come
Greetings: Know ye that*

*Deneice Marshall
is hereby commissioned a
Yellow Rose of Texas*



Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.mykairos.org

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Be ye *fishers of men*. You catch them - He'll clean them.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church...

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "*fruits of the spirit*" over "religious nuts!"

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

He who angers you, controls you!

If God is your Copilot - swap seats!

Prayer: Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

The *Will of God* will never take you to where the *Grace of God* will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

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