

KAIROS

Texas

OCTOBER 2014

www.kairostexas.org

ISSUE 21



**Steve Newton
Vice Chair KOT**



Now that I have only a few days experience serving as your Vice Chair, I don't have much to report except to thank you for your confidence in electing me. (I didn't even have to set up a PAC in my wife's name.)

I do believe that no one can serve very long in any Kairos capacity without loving the ministry – one of those “God’s economy” things. I, like you, love what we do in service to Him.

I also know that herding thousands of volunteers is a challenge. Volunteers have opinions, passions and experiences like everyone else - some experiences great, some not so great. On the other hand, inherent in any large volunteer organization is the need for structure; otherwise, we have some playing by football rules, while others are counting balls and strikes.

Managing the tension between process/structure and passion/grace is not just the responsibility of KOT/Kairos leadership; everyone bears that responsibility. One thing learned in the New Start Up process that there has never been, nor do I suspect will ever be, two start ups that followed the exact same steps throughout their processes. For just about every rule, there will be an exception. Circumstances dictate when the “exception trigger” is pulled and it should be done so with thoughtful consideration. Grace is an important component of this ministry and so is process.

Thanks again for your vote. I look forward to 2015 where I will diligently serve as Jim's water boy.



Important websites:

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The Challenges of Donations for Kairos Outside



an - KO Chair

A donation for Kairos Outside (KO) is different than for KI and Torch. Because the “guests” of incarcerated loved ones do not pay to go on a weekend, the ten KO communities, under the direction of their Advisory Councils, have to maintain a checking account balance between \$6-10K per weekend. Most communities have both a fall and spring weekend.

Many KO communities are fortunate to have one or more KI communities that donate monies through the KPMI donor-to-donor program to help offset weekend expenses. They are appreciative to those KIs that do so; however, most all the KOs send a speaker to a KI closing to share with the participants the KO program designed for their female loved ones “guests” on the outside. If your KI or Torch community doesn’t know the specific KO community who will be speaking at their closing, you may contact Carole Venhaus, KO Texas Vice Chair, whose email address is kbgsnana@yahoo.com.

KO communities have some tried and tested donation opportunities like serving meals for KI team meetings for a donation, preparing and sending tea/seed letters, offering meal tickets for a donation to sponsor meals for the guests, and team members having friends underight their team fee.

More innovative and time consuming projects include but are not limited to dinner/silent auctions with entertainment at a local church fellowship hall, preparing and submitting a cookbook for publication, the “brother, can you spare a dime?” water bottle filled with dimes for \$100 per bottle, and have a member of a speaker’s bureau go to UMW, UMM, or other church and civic clubs to share the story about Kairos Outside.

For example, their budget requires the KO communities pay for line item expenses like the cost of the retreat facility that can cost between \$3,000 and upward per weekend, transportation needs for the guests, babysitting \$\$ if a guest(s) has a particular need, and rising food costs for meals and snacks.

Please consider assisting one of the ten communities in your region or offering scholarship money for a guest(s) that is related to someone in your KI or Torch community. In turn, KO can assist too by writing letters, offering cookies or other food items, and other ways possible as suggested by the KI and Torch communities. Together we can strive toward “Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, and Impacting the World”.

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Kairos Prison Ministry International Summer Conference



**SAVE THE DATE
2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
July 28 - August 1, 2015**



**American Airlines Training & Conference Center
Dolce Hotels and Resorts
4501 Highway 360 South
Ft. Worth, Texas 76155**

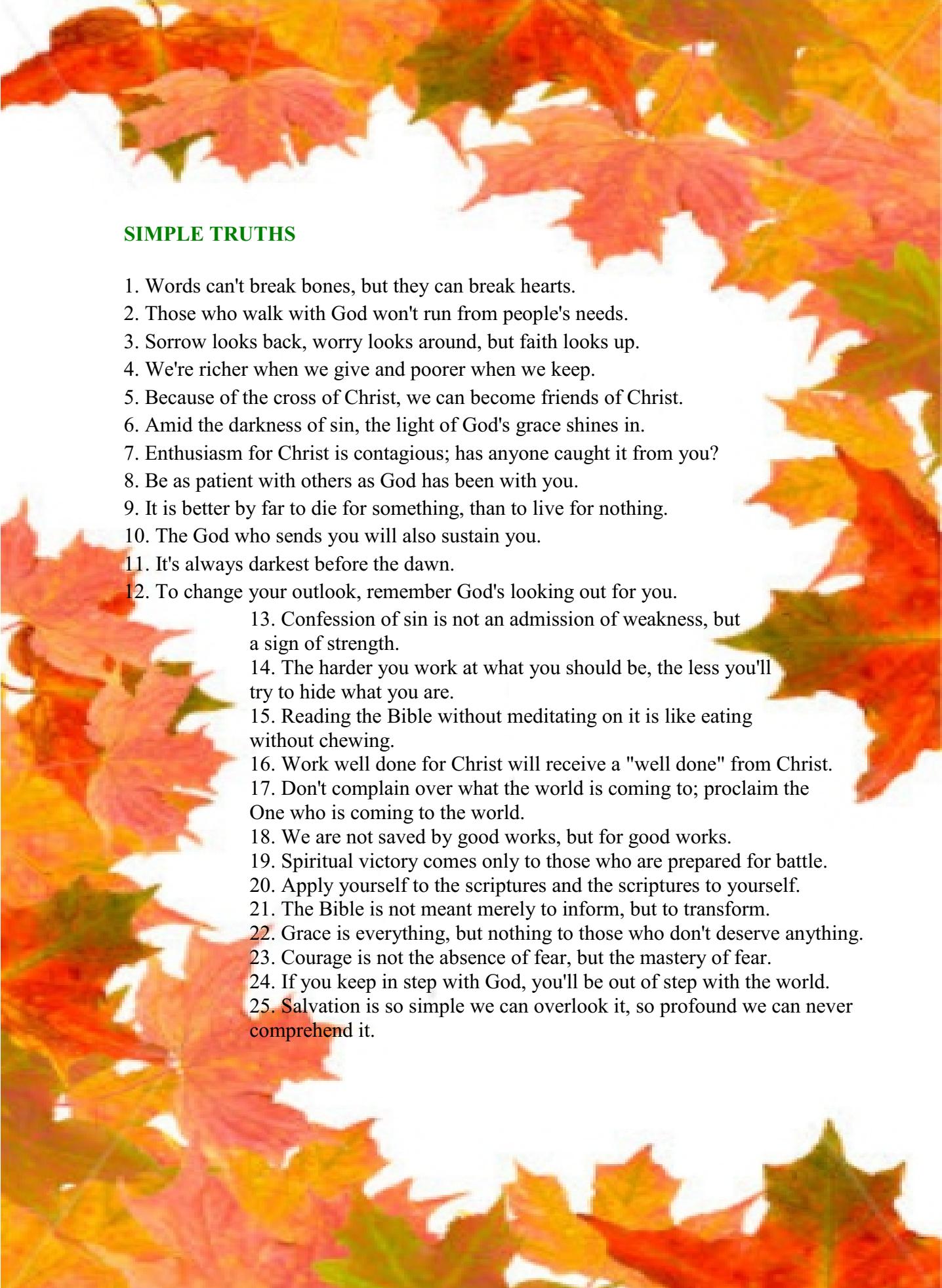
<http://www.aaconferencecenter.com>

**Conference registration form available on the
www.mykairos.org website**

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SIMPLE TRUTHS

1. Words can't break bones, but they can break hearts.
2. Those who walk with God won't run from people's needs.
3. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but faith looks up.
4. We're richer when we give and poorer when we keep.
5. Because of the cross of Christ, we can become friends of Christ.
6. Amid the darkness of sin, the light of God's grace shines in.
7. Enthusiasm for Christ is contagious; has anyone caught it from you?
8. Be as patient with others as God has been with you.
9. It is better by far to die for something, than to live for nothing.
10. The God who sends you will also sustain you.
11. It's always darkest before the dawn.
12. To change your outlook, remember God's looking out for you.
13. Confession of sin is not an admission of weakness, but a sign of strength.
14. The harder you work at what you should be, the less you'll try to hide what you are.
15. Reading the Bible without meditating on it is like eating without chewing.
16. Work well done for Christ will receive a "well done" from Christ.
17. Don't complain over what the world is coming to; proclaim the One who is coming to the world.
18. We are not saved by good works, but for good works.
19. Spiritual victory comes only to those who are prepared for battle.
20. Apply yourself to the scriptures and the scriptures to yourself.
21. The Bible is not meant merely to inform, but to transform.
22. Grace is everything, but nothing to those who don't deserve anything.
23. Courage is not the absence of fear, but the mastery of fear.
24. If you keep in step with God, you'll be out of step with the world.
25. Salvation is so simple we can overlook it, so profound we can never comprehend it.

Chuckles for the Day ...

Do You Know Your Hymns?

- Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on Promises
- Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes that I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All



The following questions and answers were seen in last year's Detroit 10th Grade School Equivalence Exam. These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds)

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight (brilliant)

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Sheik wears on his head. Once a Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head.

Q. What is a terminal illness

A. When you are sick at the airport.

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Guests Comments about a Kairos Outside Weekend

Everything was beyond my expectations. I have had such an enjoyable, fulfilling, overwhelming, heart-felt weekend.

It allowed us to be able to be comfortable with each other, to laugh, cry and bond. Open arms and love was all I felt.

Wow! I had such an amazing table family. Each individual that was at the table was orchestrated by God - so much sharing and support.

The retreat exceeded my expectations by one million. It was spiritual renewal, love, fun , and good food. I have never felt so loved and cherished. Topics were so relevant. Would have liked a little more rest time, maybe let us sleep til 6:30 or later.

I absolutely loved my table family. They are awesome and I will keep in touch with them. The talk I most related to was “Anger”. The letter we had to write helped me realize that I still have issues I need to deal with.

A bonding with my new sisters. The overwhelming love that was put into every detail for us, as guests; especially the dinner and the letter from my son. How do I get involved with Kairos?

I knew I would have religious fellowship and great food. This weekend exceeded my expectations. These have been the most beautiful souls I have ever had the pleasure to be around. They were thoughtful and supporting!

I expected to talk about and receive information about the incarceration of our family member. Instead it was about me, and loving me, and strengthening me. I'm very thankful for everything. My table family was set by God. I have a new family of sisters to love and share with all the troubles, fears, concerns, and joy. They made me feel loved and shared their issues with me.

I was worried that I wouldn't connect with the other women, but not true at all. I have enjoyed every last one of them. Everything was beautiful.

Wow! Very sweet people - loving, caring, open, honest, and non-judgemental. Truly a wonderful blessing to be a part of this.

I knew I was going to enjoy it, because I was going through a lot. I really needed this, because I left there refreshed and full of joy. Made a lot of new friends. We shared a lot of things, a lot of love, and really a lot of tears. Thank all of you for a wonderful time!!



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A Kairos Guest Remembers

The end of May I was finally able to leave the Texas Prison system after 17 years and 21 days of being incarcerated. It has been 10 years since I became a servant and son of the One true and living God! He is a just and merciful God. May His glory be forever and ever.

My sisters and brothers of Kairos, you all have been a “God-Send” in my life; and for all the time and love of Christ that you have shown me, I am truly grateful. The knowledge and wisdom that God gave to you, you freely gave. My life was a wreck and on the highway to hell, a desolate place, and a place of nothing but self destruction. Even when I went to my Kairos weekend it was still all about me - going for the food, and just being curious. On the last day, Sunday, the knock came to my door, and this time I knew who it was - Jesus! And I understood that the door would not be opened from the outside, because the man on the outside would allow us to invite Him in.

Kairos was for me like the story of the wedding in Cana where Mary came to Jesus about her concern about the bridegroom being out of wine. Jesus performed his first miracle in obedience to his mother's request. This is how I relate my experience of Kairos. It was like me going for the food and getting more than I expected. It was good, all the food. It had been 7 years since I had eaten any real food. Kairos was held the same month as my birthday, and I knew God had come to visit me in the confines of the darkest of places. It was not the place where I was physically (prison), but my inner-being. I was a mess and rotten to the core. Jesus knew it and sent in His team. Of the 1350 plus men in there He picked me. Why? Because He had a plan and a purpose all along.

So after having so much fun for three days at Kairos, Jesus again performed His miracle. Jesus allowed me to enjoy all of the blessings that the outside team sent in, but then He saved the best part for last. Truly I met my true love when I invited Jesus into my heart. My three table volunteers and I cried like big babies, and Jesus smiled, and all of heaven celebrated.

Then came trials and temptations. But God had a plan, and when I fell out - numb, weary, and helpless fighting this fight; Jesus blew the trumpet and in came the cavalry (volunteers) to bring the formula for the babes in Christ - the survival class (what great teaching), the Prayer and Share along with other classes.

Here I am today and Christ has given me the grace to keep the faith. Through the years I have tried to witness to others, one of those is my sister, who is very close to me. After several years she wrote back to me that she had given her life to Christ. She said I reminded her of Paul the apostle because I would write from prison to tell her about Jesus. Her and her daughters, and other family members have also accepted Jesus.

Volunteers, these are the direct result of your ministry and the seeds you have planted. Some will plant, some will water, and God will give the growth. My prayers are with you as you continue the fight, and when it weighs heavy on you, remember that we may be struck down but not destroyed, persecuted but not abandoned. He is faithful.

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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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Trees adorned in splendid
Hues of orange and gold
Autumn days grown shorter
North winds turning cold

Knowing creation scenes to be aware
God's promise of the seasons
Is proof that He is there

Verily creation
Invites us to recall
Now with a grateful heart
God supplied it all.





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 2014 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.



What is it like to be a Christian?

It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.

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