

KAIROS

July 2016

www.kairostatexas.org

Issue 28



KPMI Annual Conference this summer

July 26-30, 2016

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PRISON MINISTRY
at the Marriott Orlando Airport Waterside Hotel in Orlando, Florida**

Register By Phone

To register by phone, call us at (407) 629-4948. Having the [2016 Annual Conference Registration Form](#) available will be helpful and speed your registration.

Register By Mail or FAX

If you want to complete the registration form and mail your payment to Kairos, download the [2016 Annual Conference Registration Form and mail your check or money order to:](#)

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.
100 DeBary Plantation Blvd
DeBary, FL 32713

or Fax it to 407-629-2668

Unfortunately, due to the increased number of conference packages and options available, we can no longer offer electronic registrations. Thank you for your understanding.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

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Nicaragua #18 Update - John Dodds



Kitchen Angels

Inside Team

The Blessed update news from La Modela Prison Unit in Tipitopa, Nicaragua #18 was a huge spiritual success AGAIN! (Please see first Kairos report from Nicaragua in spring 2016 KOT Newsletter).

Leaders Mario and Hortensia Mendoza and David Aguilar, 11 inside team and 7 outside team members witnessed 30 more Nicaraguan men touch the heart and soul of Christ in this very poor country (2nd behind Haiti in this hemisphere). Yes, it was hot and humid, and yes rice and beans, mostly rice was the main staple. Only two meals with meat out of 9.

These dedicated worker bees for Christ still show up and bring the Love of Christ to these men and their families. Walls were broken down and HOPE WAS BORN! I gave green agape in place of flying down because of low funds. My traveling expenses round trip \$750 to \$950 help facilitate the 48 member team and participates to bring light out of darkness!!! GO GOD!

As in all of God's work, green agape is the huge stretch and leap of faith, however Mario Hortensia, David and team members carry on. Remember unemployment is around 55% in Nicaragua. Average monthly income is \$700-\$900.



Team Members

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I am aware of budget realities here in Texas with our Kairos, but the more we give the more returns to us. A yearly donation of \$500 from 20 units would fund 60 men to CHRIST or a \$1000 donation from 10 units. I challenge each of us to stretch and trust and commit. The Torres and Connally Units have made that yearly commitment!

As the Nicaragua Kairos #19 first week in December is being planned please pray for this Central American miracle to continue to give men and their families HOPE in a very unlikely place and people. Living on GOD'S faith is a way of life here!

Kairos Prison Ministry International

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Or Mario & Hortensia Mendoza 011-505-886-09882 marioreyesmendoza@hotmail.com in Spanish

Or David Aguilar 011-505-89842597.

daguilar18@yahoo.com

Team Members



Amazing Grace Sunday School Class First United Methodist Church, Arlington, Texas Spring 2016

The Amazing Grace Sunday School class is made up of boys, girls, men and women who are either mentally or physically challenged. The class has been in existence for over 25 years.

Every year, during Lent, the class sponsors a money raising project where they ask the church members to collect their pocket change and donate it. They provide a plastic cup that is taken home for the Lenten season with instructions to return them on the Easter weekend.

Participants in the class sort, count and package the change during their time together on Sunday mornings. At the conclusion of the collection period, the class members vote on how to use the money. One year they gave to the Camp for Children with Diabetes; another year, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This year they chose Kairos and donated over \$600.

This wasn't their first encounter with Kairos. These guys have always been anxious to create posters and placemats and have done so for years. Some of the most beautiful and loving posters and placemats were created by this remarkable group. Posters and placemats were made this year too, but they decided to notch it up a level.

Allred Advisory Council gives plaques to anyone donating over \$500 and this year the Amazing Grace class received theirs. Nothing could ever match the joy from seeing the smiles on the faces of these guys receiving the plaque. It will hang on the wall of their SS class. In addition to the plaque, perhaps the best thanks they received, was a handmade card from the inmates at Allred. How fortunate Kairos is to have friends like the Amazing Grace Sunday School class.



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Website Information



Driscoll Tubbs Interntl. Council Rep Communications Improvement

The Executive Director of Kairos International, Evelyn Lemly, has asked that all individual volunteers of Kairos sign up for our electronic newsletter, Kairos E-News. You can do this by going to mykairos.org.

I also encourage everyone to go to the official website of Kairos Prison Ministry International kairosprisonministry.org. There is an abundance of information about recruiting, ways to serve, our history, where we serve, Kairos Foundations, videos and testimonies and answers to just about any question you may have or who to contact for an answer. I would suggest you start at "About Us", proceeding to Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Bob Sheetz and I are reviewing the 28 Texas websites that International knows about. There is sketchy information on who is in charge of the websites including email and phone numbers for these volunteers. Many of these websites have not been updated with the elements International has requested that they add to their website. This includes the official blue Kairos logo, the Kairos mission statement and vision statement as well as links to www.mykairos.org and a link to the Kairos Facebook page

Please contact Bob or I with any information you might have to help us. Some web sites have been abandoned or not cared for (updated) and we are finding that some are being hacked. For that reason, KPMI is encouraging individual Units to connect to their state web site as a sub-page. Check with our state webmaster, David Ford (webmaster@kairostexas.org) if you are interested in doing the sub-page and he can help you with your site also.



Terrell Unit at Rosharon Texas June 2016

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I'm No Superhero - So Why do I try to be



Robin Price - Missionary in the Ukraine - Russia

I used to think of missionaries as super-spiritual, disciplined, pure of thought, and selfless...until I became one. People don't magically change into this ideal when they land on the mission field...I am still me. In fact, there's nothing like serving cross-culturally to slap you in the face with your limits. I'm actually way more like Peter Parker than Spiderman.

Occasionally I battle the idea that if I somehow reach perfection, I will be deemed worthy of love and affirmation...and, conversely, the idea that when I "fail" I am unlovable or not valuable. I know this isn't true, but the expectation sometimes finds its way into my prideful heart. I want to be stronger, purer, better.

Take, for example, my Russian language skills. It can be frustrating to be unable to fully express my thoughts. But an expectation of fluency is certainly unrealistic and can only lead to feelings of inadequacy. A simple conversation can become a painful experience, and I want to avoid it...to protect my pride. Yes, now and then, the Russian language makes me feel like a failure.

Failure can seem to follow me around like a shadow on these streets of Odessa at times. When it catches up to me, I hurt...no woman of steel here. My pride is fractured and my vanity is bruised. I am laid low and wondering why. That's when I cry out...and when God reveals to me my arrogance.

Please understand that I am not talking about my ministry as a failure...God continually blesses my Bible studies, outreach, and relationships. I am very thankful for what God has done *through* me. No, this is about what God is doing *in* me--revealing deep-seated habits of thinking about my worth...the part of me that always thinks I should be doing more. Even a successful ministry cannot satisfy the deep desire for affirmation and even admiration.

There are times when this struggle is more pronounced. I've always known loneliness to be my kryptonite, and this past winter, it was as if someone had slipped a good-sized piece into my pocket. I became discouraged and even resentful about my loneliness. I felt unappreciated, and my heart demanded to know why.

I finally asked a few friends to pray that I may be able to worship...the only thing I could think of to do. I used worship songs online, just listening until I found I could sing along. At first, I cried, mourning my losses, then I mourned the suffering of Christ for all my blessings. I finally confessed my pride and lamented my sin, and then I pled for God's kingdom to come on earth.

Repentance became my new companion and led me back to my treasure. I found my JOY and my affirmation in God's Word! I was reminded that God loves me with an unconditional love, and that I am precious and honored in His sight. No, I absolutely have not earned it. Yes, Christ absolutely did...and I am in Christ. That's it. The realization of God's complete and utter love for me conquers the fear of failure *and* the loneliness. It seems weird that a mature Christian can still struggle with understanding God's love...or is it when we mature as Christians (through testing) that we are enabled to discover depths of that love that we couldn't fathom before?

No, I'm no superhero...I actually need one, every day. The responsibilities and challenges of this life require power that I do not have. I need a Savior, and in fact, I have one...the Perfect One. Jesus!

God has designated the mission field as a battlefield--to conquer hearts, including my own. He is vanquishing pride in my life, that lurking sin that turns my eyes and thoughts inward. I'm actually, in some sense, thankful for failure. It has been a teacher to me and a fiery crucible, burning away the self-certainty that prevents my total dependence on God. My prayer is that I will keep my eyes on Jesus, my Superhero, and continually rest, even bask, in His love for me. With him, I can soar.

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (*2 Corinthians 12:10*)



The book of Acts describes the amazing story of Jesus’ work through the Holy Spirit in the early church. With an explosive start, problems were certain to surface. However, they lead the church well and model for us 9 things great Michael Unit Kairos leaders do.

And they did. In the first example of internal dissension the Apostles displayed great leadership. The church had grown so rapidly that some of the widows were being overlooked in the regular distribution of food (Acts 6.1-7). And murmuring began that potentially could fracture the church or in our case a weekend.

Great leaders...

1. **Define reality:** They assess and solve problems. What was the reality in the early church? Needs were not being met in a segment of the church (some widows) (or team members), those not best qualified (or they felt called to lead outside of their team assignment) were trying to meet the needs, and unless fixed, greater problems could result. Good leaders don’t stick their heads in the sand when they face problems. They tackle them head on and find solutions. Their solution was to reorganize and find qualified people to fix the problem. In Kairos there are new situations involving problems in the team formation and weekends that will demand your immediate attention and sometimes they often demand new structures and assignments within the ministry to solve the problems. Be proactive.

2. **Think big picture:** The apostles didn’t stay at the granular level. They didn’t say, “Maybe if we divide the bread (cookies) better and use sturdier bags we could feed all the widows (inmates) properly.” No. The murmuring caught their attention and they knew that if it continued, it would not be good for the church as a whole. It would affect the entire church, not just this group of widows, (team members) (inmates), (fill in the _____). Good Kairos leaders

must schedule time to get above the fray, take your job seriously, keep up with the timeline, think long term, the inmates have lots of time, dream the big picture, see what they could be, not who they are now and get the 10,000 foot view.

3. **Keep the main thing the main thing:** They knew what was most important, the Great Commission. The Apostles knew where they needed to leverage their time, abilities, and influence. They knew the situation required they focus on big picture items which in their case were teaching, prayer, and the overall leadership of the early church. As a result, they needed a new structure so that the main thing (the Great Commission) would not suffer. In Kairos the good intention often becomes the enemy of the best plan. Great Kairos leaders guard against the temptation to say yes to every good idea. Stick with the manual, stay a healthy distance within the riverbanks.

4. **Make tough calls:** They decided that they weren’t the best ones to feed the widows (inmates). That decision posed the risk that some said, “So it’s beneath you to do these servant jobs of the ministry? Jesus washed your feet and you’re not willing to put a plate of food before a hungry woman (inmate)?” Some of the widows (inmates) probably preferred that a true Apostle provide their food. They made the tough call, though. And tough calls are just that, tough. They aren’t easy to make, but crucial. Make sure everyone is doing their part, hold them to the assignments they are given, including you.

5. **Collaborate:** Great Kairos leaders welcome others into the decision making process and the execution of the ministry needs. They welcome input. The Apostles (AC Counsel) had the group select seven godly men (your subordinate leaders) to take on this task. Although they themselves posed the solution, they welcomed the input from the others to choose the seven. They may not be who you would have chosen to serve directly under you, for your “dream team” but they are the ones for this “special time”, get to know them, love them, use them and respect their values and opinions.

6. **Set healthy standards:** The Apostles set the parameters for the solution: the number of people (seven), the roles (handling the food and cookie distribution, the chapel times, the prayer times, the candidate selection, the internal struggles with the admin and security), and the qualifications (our men are full of the Spirit and wisdom). Our Kairos teams need to operate by a set of team values. Let’s call these the Permission to Play Values.

Continued on page 8

The Touch of the Masters Hand

'Twas battered and scarred,
And the auctioneer thought it
hardly worth his while
To waste his time on the old violin,
but he held it up with a smile.

"What am I bid, good people", he cried,
"Who starts the bidding for me?"
"One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?"
"Two dollars, who makes it three?"
"Three dollars once, three dollars twice,
going for three,"

But, No,
From the room far back a gray bearded man
Came forward and picked up the bow,
Then wiping the dust from the old violin
And tightening up the strings,
He played a melody, pure and sweet
As sweet as the angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said "What now am I bid for this old
violin?"
As he held it aloft with its' bow.



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"One thousand, one thousand, Do I hear
two?"
"Two thousand, Who makes it three?"
"Three thousand once, three thousand twice,
Going and gone", said he.

The audience cheered,
But some of them cried,
"We just don't understand."
"What changed its' worth?"
Swift came the reply.
"The Touch of the Masters Hand."

"And many a man with life out of tune
All battered and bruised with hardship
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd
Much like that old violin

A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,
A game and he travels on.
He is going once, he is going twice,
He is going and almost gone.

But the Master comes,
And the foolish crowd never can quite
understand,
The worth of a soul and the change that is
wrought
By the Touch of the Masters' Hand.

GOD is
SO GOOD!



Continued from page 5 (Tom Perdue)

The Glue that Makes Great Kairos Teams Greater: Kairos Team Permission to Play Values

Every great weekend shares common values unique to them. Kairos team members know and breathe their values, their shared assumptions about how they do things. Yet one of the first things you should share should be these 10 core values for your team to embrace. I'll call them our 'permission to play' values. In other words, if you want to play in our sandbox, (Kairos) here's how we play. You may already have a great set of values that work for you, but if you don't, this list I've developed over the past several years might provide a starting point for yours. Both Bill Hybel's and Rick Warren's lists have influenced mine. Here they are.

We value:

1. **Integrity.** Isaiah 32.8; But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.
2. **Keep a positive, coachable attitude.** Philippians 4.8; Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.
3. **Volunteers.** We work for them, the team; they don't work for us, be willing to serve your best effort for the team and the ministry.
4. **Body, soul, and spirit care.** Luke 2.52; And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. Take care of your physical and spiritual needs; we need you at your best.
5. **Simplicity.** Simple is best. Keep to the program, it has worked for years without your changes to make "it the best weekend ever", that is God's job not ours. Follow the. Kairos Prison Ministry International manual. KISS
6. **Authenticity.** We are in private what people see in public. The inmates and even the team will see you for who you are when the going gets tough or when it is running smoothly be the man God has designed you to be. Authenticity means that you are in private what people see in public.
7. **Teamwork and trust.** We keep short accounts with each other and subordinate our personal agendas to the weekend's agenda. We've all been there and done that, seen the little things blow up into massive problems (that usually don't really matter). Don't let things get out of hand you are the LEADER.

8. **Continual growth and learning.** Welcome constructive feedback. There is usually years of wisdom and service on each team. We have really all been there and done that. But it is still your weekend to lead. You are the LEADER.

9. **A healthy work ethic.** We work hard and have fun. These weekends are lots of work, but oh the reward and fun they can be also.

10. **Taking bold faith steps.** We aren't afraid to fail, God is on our side. But we also need to give our best effort as a TEAM.

7. **Delegate:** After they selected the seven, they delegated this pastoral responsibility to them. Good team leaders share ministry. Good team leaders don't try to do it all themselves. And good team leaders don't feel threatened when someone else can do a task better than they. It's a temptation for a team leader to think, "If it's going to get done right I'm going to have to do it myself." That attitude stifles leadership effectiveness. Use the soldiers God has put you in charge of.

8. **Trust other people:** This relates to delegation. How did the Apostles show trust? They gave the ministry away. They trusted that this group of seven would do the right thing. When leaders trust they build others up and give others opportunities to grow. And when you trust, you won't micromanage. Give your assignments out, teach well and let them do their jobs.

9. **Discover, develop, and deploy other leaders:** This basically sums up this entire biblical scenario. They guided the people to discover seven qualified people, they handed off the ministry and developed the seven by bringing them up to speed, and they deployed them. The mark of a good leader is reflected in how many he deploys into this ministry, the team members that stay, the team members that grow and of course the inmates that remain in the community at the Michael unit and whose lives are forever changed by your service.

So, the Apostles set a stellar example of great leadership as they helped solve the first internal problem the early church faced. The same problems we experience today every time we have one of these weekends. The challenges and problems you'll face are not new to this ministry or the weekend, we have all experienced them as Kairos volunteers, but then again this weekend will be like none before it is yours to lead, God has chosen you for this time.



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In Loving Memory

During the Kairos Prison Ministry Annual Summer conference July 26-30, 2016 at Orlando, Fla. there will be a Memorial Service for all those Kairos Volunteers who have gone to be with God in the past year. We are now gathering those names so they can be remembered and a candle lit for each one. If you know of anyone please send the info to Bettye Keefer at ewkeefe@yahoo.com along with their next-of-kin so that I can send them a memorial card.

Thanks, Bettye



Praise the Lord

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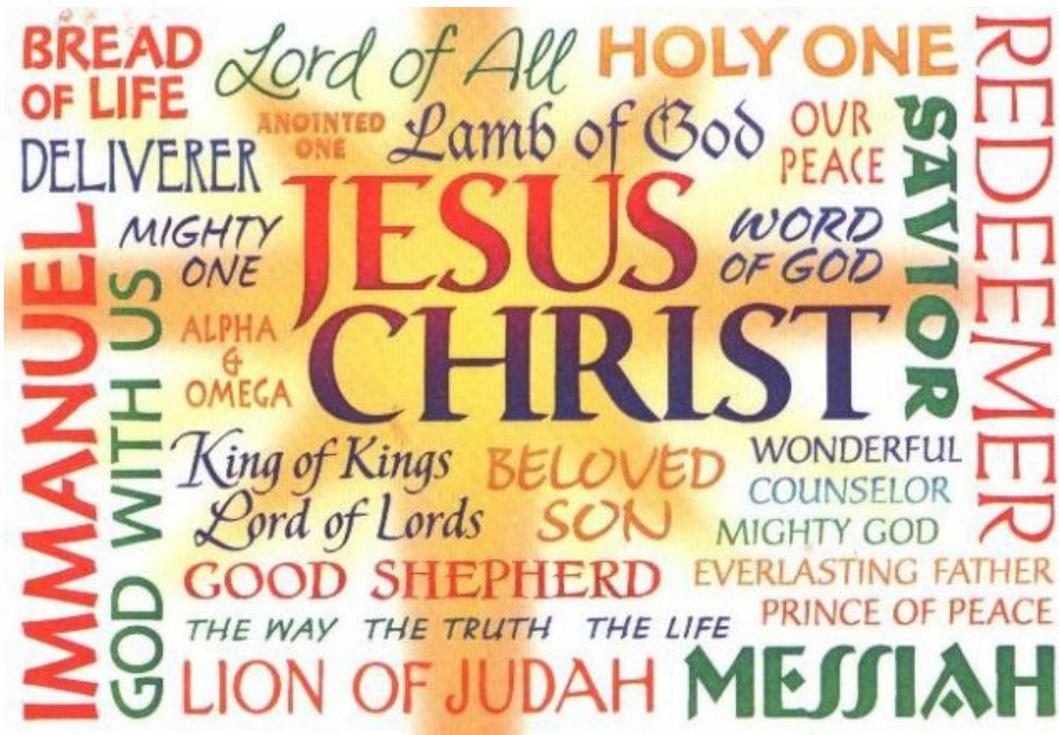


Be sure to visit our website at www.kairostexas.org. We have a new webmaster, David Ford. The schedule and location for State Board meetings for 2016 are included here. We have a calendar showing when all the weekends will be held. Check your weekend - we depend on you to keep them updated.

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 there. 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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