

# KAIROS

April 2017

[www.kairostexas.org](http://www.kairostexas.org)

Issue 31



**Steve Newton  
Chair KOT**

## Points to Ponder

In the middle of February, I began sending a series of comments called Points to Ponder. They were designed to communicating best practices whether it be about Training, Advisory Councils, or Financial activities. Almost all were issued with the notion of recommendations or something for your group to think about.

Remember, the theme for Kairos of Texas – “TRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE.” The purpose of these recommendations are to move us closer to “THRIVE.”

In this issue of the Kairos of Texas Newsletter, I will summarize the main points. If you want detail discussions or to view the original, please find them on the Kairos of Texas website.

## Kairos Training

1. Lots of Kairos training happening around the state – Advisory Council Training (ACT), Advance Kairos Training (AKT), Financial Training and Outreach/Recruiting Training. Please made a concerted effort to take advantage of these training opportunities.

Nothing promotes “Thrive versus Survive” more than good training. Don’t forget, sometimes it is the veterans who need a refresher too. Consider

it a “red flag” when a veteran says; “I don’t need training, I’ve done that before.”

## Advisory Councils

1. Please encourage as many from your AC to attend this year’s Kairos Annual Conference in Atlanta. The application is on the MyKairos.org and should be sent to John Osborne. KOT is paying your fees for the conference.
2. Institutional Memorandum, aka: Memo of Understanding – When a new warden shows up at your unit, please ask him/her to sign the MOU. Even if the warden comes from a unit with an active Kairos, it is important that you work with them seeking their signature. Please download the Institutional Memorandum from the KOT website, not the MyKairos.org website.
3. Affiliation Agreements – Please get those signed by the members of your 2017 Ad Council and return them to Joy Drady, the KOT Secretary. As a group, we are not “thriving”. (Only 1/3 of the AC’s have turned them in.)
4. Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – Please send a copy of them to Ray Sims and Steve Newton within a week or so of your meeting date. Also, best practices indicate that the minutes should be distributed to your full Kairos community, not just the AC.
5. Certification of Liability Insurance – When a facility requires that your team provide a Certificate of Liability, KPMI provides that coverage. Contact Jan at KPMI. She will send you the Certificate for you to give to the facility.

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## Kairos of Texas Receives Prestigious Governor's Award - April 6, 2017



L to R - Back row: John Osborne, Hon. Dale Wainwright, Hon. Sharon Keller, Steve Newton (Chair- KOT), Brian Collier, Chuck Deweese, Jerry Maxwell  
Front row: Ed Keefer (Past Chair), Kris Deweese, Linda Newton, Marl Maxwell  
Inset is picture of award.

On April 6, 2017, the Texas Board of Criminal Justice presented to Kairos of Texas the prestigious Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award. This is truly an honor and the true recipients of this award are the thousands of volunteers around the state doing the work we are all called to do – "visit a prisoner..."

In the summer of 2016, the Darrington Advisory Council was asked by the chaplain to submit a request to be considered for the award. They did a fantastic job identifying the specific contributions the volunteers make at Darrington. The impact on the unit is profound. When the application was considered by the state, the scope was expanded to Kairos of Texas.

The Governor's Award was given to Kairos of Texas in 2009 to Ed Keefer who was the Kairos of Texas Chair. This award is now on display at the International Office. It was in recognition of the impact the Kairos program had on prisons around the state from 1985 – 2009.

This is indeed a special honor for Kairos of Texas and all of Kairos around the world. We all know that it isn't an award we covet but are certainly humbled to be one of this year's recipients. Please pass this around to not only your Advisory Council members but to your full Kairos community. They are the ones that earned this award.

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I was blessed to be one of the ladies chosen to attend the KOCT weekend # 6; and as I can say the word BLESSED now I didn't see it that way at the time. You see my husband had attended KI and sent in my application without my permission and, needless to say, I was not happy about it. After weeks of arguing I had finally decided to go but I was only going to shut him up and I was dead set on not saying a word to Anyone; You see as a person who has dealt with pretty much every type of abuse there is I had been left very jaded. My life experiences and painful situations also left me very angry.

I was angry with myself, with others and with God. I had spent so many years using that anger to give me strength to overcome I had built layers and layers of walls around my heart I felt unloved and unworthy of love. I was drowning in anger, self-pity and insecurities and was completely blind to how it was affecting my marriage and my children and sure that after everything I had done in my life I could never be loved or forgiven by God. However, the moment I drove up onto the property I could feel this sense of calm flow over me. Which allowed me to relax and just be open to what the weekend had in store; from the moment I walked up I was greeted with smiles and waited on the entire weekend, Each talk touched me in some sort of aspect of my life and the walls that I had been building all my life to protect myself began to crumble.

I started to open up like never before and cry oh my goodness did I cry it was so amazing. I left that weekend so full of love and so confident that no matter what rejection or pain I had ever felt that if no one in my life ever truly loved me that it was ok because GOD LOVES ME. He was there in my darkest moments and he will be there in my brightest. After that weekend, I began to change my life for the better; I have become a woman of faith and a better mother to my children and a better wife

for my husband. Before I left that weekend I made sure to turn in my application to volunteer for the next KOCT weekend. Now I still have issues with my anger, but because of that weekend I make better choices when angry.

I know that it is not God who is sending me the storms of my life, but he who will guide me through them and as long as I continue to have faith I know that God loves and invites us all home regardless of our faults just as it says in Luke 15:3-7 The Parable of the Lost Sheep:

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

You see that weekend I was found and brought home to my Father Our Lord and Savior. I am pleased to say that my family now chooses to place Christ at the center of our family and uses him as the foundation for our lives. And since then I was blessed to have worked the KOCT weekend retreat #7 and chosen to give the anger talk; what a Blessing let me just say the JOY and LOVE I felt on my weekend was outdone ten times over because I was able to give the women of that retreat the same love and support I had received. I have truly found where God has planned for me to serve his children and it is through KAIROS OUTSIDE CENTRAL TEXAS.



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# Save the Date

Kairos 2017 Annual Conference

July 25—29, 2017

Wyndham Peachtree Conferencing Center and Hotel  
Peachtree City, Georgia



## Anger is Love That Bleeds When You Cut It - Barbara Brooks-Shirley



**Minister  
Barbara  
Brooks-Shirley**



When evil is allowed to dwell among us  
And redirect our daily routine,  
When innocence's verdict is guilty  
To the point of low self-esteem.

I gave no permission for the sexual abuse  
Or to have my world turned inside out.  
Or did I? What did I say? How did I act?  
My current emotions are bleeding doubt.

I'm hurt, betrayed, sad and ashamed!  
Oh, God where do I go from here?  
Yesterday my world seemed stable.  
Today my mentality is fear.

Omnipresent God – Where are you now?  
As anger runs through my veins -  
Surely You see my love bleeding,  
Why can't You stop the pain?

I know that trust is a prerequisite for receiving.  
But Lord, my heart, mind and spirit is divided.  
Please don't touch – I feel unworthy, unclean,  
When I'm challenged I cannot hide it.

All I feel now is betrayal.  
Because a demon has slashed my core.  
God, You said vengeance is mine,  
And my faith you will restore.

I remember the sacrifice You made for us.  
And how You held steadfast through it  
And yes, Your story is written on my heart.  
I need Your strength, Your courage to endure it.

Anger is what love bleeds when you cut it!  
You showed no anger on the cross.  
You died and bleed for my sake.  
How dare I be among the lost.

I know Dear Lord, You are my refuge.  
And Jehovah Rapha can heal anything.  
As I draw near, so will you.  
I must not forget who's King!

The time is now to walk in peace.  
No longer a victim to human's danger.  
I am victorious. No more guilt or shame.  
No longer bleeding anger.

### Cotinued from page 1 - Newton

#### Financial Policies and Practices 2017

1. Kairos is no longer a “mom and pop” operation where every Ad Council ran their own financial program based on “traditions”. Kairos has grown into a sophisticated and complicated volunteer organization.
2. “Riverbanks” and latitudes still exist. The local Kairos volunteers have a voice in how to operate the ministry in almost every facet of the programs.
3. The exception is how the AC and the state account for donations and expenses. It is vitally important that not just your Financial Secretary and Treasure understand, but that every member of the AC read and comprehend the Financial Policies and Practices.
4. Travel Expenses – IRS allows KOT to reimburse your travel expenses at a rate of \$.40 cents per mile. The warning is that if the sum of your yearly reimbursements exceeds \$600, KPMI is obligated to send you a Form 1099 declaring the full amount as income.
  - a. It will be up to you to deduct the number of miles at \$.14 to reduce that amount from the income stated on the 1099.
5. On-Line Donations – Would it be helpful when raising funds to offer the option of allowing someone to make their donation on line via Pay Pal? That facility now exists. Some of the Ad Council web sites now display a link that takes them to the Pay Pal account on the KOT website. The donor indicates which Ad Council/Unit they are directing the donation.
  - a. If you want to be included, contact David Ford, KOT Website Development Sub Committee Chair



## Sara Garcia - Son Mark

The thing Sara Garcia remembers from the day her son, Mark, got out of prison was the hug — the very, very awkward hug. He had just turned 21 and for the past two and a half years, he'd been in solitary confinement.

"He's not used to anyone touching him," Garcia says. "So he's not used to hugs. And I mean we grabbed him. I mean, we hugged him. When he came home I finally give him a hug and a kiss on the cheek."

Mark, who was released directly from solitary confinement into his mother's arms, is one of tens of thousands of inmates that NPR and The Marshall Project — a journalism group that focuses on the criminal justice system — found as part of a state-by-state survey. We wanted to know: How many people are released directly from solitary confinement to the streets?

This story was reported in partnership between NPR News Investigations and The Marshall Project, a nonprofit news organization that covers the U.S. criminal justice system.

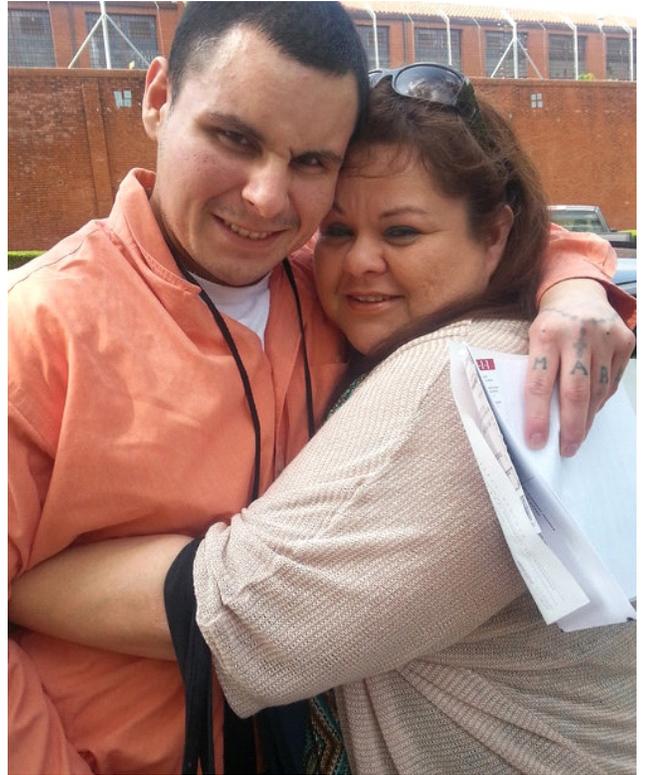
There were at least 10,000 in 2014. That's from information provided by just 24 states. The other 26 states — as well as the federal prison system — say they don't count, or couldn't provide, numbers.

Often, inmates in solitary confinement serve all or most of their sentence. So, when they are released, they don't get parole services to help with re-entry that's offered to most ex-prisoners.

Mental health experts and researchers say that long stays in solitary confinement often emotionally damage people, both teens and adults, and can create lifelong mental illness. When those prisoners come home, they often struggle to get along with people, including the family members they depend upon most.

Prison officials say they need solitary confinement to control the most violent prisoners. In Texas, for example, it's used often to break up prison gangs.

Garcia's son went to a Texas prison for robbing a store with a gun. At the time, he was 14. She says that her son was manipulated by some older men; prosecutors say he acted alone.



Mark was moved to an adult prison. When his mother came to visit, he told her that he was afraid of the older inmates.

"It didn't help because at that time he was on medication," she says. "He goes, 'I'm sleepy.' He goes, 'I'm out of it because of the medication.' He goes, 'And I need to be alert.' So he decided to quit taking medication."

The other inmates called him "Crazy Boy."

Mark was put in solitary after he said he wanted to escape from prison. Solitary is the place where vulnerable prisoners, like teens, often end up. Officials say that it's for their protection.

Hospital records show state doctors diagnosed him with an intellectual disability. The doctors called it "mild mental retardation," plus schizoaffective disorder — a condition that includes the wild mood swings of bipolar disorder and the psychosis of schizophrenia.

That diagnosis came before he was put into solitary, where he spent 23 hours a day alone in his cell. He was allowed an hour, which he almost never took, to exercise in a kind of long cell, like a dog run.

Garcia - Continued on page 8

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**Ed Elliott**

Many years ago, I read a news story about a young girl who had been kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and brutally attacked. Her hands and feet had been cut off and she was left for dead. Miraculously, she survived and the man was caught and sent to prison for his horrific crime.

Eighteen years later, this man was being paroled and the news media got wind of it and thought this would make a great human interest story. They tracked down the girl, who was now a married woman with children of her own. With cameras running, they approach her front door and when she answered they delivered the news that the man who had kidnapped and brutalized her was going to be set free! The cameras quickly zoomed in on her face expecting to see a burst of emotional outrage

and anger at hearing that this monster was going free. Instead, she calmly said, "eighteen years ago, this man took thirty minutes of my life and I have decided not to give him one second more."

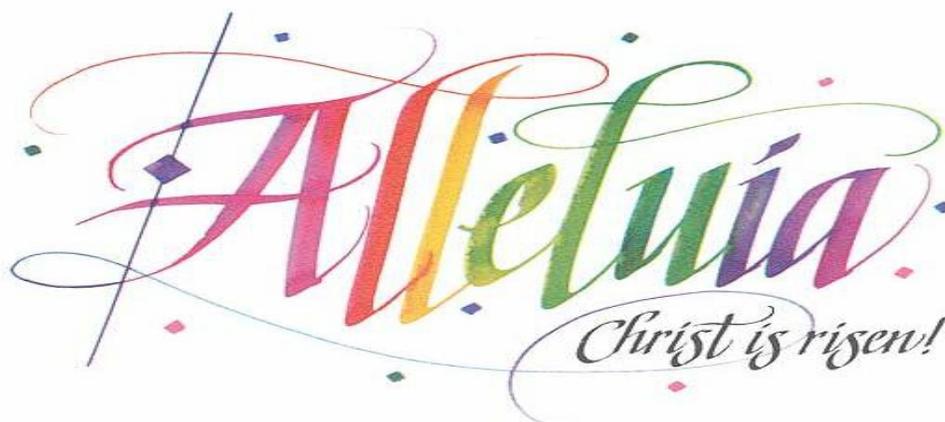
This lady was a believer in Jesus and she made the decision to forgive the man who had maimed and violated her so terribly. If she hadn't forgiven him, she too would have been in prison; a different kind but nonetheless, a prison.

Someone once said, "**Harboring unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping your enemy will die!**" Unforgiveness poisons anyone who holds it, causing them to become bitter and it is impossible to be bitter and get better at the same time!

Jesus said in Luke 4:18, that **He came to heal the broken hearted**. He still does that today because He hasn't changed. The love every believer possesses today is the very same love that forgave the entire world at the cross. God would never ask us to forgive if He hadn't equipped us with the ability to do so. This same love can heal your broken heart and enable you to forgive the one who broke it.

Living in God's forgiveness is freedom; knowing how to forgive is freeing.

*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32*



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He had difficulty reading, and it was hard for him to write letters. In solitary, he could no longer use a telephone to call home. In his small cell, he had no television, only a radio. He paced back and forth, talking to himself for hours. He hallucinated. He cut himself. At Christmas, he drew the outline of a Christmas tree on his mattress.

Garcia says that her son, alone with just his thoughts, got more and more angry. "I believe, when he was confined, his anger grew," his mother says. "That's all he would live off, were his thoughts."

And it showed on the day of that reunion. "He looked at us weird with that frown, that anger," she says. The picture on her cellphone shows a muscular man. He looks scared and on guard, with his head held back, his eyes narrow, his mouth twisted in a frown.

Like most inmates leaving solitary in Texas, Mark didn't receive any supervision from parole officers.

So, when he came home, his mother became his case manager. She found the psychiatrist. She found the job leads. She wrote out the applications for food stamps and disability income. Garcia already had two jobs. She worked during the day as a data manager for the school system in Austin, then nights as a receptionist at a pediatric clinic.

Still, she had no idea that time was already running out for Mark. "He needed a lot of healing. And I knew it wasn't going to happen overnight. I knew it wasn't going to happen in six months — and didn't realize that he was going downhill quick," she says.

Officials from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, in a statement, noted that they've started new alternatives to segregation for a limited number of inmates, including those with mental illness. And that the number of prisoners in solitary has been going down. There were 9,500 prisoners in administrative segregation in 2006, and 6,500 in 2014.

The survey by The Marshall Project and NPR also found that, in Texas, when inmates are released directly from solitary confinement, 63 percent come home with no supervision, as opposed to just 14 percent of those who come home from the general prison population.

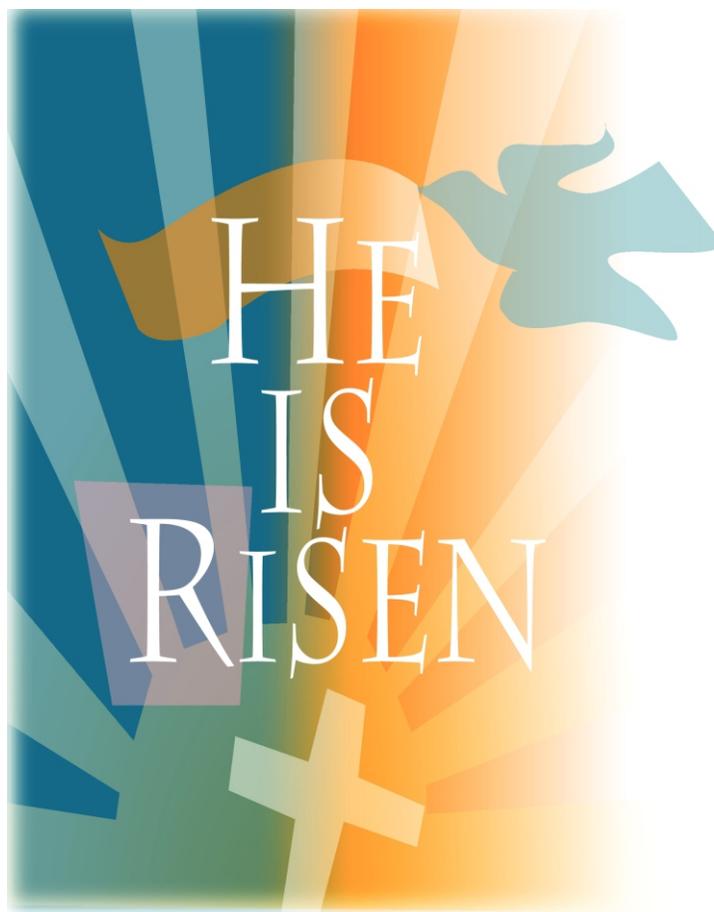
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Mark was home for 4 months, prior to his arrest in November, I went on a KAIROS Outside Retreat in Belton and this experience changed my life. I want to share my story because my son now is back in for 15 years. He's been incarcerated since the age of 16 and is now 23. I met my husband who was incarcerated for 16 years while he was on the inside. We both went to a KAIROS a week apart and we both are now a huge part of the KAIROS MINISTRY and happily married for 2 years. My son has not had the opportunity to attend a KAIROS and is now back in SOLITARY in the Connally Unit.

My husband participates in the Torres Unit Prayer and Share, and volunteers when there is an opportunity. I thank God for this opportunity. I now participate in the Kairos Outside Central Texas As a volunteer and serve on the Advisory Council.



## KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

Chair - Steve Newton  
Vice Chair - Ray Sims  
Secretary - Joy Drady  
Financial Secretary - John Osborne  
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International Rep - Rhonne Gary  
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KO State Secretary - Michelle Edwards  
Torch - Chapter Chair - Bill Salser  
KPMI Foundation Vice Chair - Mike Springer  
TDCJ Dir. of Chap. Opr - Vance Drum  
TDCJ Asst. Dir. Chap. Opr. - Michael Rutledge  
TDCJ Dir. of Vol. Srvs. - Clint Morris



### Committee Chairs:

AC Coordination Chair - Ray Sims  
Agape - C.J. Salzman  
Audio Video - Roger Harbert  
Clergy Coord. - Rick Hope  
E.I. Coordinator - Dolores Amador  
Food Control - Dale Whitzel  
Food Server KOT - Don Wineinger  
Fund Raising/Sponsorship - Jim Lodovic  
Music Committee - Scott Van Pelt  
Newsletter Coord - Bettye Keefer  
New Starts Committee - Ray Sims  
Outreach Chair - Dickson de la Haye  
Registrar - Julie Cole  
State Training (AKT) - Mike Stumbaugh  
Trailer Coord - Dan Martin  
Website Coord. - David Ford



*In Loving Memory*

**During the Kairos Prison Ministry Annual Summer Conference July 25-29, 2017 in Peachtree, Georgia, there will be a Memorial Service for all those Kairos Volunteers who have gone to be with God during the past year. We are now gathering those names so they can be remembered and a candle lit for each one as their name is called. If you know of anyone please send the info to: Bettye Keefer at [ewkeefe@yahoo.com](mailto:ewkeefe@yahoo.com), along with their next-of-kin so that I can send them a memorial card**

**Easter**  
**Blessings**  
**Alleluia!**  
**Christ is Risen!**  
**The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!!**

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Be sure to visit our website at [www.kairostexas.org](http://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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