

KAIROS OF TEXAS

ISSUE 3

www.kairossoftexas.org

MAY 2010

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL 2010 Summer Conference by Chuck Roach



The Texas Conference Team is busy preparing for this years' 2010 Prison Ministry International Conference. The event is scheduled for July 27th - Aug. 1st. Once again we have been blessed to have the conference at Trinity University. The University is an outstanding liberal arts college located in the heart of San Antonio, only minutes from the San Antonio International Airport and the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. If you have not been to the river walk recently, you will be surprised by the addition to the river walk. I would recommend taking a river barge as it's a long walk from one end to the other. If this will be your first time to visit San Antonio, you are in for a treat. The website has links to many other interesting parks for families to enjoy.

It is our hope that the conference will have a similar effect on your mind. We are working hard to offer a top-flight conference with experienced speakers that will help each of us advance the Kingdom of God within the respective prisons we serve. The music team is working hard to find a musician to facilitate worship during daily devotions, which is always a special time. Friday night we are looking forward to a banquet with special music and our guest speaker, Rev. Jim Capps, who served on Kairos teams in Belfast, Ireland. On Saturday night, Mississippi Kairos will share a special cantata with us. I believe you will find it unique in content and presentation.

As the team prepares for the conference I would ask for your prayers for guidance, and that at the end of the day our Lord Jesus will be glorified by our efforts. My prayer is that you will join this international group for worship and fellowship. Registration is available on the website.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairossoftexas.org

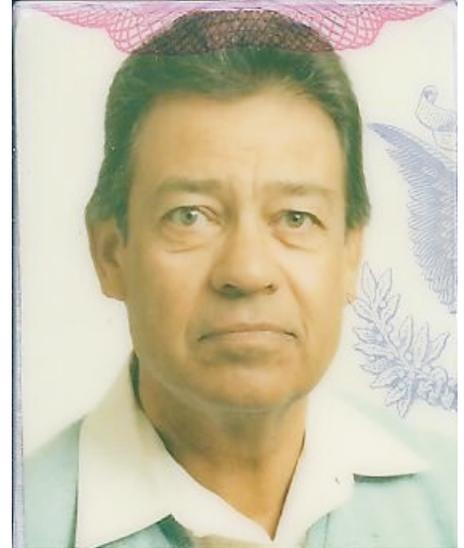
KPMI Summer Conference: www.kpmi2010conf.com

KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org

*You can't hide from God
He knows everything*



FROM THE STATE CHAIR



by Louis Esquivel,
State Chair

A lot of activity is happening for Kairos of Texas. Top of the list, KOT is hosting the International Summer Conference at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, July 27 thru Aug.1, 2010. We are inviting all Kairos volunteers. If you have never attended a Kairos Conference, you need to come! The Conferences are very informative. There are different packages at different prices. This is exciting stuff. To learn more, go to www.kpmi2010conf.org. Don't forget to scroll all the way down the page.

We are very pleased that a lot of reports are being sent in. In reading the Leaders report, we are excited to see where a number of new volunteers are joining teams. The Master List is also being updated, and our attendance to the State Meeting was amazing! We are doing great. I know we are not there yet, but a lot of progress is being made and we are off to a very good start.

KPMI has adopted guidelines that must be complied with all by all local Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside and Torch ACs. The leadership of KPMI and KOT has a desire to see the ministry continue to grow. The goal is to double the number of volunteers in the next ten years. In this effort recruitment is very important. It is our hope to see that all Advisory Councils conduct the ministry in accordance with the published policies of KPMI and KOT.

At our last state meeting we received a lot of information concerning the Advisory Councils. Meetings are to be held quarterly and the community needs to be invited. It is hoped that the councils will meet more often and have an agenda. Remember to send your minutes to the state vice chair. It is also the Advisory Council's responsibility to have depth in the Weekend Leaders, Weekend dates set and confirmed, Leader Spiritual Resumes completed and submitted, trailer insurance on file, an Observer secured to attend, the training of Volunteers obtained through TDCJ, AND MUCH MORE. WE NEED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE. READ THE BLUE MANUAL!

Whenever there is a non-compliance issue at the Texas level it is KOT leadership's responsibility to ensure the Unit leaders are aware of the non-compliance. The desire of KOT State Chapter Leadership is to help the AC in its efforts to be obedient to the ministry guidelines. In the event the AC leadership remains non-compliant and non-responsive, the State Chapter must step in with serious efforts that could include postponing or terminating the next weekend event. The great desire of the State Chapter is to assist the AC in its efforts to properly conduct the ministry according to the guidelines established by KPMI.

All information from the State Meeting is available from your State Representative. It is very important that your Unit State Representative attend all State Meetings or send a representative in their absence. The duty of the State Representative is to bring Unit questions to the State and to take information from the State back to the Unit Advisory Council. The State Representative serves as the voting voice of the AC Council. All measures that are brought to the State Leadership are placed to a vote. Without your Representative present, your voice cannot be heard.



by Ed Keefer, Past Chair

We are a worldwide community of volunteers, with differing talents, resources, experiences; but a common community goal, to minister to those incarcerated men and women, youth, their loved ones, and by default, the institution staff, and each other.

I've traveled a lot across this great state. It would be super if we as a Kairos community could have the same motto as Happy, Texas - "the town without a frown," but realistically we're more like Stanton, Texas - "home to 3000 friendly people and a few old soreheads." We number about 3000 volunteers, most of whom want the best for each other. But, part of my reflection these past several weeks is that we have to spend so much of our time communicating what is wrong, that we lose sight of the 3000 friendly people. I would like to express my appreciation for the vast majority that "keep on keepin' on" in this ministry. You don't claim ownership, you welcome new folks into your midst, you

step aside to let others share just as others stepped aside for you. You're willing to seek the council of others, both in your local Kairos community, but also reach out to the larger Kairos community. You share yourselves and your resources with others gladly. In short, you believe in and try to live the life that we take to those we minister to, in and out of the prisons. Response, not reaction, obedience, forgiveness are not left on the inside, but rather are indistinguishable to those observing you. In the vernacular, you "talk the talk and walk the walk."

Our pastor shared the following with us on a recent Sunday that seemed so appropriate in describing my life. Maybe it fits your life or the life of the local Kairos community.

Life in Five Short Chapters

CHAPTER 1

I walk down the street. There's a deep hole in the sidewalk. And I fall in.

I am lost. I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out.

CHAPTER 2

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again.

I can't believe I am in the same place. But it isn't my fault. It takes a long time to get out.

CHAPTER 3

I walk down the same street and there is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it there, and still I fall in.

It's a habit. But my eyes are open and I know where I am. It is my fault and I get out immediately.

CHAPTER 4

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

CHAPTER 5

I walk down a different street.

By Portia Nelson

We can all walk down a different street accompanied by our Kairos families if we recognize where the "holes" are and that we're not alone in trying to get out. We have the power of prayer, the Holy Spirit, the promises of scripture that allow us to focus on the most precious gift that God could give, His Son. His commandments are really very few, but are so difficult to practice all the time. Love, forgiveness, obedience, and going forth are the things that are asked of each of us. Whether in our home, our workplace, school, church, or Kairos community we are reminded that Christ is among us and that the next person we meet might have an opportunity to see Christ through us.



KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

Chair - Louis Esquivel
Past Chair - Ed Keefer
Vice Chair - Bill Salser
Secretary - Audrey Rivera
Financial Secretary - Bob Cole
Treasurer - Becky Fisher
International Rep - John Kennell
International Rep - Ed Davis
International Rep - Julie Cole
International Rep - David Ross
International Rep at large -
 Larry "Buck" Rogers
KO Chair - Willa Bellard
KO Chair Elect - Julie Cole
KO Secretary - Shirley Shead
KO International Rep - Kim Roubison
TDCJ Chaplaincy Liason - Bill Pierce
Torch - Dean Cooke

Committee Chairs:

Agape - Jaime Gonzales
Advisory Council - Bill Salser
Communication - Audrey Rivera
Data Collection - Pat Searcy
Financial Committee - Bob Cole
Food Control - Glenda Robinson
Fund Raising & Sponsorship -
 Mike Fisher
International Committee - Ken Sellers
Music Committee - Dale Mayer
New Starts Committee - David Savage
Newsletter - Bettye Keefer
Observer Program Coordinator -
 Stephen Searcy
Outreach Chair - Michael Hill
Program & AC Compliance -
 Joe Nance & Jim Irwin
Registrar - Julie Cole
Summer Conference - Chuck Roach
AKT Training - Mike Stumbaugh
Asset & Trailer - Robert Robinson
Clergy - Tom Damrow
Website Coordinator - Bettye Keefer



ONLY A TEXAN

Only a Texan can show or point out to you the general direction of "yonder."

Only a Texan knows exactly how long "directly" is, as in: "Going to town, be back directly."

Only a Texan grows up knowing the difference between "right near" and "a right far piece."

Only a Texan, both knows and understands, the difference between a redneck and a good ol' boy.

Only a Texan knows that "fixin" can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adverb.

Only in Texas, y'all is singular, all y'all is plural.

TEXAS REDNECKS

You might be a redneck if:

It never occurred to you to be offended by the phrase, "One nation, under God."

You've never protested about seeing the Ten Commandments posted in public places.

You bow your head when someone prays.

You stand and place your hand over your heart when the National Anthem is played.

You treat our armed forces veterans with great respect, and always have.

**2010 Advanced
Kairos Inside Training**

June 25 – 27, 2010 HUNTSVILLE, TX

Kairos Inside and Outside

Location: Criminal Justice Center of Sam Houston State University. Housing in Hotel operated by Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

Cost: \$245.00 for single (limited number available). \$215.00 for double (each). \$155.00 for commuters. Fee includes two nights lodging (Friday and Saturday), all training materials and the following meals: Sandwiches Friday evening, Saturday breakfast, lunch and supper and Sunday breakfast.

Contact: Mike Stumbaugh, mstumbaugh@sbcglobal.net or 817-860-3500 (home) or 817-247-5403 (cell), 526 Westview Terrace, Arlington, TX 76013 for application and additional information. Checks should be made payable to KPMI – Texas

Note: Attendees need to bring personal items only.

September 24 – 26, 2010 MIDLAND, TX

Kairos Inside

Location: Circle Six Ranch Baptist Camp – Stanton, TX.

Cost: \$185.00 per person. Transportation provided to and from Midland International Airport (MAF). Fee includes two nights lodging (Friday and Saturday), all training materials and the following meals: Light Supper on Friday night, Saturday breakfast, lunch and supper and Sunday breakfast. RV hookups available at reduced price. Arrive by 6:00 pm and training will start at 7:00 pm. Checks should be made payable to KPMI - Texas

Contact: Mike Stumbaugh, mstumbaugh@sbcglobal.net or 817-860-3500 (home) or 817-247-5403 (cell), 526 Westview Terrace, Arlington, TX 76013 for application and additional information. Checks should be made payable to KPMI – Texas

Note: Attendees need to bring personal items including sheets (twin or queen) and towels.

November 19 – 21, 2010 GRANBURY, TX

Kairos Inside

Location: Camp Crucis, 2875 Camp Crucis Ct., Granbury, TX 76048. Arrive by 6:00pm and start at 7:00 pm.

Cost: \$215.00 per person. Commuter \$155.00. Price includes all training materials, 2 nights lodging (Friday and Saturday), Sandwiches Friday evening; Saturday breakfast, lunch and supper and Sunday breakfast.

Contact: Mike Stumbaugh, mstumbaugh@sbcglobal.net or 817-860-3500 (home) or 817-247-5403 (cell), 526 Westview Terrace, Arlington, TX 76013 for application and additional information. Checks should be made payable to KPMI – Texas

Note: Attendees need to bring personal items only.



Kairos Outside Weekends

KO Amarillo	7/30/110	Chris Guill
KO Houston	9/17/10	Julie Burks
KO North Texas	10/1/10	Shy Wilson
KO Midland	10/22/10	Carolyn Quine
KO Corpus Christi	10/29/10	Tracey Womack
KO Wichita Falls	11/5/10	Barbara McGowan
KO San Antonio	11/19/10	Linda Harper

Kairos Inside Weekends



	First	Second	First	Second
Allred Unit	9/30/10		Wade Tidmore	
Bartlett Unit	11/4/10		Bob Sharp	
Beto Unit	5/13/10	11/11/10	Ken Underminer	Bill Pockrus
Boyd Unit	10/28/10		John McClelland	
Briscoe Unit	11/17/10		Wiley Whetstone	
Clemens Unit	11/11/10		Mike Wood	
Clements Unit	9/23/10		Jack Fong	
Coffield Unit	10/21/10		Alan Tucker	
Connally Unit	11/4/10		Jimmy McFadden	
Dalhart Unit	11/11/10		Bob Ulrey	
Daniel Unit	10/7/10		Gary Scherf	
Darrington Unit	10/21/10		Hank Jaimeson	
Eastham Unit	11/11/10		Jim Austin	
FCI - Big Spring Unit	10/7/10			
Ferguson Unit	7/1/10	12/30/10	Walt Canady	C.J. Salzman
Hightower Unit	10/7/10		Stu Leonhart	
Hobby Unit	10/28/10		Nancy Forrester	
Hughes Unit	10/14/10		Sam Ruiz	
Huntsville Unit				
Hutchins Unit	8/18/10		Mike Terrell	
Jordan Unit	9/9/10		Steve Busch	
Lockhart Unit	9/23/10		Kathleen Moore	
Lynaugh Unit	10/28/10		Hoxie Smith	
McConnell Unit	11/4/10		Ed Gorney	
Michael Unit	10/14/10		Bruce King	
Mountain View Unit	10/21/10		Alice Finney	
Montford Unit	5/20/10	9/16/10	Perry Hallford	Jim Gordan
Murray Unit	9/30/10		Phyllis Nugent	
Neal Unit				
Polunsky Unit	9/30/10		Tom Sayre	
Roach Unit	9/23/10		Nathan Hobbs	
Robertson Unit	10/14/10		Don Kiles	
Rudd Unit	7/22/10		Neal Bearden	
Segovia Unit	7/22/10		Dennis Neal	
Smith Unit	9/23/10		Alan Dickey	
Stevenson Unit				
Stiles Unit	10/21/10		Phil Hilliard	
Torres Unit	5/13/10	10/7/10	Don Schmidt	Jim Lodovic
Vance Unit	6/11/10	10/8/10	Rich Nichols	Mark Lowrey
Wallace Unit	8/5/10		Willie Embrey	
Walls Unit	9/3/10		Timothy Nichols	

This article could be modified to be used in any church setting to get people involved in praying, making cookies, writing letters, and/or sponsorship.

This is an article done by Reb Bacchus for his church's newsletter last fall to get people involved. Did it work? There were 296 people, including children, who attended church that Sunday and they received 115 responses to be on the prayer chain.

All of the high points of a Kairos Weekend are designed to create a small group where an inmate feels it's safe to share his Christian walk in the last week with other inmates and volunteers. These weekly accountability groups are where men help each other to change their lives. However, it is not only the team but you, the members of St. John's, who help create some of those high points. I would like to share a few I wish you'd seen. I wish you could all be there to see the reaction early Friday morning when the prayer chain with your names on it is brought in. You would see looks of wonder and disbelief as yard after yard of links of names are brought in. For some, knowing Christians are praying for them moves them to say yes to Christ. **...Yet there are some who aren't touched...**

I wish you could see the faces of the men as they shed tears over the letters so many of you have written. Children's letters are especially powerful and always move some to say yes to Christ. **...Yet there are some whose masks don't break...**

I wish you could see the difference in some as they accept the "forgiveness cookies" after the forgiveness ceremony on Saturday night. The cookies are to be given to the man on the unit they are forgiving. Some, for the first time, realize the blessing it is to forgive those who have wronged them. Letting go moves some to say yes to Christ. **...Yet there are some who don't or won't forgive...**

I wish you could have been there in a table family when we go to the "chapel" and pray for and with each other. This last Kairos, a man in my group said, "I've never been to church, and I've never prayed or had anyone pray for me. I have to tell you it feels really strange inside, good I guess, but really strange like something real, you know?" It is wonderful to see men pray with conviction. **...Yet there are some who just mouth empty words....**

I wish that you could have attended one of the recent weekly prayer-and-share sessions. It was a typical Monday night; 250-300 men who've been on a Kairos weekend had gathered. We sang, heard a short scripture reading and a devotional, and then broke into small groups of four or five to share our successes and failures in our Christian walk. One man in my group was answering number 5, (Has there been a time last week when it has been difficult to show Christ's love for another person?) He spoke with anger about some men in his cell block who made him so mad that only luck kept him from getting into a fight. One of his brothers said, "You know, during the Kairos weekend they said you need to 'Make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.' Could they have meant for you to try to make friends with people like those men? I wish you could have heard the commitment he made, not to a volunteer who would have no way to know if he followed through, but to his brothers-in-white. He not only committed, he agreed to become accountable! **...Praise God, a "YET" has become a "YES!" to Christ...**



In Loving Memory

Often during the year someone active in Kairos goes home to be with the Lord. We ask that their names be sent to us so that they may be honored at the KPMI Summer Conference. Also a small article in this newsletter would be done paying tribute to the loved one, as well as a memorial letter sent to the family of the bereaved. (Use Email address below)



I am a correctional officer at the Coffield Unit. Thank you for coming to minister at Coffield. An offender told me that his life was tremendously impacted by your ministry. For many years he hated and wanted to kill his father who had physically abused him and his mother. But he now understands that he must forgive his father, and with tears in his eyes said, "I now forgive him and love him." I am sure that many others were changed by the power of God. Please know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain and keep coming back. G.W. Romer C.O. III

A LITTLE FOOLISHNESS

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.

How do they get deer to cross at those yellow signs?

A fool and his money are soon audited.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

I intend to live forever, so far so good.

Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.

Time may be a great healer, but it's a terrible beautician.

I am in shape. Round is a shape.

We have enough youth; how about a fountain of smart.

To submit stories, pictures, articles and corrections please write or email: Bettye Keefer, 1404 Cedar Park Dr., Cedar Park, Texas, 78613 bettye.keefery@yahoo.com



Visit our website at www.kairossoftexas.org.

On it you will find the current state officers, state meetings and minutes, map of state meetings, committees, and when the weekends are to be held. Also you will find this current and past newsletters, as well as KPMI newsletters. There are links to TDCJ & KPMI websites.

You will be able to download and print agape for your weekend. There are also the trailer schedules, the observer program, financial guidelines, registrar guidelines, cookie guidelines, and information on ordering supplies.

These are the forms on file that can be downloaded:

- Team Application
- Closing Application
- TDCJ Volunteer Application
- TDCJ Volunteer Handbook
- TDCJ Training Schedule
- Sponsorship Brochure
- Donation Forms
- Medical Form
- Spiritual Resume

And last, but not least, is information about Kairos Outside including structure, forms and information, newsletters, and mission field. The minutes for the April KOT meeting can be found on the website.

Please take a look and see if you think we need to add anything. Also be sure to check the weekend schedules. We depend on you to keep them updated.

A Kairos Journey

He's looking for something. He's not sure what "it" is, but had just about decided whatever "it" is doesn't really exist. He never could find what he was looking for in his family. His father had always been abusive and never had anything positive to say to him. His mother was too heavy into drugs and nothing ever seemed to mean more to her than the next drug-induced high.

He couldn't find it in his friends. In fact, he wondered sometimes if he ever truly had any. The people he ran with were the type who seemed to be available only when you had something they wanted. They would drop you like a rock or sell you out when you no longer suited their purposes.

Now, for the last 20 years, he had been inside these prison walls. He wore the same style outfit day after day, ate horrible food, and listened to men in uniform bark orders at him on a daily basis as though he was a nobody. That really didn't bother him much. He had come to that conclusion a long time ago about himself.

But that didn't stop him from still looking for something more.

He just wasn't sure where to find it. He hadn't found it in his family. He hadn't found it in drugs. He hadn't found it in his friends. It wasn't money. What was it? What was it that was out there that could provide him a little peace, maybe even make him feel like he mattered?

There was a group of guys in his pod that were into the "Jesus" thing. They were always in corners praying or singing praise songs. He thought it was a bunch of garbage at first. . . a band-aid these guys used to get them through the day. . It allowed them to "pretend" that everything was okay and maybe even curry some small favor with the guards. Still, if it was phony... they were pretty consistent in the way they played it. He'd say that much for them.

One of them asked him to go to something called "Kairos". He wasn't sure what that was except it had to be a "Jesus" thing. But he was told there was excellent food and, he reasoned, anything would be a break from the day-to-day routine of this place he had come to call "Hell". So he applied; and was accepted. Still he wasn't sure what it would be; probably just a bunch of people who waved their hands in the air and sung about Jesus all the time. But he didn't care. It was something different ... and there would be good food.

The first day was just what he expected; a bunch of people from the "free world", asking him a bunch of questions and pretending to like him. But the second day, he started feeling something. He wasn't sure what it was at first. It felt familiar to him, like he had experienced it before but he wasn't sure what it was. Gradually, the wall he had built around himself started coming down.

Soon he found himself opening up to total strangers, including other inmates, about his life... his feelings... his fears. He actually found himself crying and, for the first time, was not ashamed to do so. He wasn't looked on as weak and the others seemed to be reaching out to him and caring anyway. It wasn't until the last night there that he figured out what it was that he was feeling. It was "love" but it was a different kind of love than he had ever felt before. This was an unconditional love. This was a love that loved him regardless of his past. This was a love that believed in his future.

This had to be the love of Jesus. And it was that night, with tears in his eyes, that he gave his heart and life to Jesus in total surrender.

Soon, the Kairos weekend was over. He was back in the prison yard. The same outfit, the same horrible food, the same guards barking orders. The situation hadn't changed.

But his heart had changed. He no longer felt alone. He didn't even feel like a prisoner. He felt free. He felt love. He had found "it," what he had been looking for all those years. He found Jesus.

Rick Hope, Pastor, Allred Kairos #18