

FROM THE STATE KAIROS CHAIR



Bill Salser
Chair

God Is So Good !!

We have had a truly fantastic first quarter culminated by the best state board meeting ever. God truly blessed all of us that were in attendance from the start to the very end. Bill Pockrus honored us with a passionate presentation on Kairos from the volunteer to the Foundation and all the steps in between. No one could possibly listen to him talk about Kairos and not know that he is the man we need presenting our story in the corporate offices around the world. Ed Davis gave us a timely update on the state budgetary positions, the current state of funding for the Chaplaincy department and the impact on Kairos. We were also blessed to have Chaplain Pierce visit with us for a few minutes to expand on the information from Ed Davis. Then Ed Keefer graced us with a brief report on his position as Chairperson of the KPMI Board of Directors and the direction and assistance he offers to us in Texas and throughout the Kairos community, nationally and internationally. Tom Perdue has worked diligently to transcribe each of the messages as close to verbatim as possible for the minutes to insure that all of our community might have the opportunity to read each of the special messages. Maybe next time, I'll be bright enough to have someone there to actually video tape the messages so that all might be able to feel the energy and excitement of our speakers. Dale Mayer finished our day with a beautiful and touching song after giving us a brief testimony.

Our committees also locked in on their respective opportunities to serve our volunteer communities. The agape committee was especially spirited and Jaime and Bettye are already generating new and attractive agape materials for distribution. While we pray for Michael Hill and his family as they struggle with the health issues of his father, we applaud the foresight to extend leadership of the Outreach Committee to Tristan Hunt in Michael's absence. Tristan, you did a masterful job. These are just a few of the highlights.

(Continued on page 2)

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairosoftexas.org

KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org



(Continued from ont page)

One thing that I am ever aware of is a true sense of pride in service by our volunteer communities. As a team member and an Observer I have been around many Kairos volunteers who loved their programs. But now it is even more manifest. Volunteers from no less than four different programs have proclaimed that their program is the best there is! It is truly exciting to see the enthusiasm of our teams and their willingness to serve on the weekends. As Bill and Ed Keefer pointed out in their messages, we desperately need to expand our vision and focus on our recruiting and retention efforts to truly complete the Jesus mission. We must strengthen our programs to provide the long range support per program and to increase our territory to all the state of Texas and all the satellite aspects of the penal system and make Kairos the **Go To Prison Ministry** that we should be.

This last month our communities of Kairos Inside Darrington and Kairos Outside Houston teamed up to make a joint presentation to an Episcopal church in Houston. This was extremely exciting and important because of the teamwork that we now see as a result of the regions program. And for those of us who recognize the difficulty of recruiting clergy, for the ladies programs an Episcopal connection could be extremely valuable since women are recognized clergy in the Episcopal Church. God will bless your efforts.

New and exciting things are happening all around us and we are God's instruments for His Kingdom. The Torch program is reinstated and we will be starting three Torch programs in the next two years. We can do more but we have to recruit.

In closing, I want to once again challenge all our volunteers to recruit one new or one past volunteer this year. We must LOVE our new recruits and retain them for the future. Our communications programs have been very effective this quarter and the results are starting to show. Finally as we are becoming more active we need to avoid procrastination and do our specific volunteer service in a timely manner so that our other volunteers can do their jobs with the joy we experience.

Letter from an inmate's mother

First, let me introduce myself ... my name is Elizabeth and I'm the mother of Kyle who was chosen by God and you to attend one of your workshops at Darrington Prison in Rosharon, Texas. You were an answer to prayer! Thank you for following the lead of the Lord and accepting my son for your workshop. Allow me to share a part of the letter I received from my son today.

Mom, go online and read about Kairos Prison Ministry. Every six months they come in the prison and have a three day walk. Only 42 guys are chosen to attend out of about 1800 inmates. I applied three times before I was finally picked. I can't even explain how great this event was. It was the greatest event in my life. The only thing more special would be the day I got saved. I have prayed many times for the Lord to make me more dedicated and more serious about my faith. The breakthrough finally happened at Kairos. I truly had an encounter with God there. It's amazing how I've changed. I have been a Christian for years but haven't really been Christian until now. Everything in my life now revolves around the Lord. Almost overnight I gave up cussing which has always been really hard for me. I also no longer have any desire for worldly music and you know how much I've always loved my music. I've made changes in some of the people I hang out with in here too. I know this sounds crazy to you (he just don't know much I've been praying for this) but it's true. The Holy Spirit has empowered me so much. All I want to do is pray, worship, listen to Christian radio, study the Word, attend services, and fellowship with other true Christians. So many times I've prayed to be more dedicated and I never thought Kairos would do what it did for me and so many other guys too. I am truly on fire for the Lord now. Kairos is an incredible ministry and I can't wait to work with them when I get out.

From the bottom of my heart... thank you!
From a loving mother, Elizabeth





What You See Is Not What You Get

An introduction to Alphabet soup for Kairos
by Ken Cooper graduate of Kairos 13 CI, Raiford,
Florida November 8-11, 1983

Characteristics of prisoners when they arrive for the weekend

What a Kairos volunteer sees and hears from an inmate during the Kairos weekend is not necessarily the real who, what, and why of the person. I am convinced this stems not from the desire of the inmate to manipulate, please the team members, or fit in; it comes from the tremendous difference between the two worlds.

The Team comes from a World of choice. The team member's world is a place of decisions, busy-ness and business. He lives in the privacy of his own home. He lives with his wife, children, and pets. His home is a place of love, comfort, good food, and respect. He is loved. He works for his living or is retired. His is a positive, uplifting, "normal" environment. There isn't time enough in the day for him to do all he wants or needs to do. He comes and goes as he pleases. He is considered a success. He has a realistic hope for the future.

The Candidates come from a World of few decisions, idleness and boredom. His world is characterized by loneliness, boredom, and virtually no privacy. His world is a cold place of inhumanity where he strives to maintain his sanity. He exists. He is a homeless displaced person. He has no wife and is separated from whatever family he has left. He is unloved, uncomfortable, forced to eat bad food, sleep on bad beds, and is continually bombarded with disrespectful, degrading, foul language. His is a negative, depressing, homosexual, abnormal environment. For him, time stands still. He is considered a failure. He has little hope or an unrealistic hope for the future.

Their two worlds meet at a place out of time called Kairos. It is truly a miracle as their two worlds meet. Except for a timeless place called Kairos they wouldn't and couldn't. For the candidates and the team, from Friday through, there is no past. There is no future. There is only Now as each participant is visited by I AM, the eternal timeless Word of God, Jesus Christ.

This is not to say each and every candidate becomes a follower of Christ or a committed Christian during the weekend. Many volunteers expect them to, but I believe this is generally a false expectation. Unless the team is informed about the world from which the prisoner comes, and the baggage he lugs to the family table, its members will carry with them unreasonable expectations and inaccurate assessments of the inmates, of their world, and of the weekend.

Because of these problems inherent in the Kairos experience, my wife June and I brainstormed a list of characteristics of prisoners. We call it Alphabet Soup for Kairos. I will share that with you in a few minutes, but first I want to talk to you out of my heart about my Kairos experience so you will know where I am coming from. I would undoubtedly still be locked up in prison today except for Kairos. I would still be serving out my 99-year sentence. I owe my freedom to Kairos. It is an understatement to say I love Kairos. My weekend gave me hope and began a process that would eventually set me free inside the fences. And I believe I hit the streets sooner because of my Kairos Weekend and the Christian lifestyle it started.

I recently visited with two prisoners who agreed with me. They each served a lifetime in prison. One served 42 years straight up and the other 33. They shared my strong sentiments for Kairos. They told me through tear-filled, grateful eyes that their Kairos Weekend was the most important weekend of their lives. They said it started a process, a change, a faith that ultimately set them free from prison. But they said it took several years for Kairos to really sink in and take effect. Why is that? Well, that's what I'm here to talk about to you today. I call it Alphabet Soup for Kairos.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org

KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org



Alphabet Soup for Kairos

Characteristics of prisoners on Thursday night. Each candidate should be accepted with an open mind, but the Kairos volunteer should know the likely psychological and spiritual baggage the prisoner lugs to the family table. Each candidate should be rated on the following characteristics:

Alone, adjusting
Beholden, bewildered, bored
Careful, cool, calculating
Defeated, defensive, dependent
dehumanized, deserted, divorced, delighted
Earnest, evasive, energized
Fearful, friendless
Grasping, groping, gawking
Hopeful, hurt
Introspective, isolated, immature
Judges, judging, jumpy
Kinetic, knowledgeable
Leary, lost, letdown, lowly, lethargic, locked away
Miserable, but masking, myopic

Negative, nervous, neglected
Offside, offended, offensive
Pensive, perturbed
Questioning, questing
Suffering, skeptical, self-centered, stranded,
separated
Troubled, tense, trying, testing
Unloved, unreal, untested, “up”
Vexed, vulnerable
Wary, watching, wronged
Xed out
Young, yes man
Zephyrous



Let's don't also forget----- Thanks to our Lord Jesus

I am thankful: for the wife who says it's hot dogs tonight, because she is home with me, and not out with someone else.
For the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato, because he is home with me and not out at the bars.
For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes because it means she is at home, not on the streets.
For the taxes I pay because it means I am employed.
For the mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
For the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
For my shadow that watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine
For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
For all the complaining I hear about the government because it means we have freedom of speech.
For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking and I have been blessed with transportation.
For my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
For the lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means I can hear.
For the pile of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear.
For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been capable of working hard.
For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means I am alive.
And finally, for too much e-mail because it means I have friends who are thinking of me.
Live well, laugh often, and love with all your heart.

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

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KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

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WARNING

BEWARE OF TERRORIST GROUPS IN CHURCH.

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin.

Their leader, Lucifer Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter-terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along.

Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT!

(However, you can spot them if you bin lookin and bin goin.)



Perspectives from a new volunteer - Robert Collins

When I first was approached to be a part of the KAIROS ministry, I was very skeptical, because I have never been involved in prison ministry, or knew what it was about. Many thoughts went through my head. For instance, what good is this going to do? What difference can I make? Are the prisoners only here for the food and cookies, all they have is time, why not take advantage? How are they going to try and manipulate the volunteers, and will they even care what is being said to them? My safety? What am I going to gain out of this? Quite frankly, I thought this may be a waste of time.

Then when we did a prayer circle amongst the volunteers before entering the prison, God spoke loudly to me, and opened up my heart to what this ministry was all about. HIM and HIS LOVE.

When we first arrived at the prison, we were welcomed by former KAIROS attendees with open arms and cheers. This was inspirational and coming from offenders inside a prison? How can this be? Immediately, my walls of defense were beginning to crumble. When I met the 42 men in white, the cheers and clapping became louder and louder and anticipation was setting in to meet the man in white I was to sponsor.

As the weekend progressed, friendships and trust began to develop. Questions were being asked and answered. Belief was setting in. Singing arm in arm, hands lifted in praise to our Heavenly Father, God's grace was ever so present. Tears of joy, hope, and relief were encountered by all.

The talks were informational with purpose in relating to the men in white. I too grew in the word from hearing testimonies from a different perspective. Yes, I learned a few of them from the men in white. Their drawings and interpretations were clear and concise with creativity beyond my realm.

As the last two days wound down, I saw a major shift throughout the room, more openness, more questions, more notes being taken, and more assurance of God's love, His grace, His mercy, His forgiveness, His peace, and His word. The weight was lifted off the backs of many, and the conversion begins of a new self; new life; renewing of the mind; purification of the heart.

This led to an opportunity for me to pray with others embracing forgiveness, especially of self, and holding each other as close friends with tears flowing. By God's grace, a few wanted to become baptized in the near future.

Testimonies at the closing ceremonies were spirit led in the confessions of many. One man in white stated, "Agape - I didn't even know what it was, and the pronunciation was as spelled (A-gape), and also stated, "I know what it is now, and I don't have to be perfect to receive it." Another was proud to be in the family photo, so he could show his mother he could change, send her the photo, remove the hate, and forgive her. The testimony of another man in white being released in a few weeks, was visited by Jesus Himself to choose the right path when freed. These are just a few examples of the presence of the LORD being a light in such a dark place. Seeing the support from past KAIROS members brought a strong sense of encouragement and bonding of the new brothers in Christ.

As a first time member of Kairos, I received the multi-color necklace with a cross. Then when I turned around, with much surprise, half the members of our family table welcomed me with warm embraces which will leave an everlasting impression on my heart. Now, my doubts are removed, because of the love reciprocated by my new brothers in Christ Jesus, and God's divine plan. I no longer wonder what Kairos is all about. As to what I got out of this: seeing the Holy Spirit at work, God's kingdom growing, and a new perspective on agape. All are equal at the foot of the cross no matter what color your clothes are. This definitely was not a waste of time, but God's Special Time. May HE continue to guide, protect, and bless these men in white in all their endeavors.

Thanks be to Our Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairostatexas.org
KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org

Installing Love

Tech Support: Yes ... how can I help you?

Customer: Well, after much consideration, I've decided to install Love. Can you guide me through the process?

Tech Support: Yes. I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

Customer: Well, I'm not very technical, but I think I'm ready. What do I do first?

Tech Support: The first step is to open your Heart. Have you located your Heart?

Customer: Yes, but there are several other programs running now. Is it okay to install Love while they are running?

Tech Support: What programs are running?

Customer: Let's see, I have Past Hurt, Low Self-Esteem, Grudge and Resentment running right now.

Tech Support: No problem, Love will gradually erase Past Hurt from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory but it will no longer disrupt other programs. Love will eventually override Low Self-Esteem with a module of its own called High Self-Esteem. However, you have to completely turn off Grudge and Resentment. Those programs prevent Love from being properly installed. Can you turn those off?

Customer: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

Tech Support: With pleasure. Go to your start menu and invoke Forgiveness. Do this as many times as necessary until Grudge and Resentment have been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, done! Love has started installing itself. Is that normal?

Tech Support: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other Hearts in order to get the upgrades.

Customer: Oops! I have an error message already. It says, "Error - Program will not run on external components." What should I do?

Tech Support: Don't worry. It means that the Love program is set up to run on Internal Hearts, but has not yet been run on your Heart. In non-technical terms, it simply means you have to Love yourself before you can Love others.

Customer: So, what should I do?

Tech Support: Pull down Self-Acceptance; then click on the following files: Forgive-Yourself; Realize Your Worth; and Acknowledge your Limitations.

Customer: Okay, done.

Tech Support: Now, copy them to the "My Heart" directory. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching faulty programming. Also, you need to delete Verbose Self-Criticism from all directories and empty your Recycle Bin to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

Customer: Got it. Hey! My heart is filling up with new files. Smile is playing on my monitor and Peace and Contentment are copying themselves all over My Heart. Is this normal?

Tech Support: Sometimes. For others it takes awhile, but eventually everything gets it at the proper time. So Love is installed and running. One more thing before we hang up. Love is Freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everyone you meet. They will in turn share it with others and return some cool modules back to you.

Customer: Thank you, God.



Check your thoughts, for they become your words.
Check your words, for they become your actions.
Check your actions, for they become your habits.
Check your habits, for they become your character.
Check your character, for it becomes your image.
Check your image, for it becomes your life.



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A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father, "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy ..." the young son replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

B
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Anagrams - Rearrange the letters

Dormitory becomes: Dirty Room
 Presbyterian becomes: Best in Prayer
 Astronomer becomes: Moon Stare
 Desperation becomes: A rope ends it.
 The Eyes becomes: They See.
 The Morse Code becomes: Here come dots.
 Slot Machines becomes: Cash lost in me.
 Animosity becomes: Is no amity.
 Election Results becomes: Lies - let's recount.
 Snooze Alarm becomes: Alas! no more z's.
 A Decimal Point becomes: I'm a dot in place.
 The Earthquakes becomes: That queer shake.



The Best Time of My Life



It was June 15, and in two days I would be turning thirty. I was insecure about entering a new decade of my life and feared that my best years were now behind me.

My daily routine included going to the gym for a workout before going to work. Every morning I would see my friend Nicholas at the gym. He was seventy-nine years old and in terrific shape. As I greeted Nicholas on this particular day, he noticed I wasn't full of my usual vitality and asked if there was anything wrong. I told him I was feeling anxious about turning thirty. I wondered how I would look back on my life once I reached Nicholas's age, so I asked him, "What was the best time of your life?"

Without hesitation, Nicholas replied, "Well, Joe, this is my philosophical answer to your philosophical question:

When I was a child in Austria and everything was taken care of for me and I was nurtured by my parents, that was the best time of my life.

When I was going to school and learning the things I know today, that was the best time of my life.

When I got my first job and had responsibilities and got paid for my efforts, that was the best time of my life.

When I met my wife and fell in love that was the best time of my life.

The Second World War came, and my wife and I had to flee Austria to save our lives. When we were together and safe on a ship bound for North America, that was the best time of my life.

When we came to Canada and started a family, that was the best time of my life.

When I was a young father, watching my children grow up, that was the best time of my life.

And now, Joe, I am 79 years old. I have my health, I feel good and I am in love with my wife just as I was when we first met. This is the best time of my life."

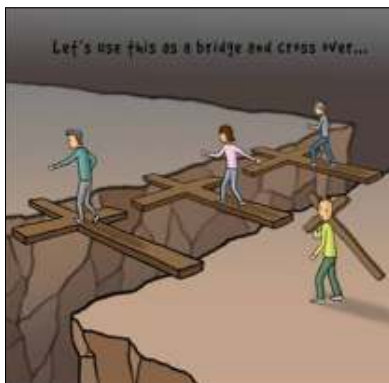
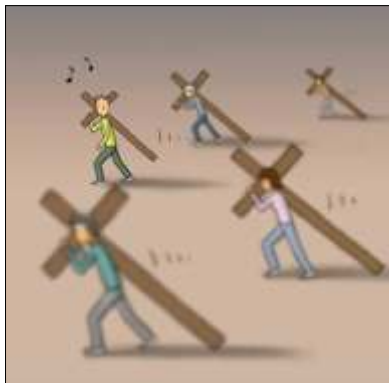
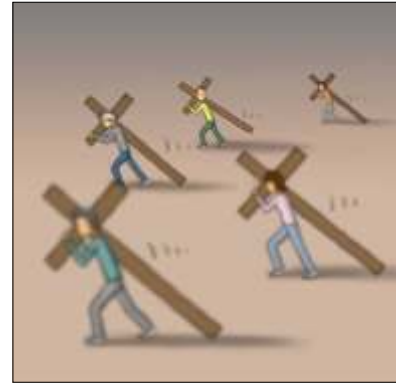
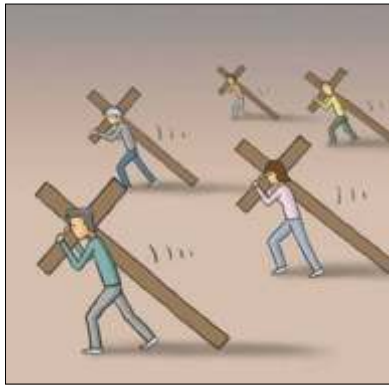
**By Joe Kemp from *A 5th Portion of Chicken Soup for the Soul*
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Awesome! We complain about the cross we bear but don't realize it is preparing us for the dip in the road that God can see and we can't.

Whatever your cross, whatever your pain, there will always be sunshine after the rain.

Perhaps you may stumble, perhaps even fall, But God's always ready to answer your call.

He knows every heartache, sees every tear, a word from His lips can calm every fear.

Your sorrows may linger throughout the night, But suddenly vanish at dawn's early light.

The Savior is waiting somewhere above, to give you His grace and send you His love.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.



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 new schedule and location for State Board meetings for 2011 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 KPME and TDCJ.

There is information about Kairos Outside, including structure, forms and information, newsletters, and mission field. The minutes for KAO meetings can also be found there.

Please take a look and see if we need to change or add anything.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day ("who really ought to get a job") is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that of all the gifts you give us Lord, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those that are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

Working for God on earth doesn't pay much ... but His retirement plan is out of this world.

Cake Mix Cookies

1 box cake mix - any flavor (lemon & strawberry are really good)
 2 eggs
 ½ cup water
 Mix and drop onto ungreased pan. Cook at 350 for about 12 minutes. You may add nuts, raisins, or whatever you like.
 Makes approximately 4 doz cookies.

Betty Wheeler



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