



# KOCT

Kairos Outside Central Texas



**Maren Raines**  
**KOCT #3 Lead**



Palm Sunday 1988 I attended my Cursillo, a Fourth Day Christian retreat. I attended the weekend with the husband I was married to at the time. My mother in law thought the weekend would help us work through the grief of having lost our son. What I remember most about the weekend is being introduced to the concept of God's Grace.

At the reunions and closings there were always people who had green Kairos name tags on their lanyards. All I really knew back then was they were really adamant that everyone needed to participate in a Kairos weekend. I knew that might mean going into the prisons and that was not for me. I avoided them at all costs. Then a friend and fellow church member, who did participate on Kairos weekends, invited me to be on a team. I said "No and don't ask again." She was relentless and so I started avoiding her.

After a few years she came to me again and said they were starting Kairos at the William Hobby Unit for women in Marlin, where we both lived. I replied "No and don't ask again." She did not ask again, but she did give my name and phone number to Debbie Pattison who was the leader for Hobby #1. "No" was not in Debbie's vocabulary. I am always very thankful when I remember this. I relented and said yes, only so I would not have to be bothered again about Kairos.

My grandson turned 18 years old this month and is on his way to college. I am blessed by both of my grandchildren. I mention my grandson because it helps me remember how many years I have been involved with Kairos. My daughter was at my house one Sunday evening. She was pregnant with my grandson. The phone rang and she answered it. She came out to tell me, "That woman is in the phone again. Want me to hang up on her?" I said, "No, I would tell her again." Debbie begged me shamelessly and asked if I would just be the runner driver since I knew the area and they were very short on team members. I told her yes.

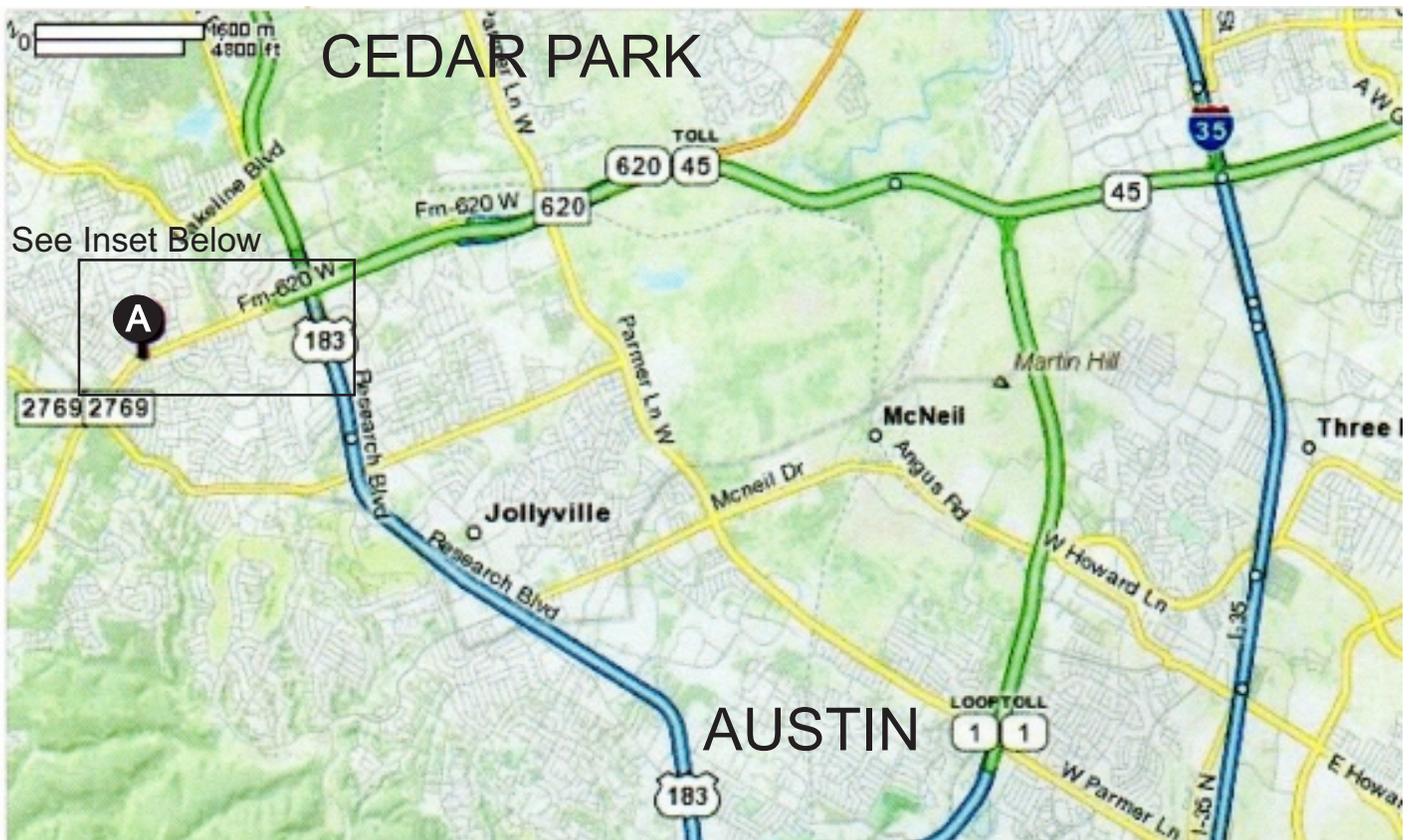
On the weekend there were three of us as runner drivers. On Saturday at lunch the other two got into a squabble and left me at the unit. Needless to say I was not happy and a little freaked out. What if they don't let me out? This was not on the schedule! With love and support, several wise women took me under their wing and assured me I was going to be OK.

Some time and teams later I had been struggling with what my "gift" was. I could not sing, teach, evangelize, or preach. I had been struggling with my lifelong depression and talked with my counselor one day about it. He told me I had the gift of love and my immediate thought was that it was the dumbest thing he had ever said to me. Later on a trip to prayer and share at Hobby, I clearly heard God tell me that my 'gift' was the ability to love and show compassion to those who had not known love and were lonely. I have never questioned my calling since that date.

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*KOCT #3 Locations & Times***Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 2014**

The team meetings will be held at the following location and time:

**8:00 am Hill Country Bible Church 12124 RR 620 N., Austin, TX**  
(Approx. 1 mile west on 620 off 183 - See map) on the following dates:**July 26, 2014****August 9, 2014****August 30, 2014****Sept. 13, 2014****Oct 4, 2014**The actual weekend will be in Belton, Texas at the **Cedarbrake Retreat Center**  
See map page 5.

A. Hill Country Bible Church  
 12124 RR 620 North  
 Cedar Park TX  
 Behind Community State Bank  
 at corner of 620 and Little Elm

Meetings will be held in the  
 Worship Center Building  
 on the fourth floor room 4.114.  
 Parking on the north side of  
 bldg. A.

The programs of Kairos Prison Ministry International are defined by the Board of Directors and delegated to the Texas State Chapter Committee to oversee the implementation of the programs through the KOCT Advisory Council. It is the Advisory Council (AC) that oversees the local community where God has called you into service. The KOCT AC is a body of volunteers from our KOCT community, who serve in leadership roles for the benefit of the health of the ministry. As a member of KOCT you participate in the hands-on ministry activities. In addition, you take part in the election of persons who serve as members of the AC.

Chairperson - Val Corry  
 Secretary - Shirley Stringer  
 Treasurer - Joyce Boelsche  
 Financial Secretary - Susan Dehnel  
 Spiritual Director - Suzanne Guinn  
 State Representative - Leah Harbison  
 Outreach/Recruiting. Vice Chair - Mona Trevino  
 Fundraising Coordinator - David Trevino  
 Reunion Coordinator/  
 Guest Liason/Historian - Susan Mannas  
 Talk Facilitator/  
 Training Coordinator - Kathleen Moore  
 Communications/Newsletter - Bettye Keefer  
 Music Coordinator - Kathy Gryta  
 KOCT #3 Weekend Leader - Maren Raines

FOR GOD  
 SO LOVED  
 THE WORLD  
 THAT HE  
 GAVE HIS  
 ONE AND ONLY SON  
 THAT  
 WHOEVER  
 BELIEVES  
 IN HIM  
 SHALL NOT  
 PERISH  
 BUT HAVE  
 ETERNAL  
 LIFE.  
 JOHN 3:16

LISTEN

LOVE

LISTEN

LOVE

(Continued from page 1)

Many people ask me why I am involved in Kairos and all I can tell them is that I was called by God. I can't explain it any other way, nor do I have need to. I believe in the Kairos Method. It changed my life. It has taken the emphasis off of myself and focused it on Christ. When I forget or lose sight of my focus, the method always brings me back.

I am pleased to be part of Kairos Outside Central Texas. It has stretched me more than I ever thought I could be stretched. Through my journey in Kairos I have made many friends and felt enveloped in the living presence of Christ. I invite everyone to come along with me on this continued journey and share the Love of Christ with all. Come be a team member on KOCT #3! Talk to the women in your life that have been impacted by incarceration. Help them to register as a guest for KOCT #3. God has great plans for KOCT and weekend #3 on October 31-November 2, 2014. We will be blessed by your service, love and support!



Kairos Outside Weekend Retreat  
Testimonial by: Connie A Boyer

Cross Road Retreat-March 28-April 30<sup>th</sup> 2014

The Kairos Outside Weekend went beyond my every expectation from the beginning until the end. I have never felt so much love and compassion from a group of people I've never met before.

As I rehearse the daily activities which transpired, I appreciate the greetings from each host that made every guest feel welcome, comfortable and at home. The cabins were well equipped with all personal items for bed and bath with comfortable temperatures. The service which was rendered in the spirit of humility was genuinely felt.

I enjoyed all the meditations and talks given because I could relate to most of them. Every table family connected from the moment we met, and we instantly became circle of friends. The activities were interesting, filled with excitement, and motivating. The Chapel Worship was spirit-filled with meditation and quiet songs of praise, healing for the soul and spirit. I was certainly blown away with the prayer chain which was wrapped around every guest indicating that there were hundreds of people from all over the world praying for the three-day retreat.

Everyday, I was filled with delicious foods, and refreshments served with excellence and chief experience from the chef and the assistants. I enjoyed the skits and entertainments which was rendered.

Although we weren't allowed to take photographs, I daily took sentimental pictures in my mind such as walks through the prayer garden, our special dinner, the applauses that said "You are special" and "We love you" and even our birthday party!

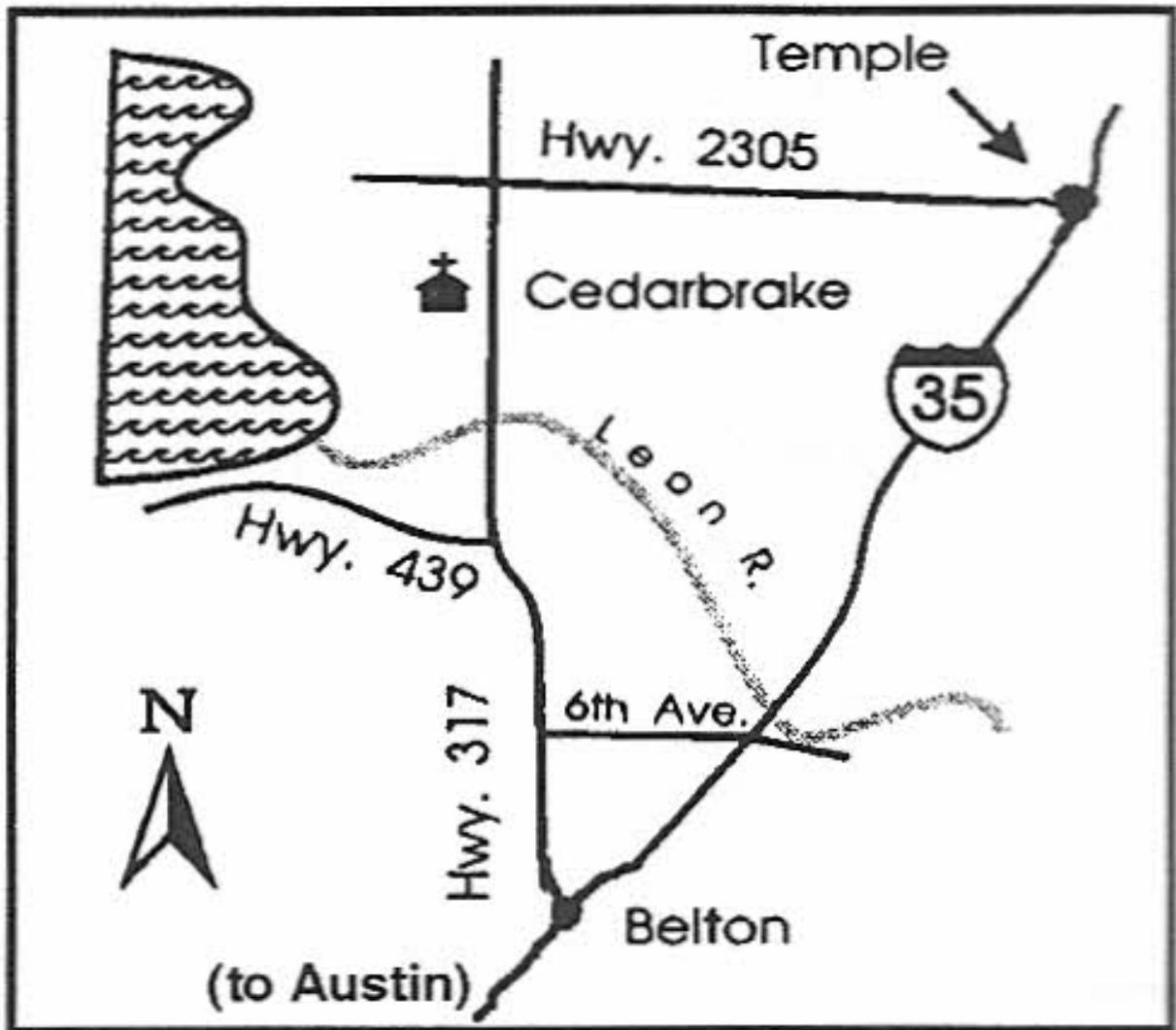
The closing ceremony was also special, something I will never forget. Yes, the Kairos Weekend Retreat was fantastic, A life changing experience, something I always look back on to say...."I'm so glad I did".

Websites:

Kairos of Texas: [kairostatexas.org](http://kairostatexas.org)

Kairos Outside: [kairosoutsideoftexas.org](http://kairosoutsideoftexas.org)

KPMI: [www.mykairos.org](http://www.mykairos.org)



What if you woke  
up **TODAY**  
with only the things  
that you  
thanked  
**God** for  
yesterday?

Contact Bettye Keefer if you have information or questions concerning this newsletter:  
[ewkefer@yahoo.com](mailto:ewkefer@yahoo.com). I especially would like to hear any "God" stories from your weekends.