

From the KOT State Chair

Bill Salser



We have had an extremely exciting and productive year. I compliment all of you on the progress we have made since January. Across the board our financial reports are both timely and complete on a routine basis. All of us have to give praise to God and the ten programs that had physical audits on our behalf this year. The reports were almost perfect. But let's not let our guard down since we will have ten other programs audited next year. We continue to see major improvements in other areas of our ministry. Jim Irwin reports that most units AC minutes come in like clock work now. Jaime Gonzales says that agape is regular except from four units. Bob Crane has been pleased with the Trailer Liability Insurance reporting. I am not receiving many Spiritual Resumes of late and I am contacting units that have provided names, but no resume and/or no names at all for upcoming weekends.

We have started using our new Kairos Inside Excellence Initiative and the first half of the year we had 21 units report in of the 38 programs. Not a glowing response except to say that many programs were complete before the EI final document was available. I would also say that KPMI received a total of 37 reports of over 300 weekends. Specific areas of needed improvements at our unit level are recruiting, meeting hours, and meeting attendance. I am very impressed with the quality part of the weekend proper data. The EI reports are a key part of our developmental future as we learn of more ways to be effective in our ministry. **We're off to a great start!** I will do everything in my power to see that we get 100% compliance in reports for the second half of the year.

We are still a work in progress and we have to encourage each other to continue to be attentive to our Accountability Standards (a summary of all the required activities of the ACs and State Chapter from places like ACOP, SCCOP, Financial Policies and Procedures and EZRA, etc.) and the Periodic Reports schedule. Both of these documents are available on our Kairos of Texas Website on the Links and Downloads page (right side under Texas Downloads). Of course, Outreach is of prime importance as we strive to strengthen our existing programs, identify satellite activities, and bring them in, and start new programs. Communications at all levels is an ongoing area due significant attention.

October 15, I attended the Huntsville Ex-Offenders Celebration and was blessed to represent Kairos of Texas and hear many men give testimonies of their conversion while incarcerated. Without even knowing we were in the audience many of the men openly identified Kairos as a key part of their rebirth. At the meetings, several points hit home:

1. There are a lot of Aftercare programs in existence and a strong drive to increase/strengthen/formalize the aftercare opportunities/services.
2. Kairos is the strongest and largest formal prison ministry working inside the walls of our state prisons. Other major groups are having to pull back because of reductions in volunteer base and financing. Are we going to have to follow their lead?
3. TDCJ openly said that they are going to open Faith-based Dorms on every unit in the state, hopefully this year. Where are they going to get the volunteers?

We all have a great opportunity to recommit to our Kairos ministry and be the volunteers that are and will be in desperate need as TDCJ moves forward with their plans. How do we increase our energy level and motivational approaches at the grass roots level? What are ways we can encourage/revive our veterans and motivate new volunteers and retain both new volunteers and veterans alike?

Important websites:

Kairos of Texas: www.kairosoftexas.org

KPMI: www.kairosprisonministry.org



This is the kickoff portion of the newsletter – The Outreach. I hope the enthusiasm present at the past quarterly state meeting is still with all the reps and their AC's. Outreach recruiting and retention is the number one goal of Kairos of Texas for 2011/2012. David Ross is one of our KPMI rep's and works on that level for outreach as well. David was a key part of the presentation in Austin for the Outreach Workshop and did an excellent job. I hope that the strategies and resources laid out will start to generate local success stories and that will build critical mass for Kairos of Texas. I wasn't immune from the spirit at the workshop either. I've already received five verbal commitments from new members for the next Hutchins weekend. Outreach works if you work it and it won't if you don't! For those not in attendance at the workshop, here is a quick recap:

A. Ice breaking with "Talking about Kairos".

I wanted to demonstrate how it's possible to work in the subject of Kairos into any discussion. Once again, thanks to David Ross for his role playing in our mini skits. We showed how the subjects of salt, rain, a cook out and bald tires could be linked to a discussion about Kairos prison ministry. Try it out at work, at church or at any social get together. It's fun to see how you can bring Kairos into your conversation.

B. Volunteer Resources.

One of highlights of the workshop was the Recruiting Handbook that David Ross put together for each unit Outreach rep. This material was pulled straight off the My Kairos tab on the KPMI website. Once you're at the My Kairos site, go to the downloads tab and bring that up. Next, go to the Recruiting tab and there it is. David gave an excellent point-by-point breakdown of the material that is centrally located and easily available for your downloading pleasure.

C. The Presentation.

Using the same material pulled from the above mentioned Recruiting section, I led the workshop in an actual presentation complete with DVD (included in the Recruiting workbook) to demonstrate the ease in putting on a successful presentation.

D. The Roads less traveled.

This audience participation portion was to illustrate the many different resource pools for new recruitment. We listed various Religious 4th day movements besides Walk to Emmaus, local churches, men's and women's church groups, as well as youth groups like Young Life for fundraising and prison ministry awareness. The list included social media contacts i.e. Facebook and Constant Contact. Secular organizations such as Rotary Club were also mentioned. The list was broad and inclusive. That was the workshop in a nutshell. One point that was brought up was the lack of discussion on minority recruitment, which is CRITICAL for the ongoing success of Kairos of Texas. The point was made by the moderators that when visiting different churches in reasonable driving distance to include more ethnically diverse congregations. The gentleman bringing the question up had made a presentation to a meeting with local black pastors and didn't feel that he had any success coming away from the meeting. There is no exact science to successful recruiting. You should not take one or more turn downs as a sign of failure. The old sales adage works here "You have to go through a lot of no's to find your yes's." Building personal relationships will greatly increase your chances of success. Two of the five new recruits that I previously mentioned are from a Korean congregation and are two of the pastor's sons. It can be done. Respect, courtesy and a willingness to tell GOD's story will make your recruiting efforts laden with the "good fruit." Joyful obedience is doing the Lord's will, and many blessings on you and yours.

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From the KO State Chair



Julie Cole
KO Chair



KO Amarillo Fund Raiser by Joanne Danner

On September 11, 2011, KO Amarillo had a fundraiser that we called *Hearts of Harmony*. It was an outstanding success and raised over \$10,000. We had local talent perform, a wonderful dinner, and a Silent Auction. We sold tickets to various groups: businesses, individuals, churches, and Sunday school classes. The tickets were \$25 each or \$200 per table. We held the event in a church all-purpose room, and therefore there was no charge for it. The auction was a huge success as we had a number of very nice items that were for sale. Several of the members had gone around to various businesses and gotten donations. The meal was underwritten by donations. We had beef tenderloins, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and cheesecake for dessert. Everyone had a lovely time and was very complimentary. Since it was on 9/11, we had praise music as well as patriotic. We are already planning next year's event. Even though it was a lot of work, it was worth it.

Fun Raising KOT

Kim Roubison

Greetings from the Fun Chair,

When I was approached to write an article for this edition of **KOT** paper, the initial thought was fright. Fundraising, good grief, what could I possibly have to say about that. After some thought, and a nudge from the Holy Spirit, I am putting the typewriter to work. I think one of the biggest issues we have is that most volunteers are busy people, with jobs, weekends, churches, and family, and the thought of doing a fundraiser of any sort is pretty darn time consuming and to be perfectly honest, difficult at best. What I think has happened is that most people, including me up until last year, thought that we had to do this all by ourselves. Whoever came up with the thought that "Outreach and Fundraising" together goes hand in hand was brilliant. We all just need to change our definitions of "Fundraising" to "Fun Raising." We are all passionate people doing the best we know how to serve the Kings of Kings. All we need to do to communicate to people we come in contact with on a daily basis; in grocery lines and libraries, oil changes and bank lines, or at a sports event. We have to be brave enough to allow the stranger to have an opportunity to choose to help or not. All we have to do is open our mouths and allow the Holy Spirit to fill us with the words He gives us. The rest is His job. In one conversation we have reached out to a stranger, made a friend, and started the interest in a gift to others through Christ. All we have to do is allow the Holy Spirit to not only use our hands and feet, but to trust Him enough to put words in our hearts that will then flow to the ears of those willing people who He puts in our paths. So truly this will be "Fun Raising."

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In 2001, I was living a pretty good life. I had a beautiful wife, two beautiful children (ages 3 and 10 months), a job that I loved and a beautiful home as well. All of that came to a crash in September of that year when I was sentenced to 8 years in the Texas Department of Corrections. Before coming to prison, I was involved with my church and even volunteered on a few committees. The problem was that I was a church goer and not a follower of Christ. I spent the first four and a half years of my incarceration studying the Bible and doing mail order Bible studies. I thought that I had the “Christianity thing” down. Boy was I wrong.

It was in April of 2006 that I received a lay in from the Chaplain saying that I had been selected to attend Kairos #16 on the Neal unit in Amarillo, Texas. I was excited as a few of my friends had been on a walk (as it was called back then) and so I went on the walk thinking that it would be a nice weekend and another stepping stone in my walk with God. The problem with my walk up to this point is that while I knew a lot of scriptures, I still was not living it completely. Sure, I behaved and did what I was told and did not get involved in any of the “shady” things going on with the unit but I still walked around judging people. I judged them by the color of their skin, their tattoos, and a whole laundry list of things. There was one guy on the unit that I used to see in the chow hall that had his entire body tattooed (I mean from head to toe). I remember how I used to walk by him and think what an idiot he was for tattooing his face and that there was no way that this guy would ever get a job when he was released. You see I was living 1 Samuel 16:7 that read:

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

I looked at a man’s appearance and how he acted and not his heart. Things were about to change. When I sat down at my seat at the table of Matthew, this same man was sitting right next to me. It was over this weekend that my life started to reflect Christ and his teachings and I did not just simply read the Bible. An even bigger happening that weekend was how I witnessed my friend Jeff change. I had lived down the row from him in the dorm for about a year now and even worked with him in maintenance daily. You see, Jeff was always angry in the morning and everyone knew not to talk to him before about 10 a.m. All that changed after that Kairos walk. Jeff began to rise early and read the Word. He would stay in his bunk reading inspirational books and signed up for countless Bible studies on the unit. Jeff had been incarcerated for 10-13 years and he had never known love like the brothers showed him that weekend. Jeff now was filled with hope and this change in him also inspired me to be the man God had called me to be.

Upon my release I immediately began to serve on an outside Kairos team and served three weekends before I was finally able to be approved to be part of an inside team. I just finished serving on my third inside weekend and I am still amazed (although by now you would think I would come to expect it) at how God can transform hearts in just 3-4 short days. The Kairos ministry is part of my life and my children’s lives (as they help bake cookies) and I am certain will be for a long time.

Praise be to God, for His grace came to me, a sinner!



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Published: Churchoftheannunciation.com, Sept 29, 2002

In the Philippines, deep in the dense rain forest, live a primitive people, known as the Agta Negrito. They are hunters-gatherers who wear loincloths and little else. Several years ago a missionary family who was working among them set up a croquet game in their front yard. Before long several of their Agta Negrito neighbors curiously gathered to watch them. Soon they wanted to play, too.

The missionaries explained the game and gave each of them a mallet and a ball. Halfway into the game, one of the natives' croquet balls landed next to another's. The missionary excitedly explained one of the more aggressive rules: You can put your foot on your ball and smack it hard with the mallet, causing your opponent's ball to go flying far away.

The native understood what he was saying, but couldn't comprehend why anyone would want to do it. He said, "Why would I want to knock his ball out of the court?"

The missionary replied, "So you will be the one to win!"

The native shook his head in bewilderment. You see, competition and winning is not important in hunting and gathering societies. People survive—not by competing—but by working together.

The game continued, but no one followed the missionaries' advice. When the first player successfully got through all the wickets, he did not see himself as the victor. For him the game wasn't over. He went back and gave aid and advice and encouragement to the others. Finally, when the last wicket was played, by the last player, they all shouted happily, "We won! We won!"

Application:

In the local church setting it's easy to get caught up in politics and personalities. Factions can form over just about any disputable matter. Once sides have been taken, backbiting and gossip ensue. Instead of working with and for one another, we undermine. Like the hunter-gatherers, the church can only succeed when all of its members are working together.

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

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I spent New Year's weekend of 2010 in prison with a Kairos prison ministry team. We shared four days there with 42 residents - we sang, ate, listened, talked, prayed, and we loved. I sat at a round table of nine men, three Kairos volunteers and six residents. All the residents at my table were very courteous and receptive, but I noticed that one young man in particular had a very humble spirit. I'll call him John. It wasn't long into the weekend before John was wrapping his arms around me and telling me that he loved me, that he had come to the weekend desiring only one thing, to really know and feel the love of God. Now he knew it, he felt it. He was full of joy and it showed. As the weekend went on, he continued to soak it in. It was wonderful to see a man so happy.

On Saturday night after returning to my hotel room, I turned on the TV to unwind. The program was one of those true crime stories. This one was about a brutal double murder, the investigation, the arrest, the trial and conviction. The murderer avoided the death penalty by a plea bargain to a life sentence. In the courtroom at the sentencing, the mother of one of the victims was able to speak publically to him. The bitter final words were: "The memories of our loved ones will live on and they will never be forgotten - but you, when you are taken out of this courtroom today, you will be **forever forgotten!**" Her words rang out like a shot in the courtroom. The pain and finality of it all showed on the face of the condemned man. He was going to spend the rest of his life in prison, hopeless and forgotten. There was no joy in that courtroom for anyone, and with that the documentary ended.

As a Kairos volunteer, I never ask a man about his crime, but he is free to share if he desires. John had said enough about his past for me to know it was very similar to the condemned man on the show I had just watched; a brutal murder and a death sentence narrowly avoided by a plea bargain. John shared that he had been suicidal for some time, feeling hopeless with no future. But where a television show ends, that's where God's program begins, and I was blessed to witness 'the rest of the story' as Paul Harvey would say.

We always sing a song to the men, "I Will Never Forget You" from Isaiah 49:15. *Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See I have you engraved on the palms of my hands.* John was no longer hopeless, with no future, no longer suicidal. John was not 'forever forgotten.' He was remembered and pursued by the god who loved him. Somehow I could see John through God's eyes, there was no ugly past. He was innocent and pure, like a child. I was not embracing a murderer. I was embracing the apple of God's eye, his beloved son who had come home. God's heart was overflowing with great joy.

But how can this be? A horrific crime has been committed. Someone suffered and died at this man's hands. countless lives have been torn apart and forever altered because their loved one was no more. How can God look at John and not remember that? Doesn't he deserve a life of misery and torment? Doesn't he deserve to die for what he did? How can God love Him? How can I let the arms that once took a life now embrace me in love? Shouldn't I feel contempt for him instead? Where is true justice? Why is there rejoicing? The person responsible for this crime should pay for it!

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He himself accepted responsibility for this murder. He himself paid the price due. Justice was done fully and without mercy on the cross. Mercy and death came to Christ instead of John. Christ was forsaken, 'forgotten,' instead of John. Because of Calvary, John's crimes have been 'forever forgotten.' And so have ours! *I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake and remembers your sins no more.* Isaiah 43:25

Postscript: On Sunday afternoon we had a closing ceremony full of free world guests and other residents of the unit. The men in the program were given the opportunity to publically share what the weekend meant to them. John wasted no time stepping up to the microphone. Filled with joy, he shared about the love of God that he was experiencing, and as he did he literally began to leap and dance for joy, praising God for His goodness to him. I remembered the word of the Lord, "But for you who revere my name, the son of righteousness will rise with healing in it's wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall." Malachi 4:2

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It's been said that first God separated the salt water from the fresh, made dry land, planted a garden, made animals and fish ... all before making a human. He made and provided what we'd need before we were born. These are best and more powerful when eaten raw. We are such slow learners.

God left us great clues as to what foods help what part of our body!

God's pharmacy! Amazing!



A sliced carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye ... And YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow and function of the eye.

A tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopene and are indeed pure heart and blood food.



Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of a heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and vitalizing food

A walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.



Kidney beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.

Celery, bok choy, rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.



Avocados, eggplant, and pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - and they look like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 proteolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named 141 of them).



Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the number of sperm as well, to overcome male sterility.



Sweet potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics.

Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries.



Oranges, grapefruit, and other citrus fruits look like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.

Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.



KAIROS of TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

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WAIT

by Russell Kelfer

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried;
Quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied.
I pled and wept for a clue to my fate ...
And the Master so gently said, "Wait."
"Wait? You say wait?" my indignant reply.
"Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!
Is Your hand shortened? Or have you not heard?
By faith I have asked, and I'm claiming your Word.
My future and all to which I relate
Hangs in the balance, and you tell me to wait?
I'm needing a 'yes', a go-ahead sign,
Or even a "no" to which I can resign.
You promised, dear Lord, that if we believe,
We need but to ask, and we shall receive.
And Lord I've been asking, and this is my cry:
"I'm weary of asking! I need a reply."
Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate,
As my Master replied again, "Wait."
So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut,
And grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting for what?"
He seemed then to kneel, and His eyes met with mine ...
and He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.
I could shake the heavens and darken the sun.
I could raise the dead and cause the mountains to run.
I could give all you seek and pleased you would be.
You'd have what you want, but you wouldn't know Me.
You'd not know the depth of my love for each saint.
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint.
You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair;
You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there.
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me
When darkness and silence are all you can see.
You'd never experience the fullness of love
When the peace of My spirit descends like a dove.
You would know that I give, and I save, for a start,
But you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart,
The glow of My comfort late into the night,
The faith that I give when you walk without sight,
The depth that's beyond getting just what you ask
From a infinite God who makes what you have last.
You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee,
What it means that My grace is sufficient for thee.
Yes, your dearest dreams overnight would come true,
But, oh, the loss, if you missed what I'm doing in you.
So, be silent, My child, and in time you will see
That the greatest of gifts is to truly know Me.
And though oft My answers seem terribly late,
My most precious answer of all is still ... Wait."



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GOD'S ROSEBUD

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry.

But because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...



**"It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine."**

**"The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so easily,
But in my hands they die."**

**"If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?"**

**"So I'll trust in God for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to God for guidance
In each step of the way."**

**"The path that lies before me,
Only my Lord knows.
I'll trust God to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose."**

*Praise
the
Lord*

**Happy Moments, Praise God
Difficult Moments, Seek God
Quiet Moments, Worship God
Painful Moments, Trust God
Every Moment, Thank God**

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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.

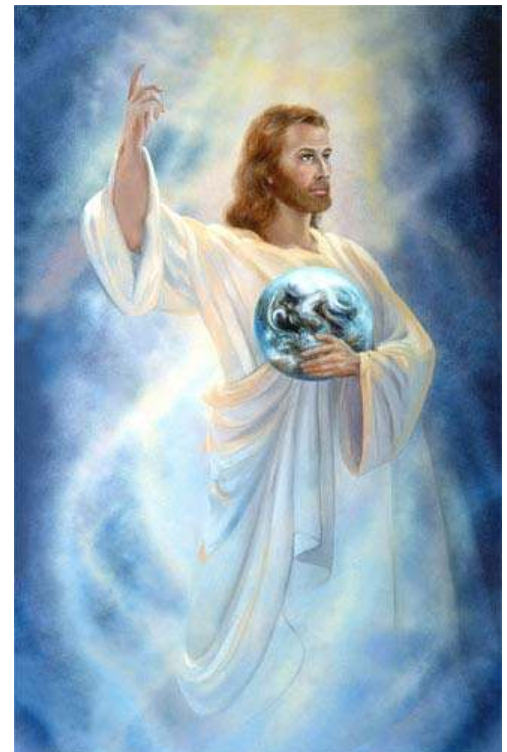
On that same website you will find the current state officers, state meetings and minutes, map of state meetings, committees, and when the weekends are to be held. You will also find this current and past newsletters. If your unit does a newsletter, we would love to add it. There are links to KPMI and 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.

All I know about life I learned from Jesus

- ♥ Jesus is the heart of my life
- ♥ It's better to give than receive
- ♥ Look at the world through the eyes of a child
- ♥ Peace is a way of life
- ♥ Love one another
- ♥ Miracles do happen
- ♥ Nothing is impossible with God
- ♥ The gift of love is continuous
- ♥ We love because He first loved us (I John 4:19)



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