

# Kairos of Texas

2nd EDITION

Special Edition  
2009



God's Special Time



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Remembrances

And

Recognitions

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## From the State Chair, Ed Keefer

I don't know about anyone else, but 2009 is just flying by for me. It seems like I'm leaving more undone than done and if any of you have anything left undone that I should have done, please jump start me one more time.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.  
~ John 13:34-35

But during this time serving each of you, I have had the privilege of sharing in and being a part of events that have truly blessed me and are a reflection of this marvelous ministry and community of Kairos volunteers. It is truly heartwarming to hear the stories of the Holy Spirit working thru and in all of us, whether a team member, a community member, a sponsor, a resident, a correctional officer, a warden, a chaplain, a child, a guest, an inquirer or so many more that I have trouble putting my arms around all of them. But, needless to say, without each and everyone willingly sacrificing a part of themselves, this ministry and this community known as Kairos wouldn't exist.

Within a week, we, all of us, shared in the grief and the joy of two Team members who entered into Heaven while actively serving on a Weekend. John Piland and Judy Daniel will be a part of my memory just as they will be a part of yours. But, the determination of the Team members and the residents to continue on with the weekend changed lives forever. Until we are all together again, we'll never truly understand the harvest from the steadfastness demonstrated and the surrender to the ministrations of the Holy Spirit.

But, during this same time I had the privilege of receiving the Governor's Award for Volunteer Service, along with Juanita Dean, Jim Janke and Wilbur Limburgh, that was presented to Kairos of Texas for Religious Service. The award represented recognition for the many years, since 1985, that we have been ministering in the TDCJ system. It represented and was presented to all the many volunteers that have carried the message of Listen, Listen, Love, Love to the incarcerated men and women in the TDCJ system. There have been an untold number of men and women that have gladly given of themselves, sometimes at great sacrifice to self and family, but have been led by the Holy Spirit to bring the life changing words of Jesus Christ on not just a Weekend, but on a weekly and monthly basis. They've been obedient to the institution in which they've served. They've been respectful, they've listened, listened, loved, loved and as a result have been invited back and have been invited to go into facilities that don't have a Kairos ministry. It is for this reason that we were recognized— for what we've done and demonstrated. For this we need to thank all of those that came before us just as it's my hope that, twenty years from now, those in this Kairos ministry will thank each of us for our obedience, our listening, listening, loving, loving.

I look forward to the second half of the year knowing that the Holy Spirit has many marvelous things in store and I consider it a privilege to serve each of you.



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# In Memory of Our Sister

Judy Daniel

## Judy's Gift

By Rev. Ken F. Sellers, Jr.

### Briscoe Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Dilly, Texas, Palm Sunday Weekend, 2009

Friday morning, on her return to the Lion's Hall from a supply run, Judy was killed in a train accident. Judy was the wife of Jim, the Unit liaison for KAIROS. She and Jim, her son Billy and his wife, were all members of this team and prior teams at Briscoe. She and Jim were frequent attendees for worship at the Unit. Judy died less than 24 hours into the walk, which will probably forever be remembered as Judy's Walk. Her death, as tragic as it was, was the beginning of the most awesome display of the power of our God that I have ever witnessed.

Sometime during the morning on Friday I, as Spiritual Director, was called aside and told that Jim and Billy had been taken out by the Warden and that there had been an accident. Details were sparse. Most of the volunteers were not aware at that point that Jim and Billy had left the unit. It wasn't long before we were told that the Warden wanted to see all volunteers in an area set away from our conference room. Once we were seated the Warden informed us that Judy had died. There were cries of anguish, people stood and held onto each other, we openly wept at the loss of our friend. Those who had shared Walks 1, 2 and 3 and the long lead up to number 1 with Jim and Judy were hardest hit. Some could not speak their sobs were so deep. One of the spiritual directors agreed to go back immediately to tend the needs of our outside team. With little conversation the Inside Team knew that we would continue the walk because Judy would want us to do so. Two more Team members went back to the Lion's hall for a while and returned later in the day. With pain in our hearts and tears on our cheeks we went back to our Brothers in white, shared the trauma with them and requested their cooperation in going forward. Without hesitation our Brothers-in-white, even those who were at tables, came to the aid of the volunteers. We received their prayers and comforting support.

Our first concerns were focused on two very important tasks. One, we needed to adjust our schedule and our expectations for the remainder of the day. Secondly, it occurred to us that our dinner meal would probably not make it in due to the trauma our Outside Team was experiencing. What didn't occur to us was that the Spirit was moving in the Outside Team just as it was in us, urging us all to honor Judy by completing the weekend.

Back at the Lion's Hall those who had moments earlier witnessed the loss of a close friend and co-missionary were finishing the meal. When completed, there arose yet another challenge. The

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# Judy's Gift

(continued)

wreckage was not yet removed and the accident investigation completed. The train that had ended the servant life of Judy was still straddling the only road from the Lion's Hall to the highway. As the Inside Team was anticipating no meal because of grief, the Outside Team was walking through their grief to hand-carry the meal over the railroad tracks, between railroad cars, to trucks waiting to deliver the meals to the unit. When it arrived intact and on time, we on the inside were moved to tears by the strength of our Outside Team. We purposefully waited to share this part of the story with our forty-two attendees.

As they sat down to eat we asked that they wait to begin until we were all present. Then we shared how our ladies had gone beyond duty to prepare and deliver perhaps the most precious meal they would ever enjoy. There were more tears and much discussion of the gifts we were receiving in the aftermath of the tragedy. Later I was told that one of the attendees had remarked that he couldn't eat the fried chicken because of the high cost, Judy's life. When reminded that we would be honoring Judy and those who prepared the meal by enjoying it, he remarked, "I will never again eat fried chicken without remembering Judy's KAIROS Chicken."

Prior to the meal, I had a counseling session that bears relating. A young Brother-in-white came to admit that he wasn't able to cry with us in our grief. His short tragic life had left him too numb to be emotional. After some conversation regarding the life events that had left him so numb, I suggested that he go to his "house" that night and write down some things about the emotions he had witnessed that day. I offered him a hug which he refused as he departed.

We completed Friday with posters drawn in pen and pencil on butcher's paper. We hadn't brought in the poster board or the markers. There was much humor, still some tears, but all in all drawn to a close without too much fuss. We put aside the little things that we often let ourselves grouch about because of errors, miscues and forgetfulness. The EVENT of the day had sobered us to those inconsequential, petty asides.

Saturday began in subdued fashion. We ate breakfast and proceeded to the unit. Most things went as planned, though small glitches arose as they do on every Walk. Mid-morning the young man who had come to me the day before came again. He explained that he had tried to follow my instructions the evening before. He sat down and wrote, "I've got nothing to write!" And then he wrote some about his mom, about his anger, about the loss of a friend to suicide and finally about what he had witnessed the day before. His thoughts about Friday came out as a song entitled, "Rain Storm - Cleansing Rain." As he was writing the song he had an experience he had not known in eight years - he cried. We concluded our conversation with both of us in tears of joy. We started to rejoin the others in the "conference room" when he said, "WAIT! I need a hug."

We progressed through the morning and lunch. It came time for the agape letters. As is normal, the clergy stayed in the "conference room" with the men while they read letters. There were tears and laughter as they became even more aware of the awesome nature of God. AND THEN GOD

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# Judy's Gift

(continued)

## STRUCK WITH AN AWESOME SHOW OF GRACE!

I was called from the conference room and given a baggy of letters. It was labeled, "From Jim (Judy's husband)." I took the baggy into the room, got the attention of everyone and distributed the letters by name. Many were immediately opened. Two men came to me to say their envelopes were empty. I let them know I thought Jim would correct that error as soon as he was able. Then a third arrived with his envelope, but he had a letter in his hand. He simply held it up for my eyes to behold . . . it was signed "JUDY." The letters I had just delivered were the letters Judy had completed before she went home to the Lord.

Before Saturday night's "Open Mike" we had delivered to us a letter from a Brother-in-white who was not on the Walk and had not been on a previous Walk. He was so moved by the actions of the Team (remaining in mission though there was ample reason to walk away) that he promised himself to God because he wanted to be more like those of us who had committed ourselves to befriend and care for "trash" like him.

"Open Mike" and Closing contained witness after witness to the power of God's work in the tragedy of Judy's death. The Warden and the Chaplain, when given a chance to offer their thoughts praised KAIROS as the most meaningful missionary work they had ever witnessed, and invited us back. Ossie, AMEN, Cook who gave the 4<sup>th</sup> day talk echoed all of our thoughts and prayers in his call to remember what we had been given in Judy's Gift, a chance at new life in Jesus.

My apologies! I have not been able to single out all of the heroic actions nor tell all of the significant stories that were shared with me by other members of the team. Suffice it to say that the entire tale is probably enough to fill a book or at least a feature story in Reader's Digest. I stuck to what I was involved in directly. My thanks go out to all who were there and who kept me going. God has blessed me with you.

I am clear that those of us in the gym that Palm Sunday afternoon (probably more than 150), commemorating Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem to face death on the cross for us, know that the true meaning of KAIROS, God's Special Time, will forever (to mangle Isaiah) be etched into our minds and hearts with the memory of a sister who went to her death that those who are imprisoned will be visited (Mathew 25).

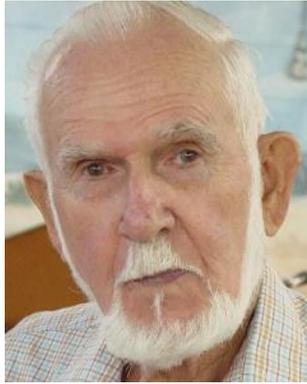
Living in grace and for justice,  
Bro. Ken Sellers



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# In Memory of Our Brother

## John Piland



My father, "Papa John", passed away during the Kairos weekend of Daniel #11. He got involved in Kairos after he attended the closing of Daniel #1 which was led by Steve Reames. He served on his first Kairos weekend at Daniel #2, on which I was the Lay leader. I thought he might serve on #2 as a favor to his son and that would be the sum of it, but he became thoroughly hooked. He even got into volunteering as a Bible teacher in the prison as well as serving on Kairos. He even dragged my stepmom, Gladys, into the work. She served on most of the Outside teams as he was serving Inside. He served on #2 through #11 when he was abruptly called home on Friday evening, March 27th, finally yielding his spirit up on Saturday, March 28th. He had a massive blood hemorrhage into his brain . He was on blood thinning medication that caused it to be irreversable. Just before Dad was stricken, he had given the Clergy meditation in the chapel about spiritual counseling after the "Opening the Door " talk. I remember that he was not exactly following the scripted meditation! He brought in some other scriptures that pressed the point of not putting off the business of dealing with those things that are keeping us from making the decision to follow Christ or of taking care of those things that the Holy Spirit is prompting us about. He was urging them that our time is short and we need to deal with ourselves before God in the "now" and not put it off. The fact that his life ended the next day has had a profound effect on those who were there, as well as the whole Kairos community at Price Daniel.

After we returned to the community room, we had some lively music to which the whole bunch was up dancing and praising. Right after that he began to feel weak. We got him a wheelchair so he would have support and not fall out of his seat, but he insisted on staying through the poster time and the end of the day. It was extremely cold as we left the unit as a wild norther blew in that evening. On the way back to the church he and I were talking about a former time, about a year and a half ago, when we had come to Snyder and the dew was freezing on the trees. I remember that the whole countryside looked like it was made of Crystal. We both had remarked about how that must be something like Heaven must appear. As we traveled back to the church this evening, he reminisced about how beautiful that was! I think, even at that point, he may have been seeing things more glorious than we can imagine and that is why his mind went back to that day.

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# John Piland

(continued)

By the time we arrived at the church, it was evident that something was badly wrong, so we called 911. The entire Kairos team laid hands on him and lifted him up in prayer as we waited for the ambulance. When we got him to the local hospital, the CAT scan showed the problem. It was already too late to save him. He did still say a thing or two before consciousness completely left him. The last thing I heard him say was when he asked my stepmother, "How many of the brothers are here?" I'm convinced that he was referring to the brothers in white, as they were so much on his heart and mind!

My Dad loved Kairos! He told me that it helped him learn how to love others by listening. He said that the slogan, "Listen, Listen; Love, Love" had taught him more than he could verbalize about how to really love another in need! These men in white loved him and he loved them back. They all looked to him as father figure, and he did not disappoint them! He gave them the fatherly love that so many of them need!

When I've introduced myself on Thursday evenings on Kairos weekends, I've said many times that each Kairos is different. I try not to anticipate what will happen. This one was surely different! I've said a time or two since, that this was "my special time"; "My Kairos" with the Lord. It hurt a lot to lose my Dad, but I am so grateful I could walk each step with him right up to his last breath on earth. He was my best friend! I miss him a lot, but I know that he knows Jesus!

It was fitting that he died this way. He was doing something he loved as much as anything he has ever done. His heart was in that Prison. The only thing Dad would have done differently on Friday is this. He was on a very restricted diet. I know that if he had known it was his last day, he would have had a nice plate of the brisket and sausage we had for lunch! Otherwise, he died the way he would have preferred. We (the family) are all doing fine now. It doesn't hurt as much as a couple of weeks ago. We appreciate your concern and love. I'm amazed how word gets around sometimes and the route it takes to get there! Thanks for asking about us! Feel free to share about him in a death notice or obit about him if that is your wish. We are not sensitive about but honored that you care!

Be Blessed! Tim Piland



# *Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award for Religious Service*



Pictured, in alphabetical order:

Greg Abbott—Attorney General of Texas

Oliver Bell—Chairman, Texas Board of Criminal Justice

Juanita Dean

Jim Janke

Ed Keefer—State Chair, Kairos Prison Ministry International, Texas Chapter

Wilbur Limburgh

Brad Livingston—Executive Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice



# THE STATE OF TEXAS

## GOVERNOR

*To all to whom these presents shall come,  
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is  
presented to:*

### **KAIROS of Texas**

*in recognition of your sterling contributions to the State of Texas  
and being a recipient of the*

**Religious Service  
Governor's Criminal Justice  
Volunteer Service Award**

2009

*Under the laws of the State of Texas, with all rights,  
privileges and emoluments appertaining to said office,  
I grant this official recognition. In testimony whereof,  
I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State  
to be affixed at the City of Austin, this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of  
March A.D., 2009.*



*Rick Perry*  
Rick Perry  
Governor of Texas

It's been a lot of years. My husband, Chuck, started our "experiences" with Kairos on #4 Beto and we were blessed to serve together on 21 teams before he had a back injury and couldn't take the long hours.

My service to Kairos Prison Ministry includes the following

Beto Unit -  
10 Support Teams, Head Chef #9

Coffield Unit -  
#1 Support Team, Head Chef

Hilltop Unit -  
5 Inside Teams

Hobby Unit -  
2 Inside Teams

Mt. View Unit -  
#1 Rector, 13 additional Inside Teams

England Women's Kairos #2 -  
KPMI Observer

I am presently a Trainer for Advance Kairos Trainers (AKT). I started when Ike Griffin was in charge of Kairos and do 3-5 AKT weekends per year since AKT began. I'll admit I love doing this as it is imperative that future Leaders understand the KAIROS way to conduct a weekend. It is so rewarding to see the "Aha" looks when they learn the "whys" of Kairos that will enable them to do a good job training their teams for service in God's ministry.

Juanita Dean

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*Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award  
for  
Religious Service*

*(continued)*

I began KAIROS Ministry at Ferguson in July 1991 serving three Weekends.

I served 8 Weekends at McConnell and was Leader on McConnell 3.

I was Chairman of KAIROS of Texas two years, 1998 - 1999.

Board Rep. on Eastham #1 in 1999.

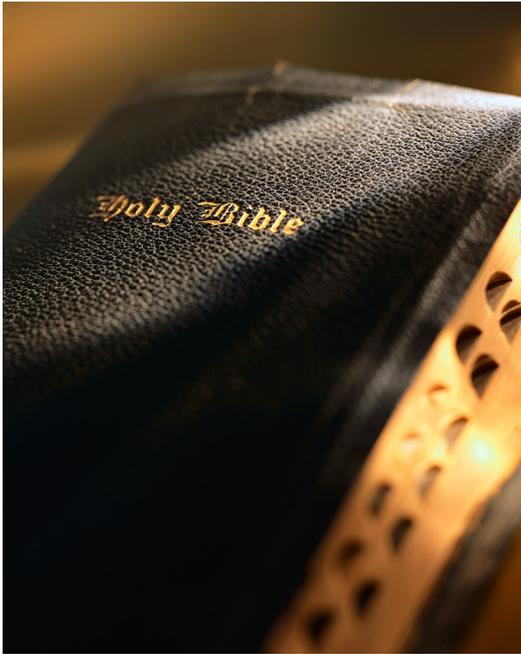
I organized KAIROS at Torres Unit in Hondo, Texas in 1999 and am now serving as "Certified Volunteer Chaplains Assistant" at Torres Unit since April 2005.

Wilbur Lehmborg



Jim Janke began working with Kairos in 1987 at the Darrington Unit. He has participated in Kairos continually since that time, having participated in more than 40 Weekend Kairos events, and numerous reunion follow-up visits.

He has served on the Kairos State Committee and the Kairos International Board.



# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hobby #26	2 Hobby #26	3 Hobby #26	4 Hobby #26
5 Hobby #26	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Rudd #5	17 Rudd #5	18 Rudd #5
19 Rudd #5	20	21	22	23 Segovia #4	24 Segovia #4 KO Amarillo #18	25 Segovia #4 KO Amarillo #18
26 Segovia #4 KO Amarillo #18	27	28	29	30 Wallace #21	31 Wallace #21	

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Wallace #21
2 Wallace #21	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Hutchins #8	20 Hutchins #8 FCI Big Spring #10	21 Hutchins #8 FCI Big Spring #10	22 Hutchins #8 FCI Big Spring #10
23 Hutchins #8 FCI Big Spring #10	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Jordan #26 Torres #21	11 Jordan #26 Torres #21	12 Jordan #26 Torres #21
13 Jordan #26 Torres #21	14	15	16	17 Roach #20 Smith #25	18 Roach #20 Smith #25 KO Houston #22	19 Roach #20 Smith #25 KO Houston #22
20 Roach #20 Smith #25 KO Houston #22	21	22	23	24 Clements #32	25 Clements #32	26 Clements #32
27 Clements #32	28	29	30			

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Allred #17 Murray #9 Polunsky #23 Robertson #29 Stevenson #19	2 Allred #17 Murray #9 Polunsky #23 Robertson #29 Stevenson #19 KONT #26	3 Allred #17 Murray #9 Polunsky #23 Robertson #29 Stevenson #19 KONT #26
4 Allred #17 Murray #9 Polunsky #23 Robertson #29 Stevenson #19 KONT #26	5	6	7	8 Daniel #12 Lockhart #10 Hughes #25 Lynaugh #22 Vance #39	9 Daniel #12 Lockhart #10 Hughes #25 Lynaugh #22 Vance #39	10 Daniel #12 Lockhart #10 Hughes #25 Lynaugh #22 Vance #39
11 Daniel #12 Lockhart #10 Hughes #25 Lynaugh #22 Vance #39	12	13	14	15 Coffield #28 Hightower #3 Stiles #25	16 Coffield #28 Hightower #3 Stiles #25 KO Corpus Christi #6	17 Coffield #28 Hightower #3 Stiles #25 KO Corpus Christi #6
18 Coffield #28 Hightower #3 Stiles #25 KO Corpus Christi #6	19	20	21	22 Mt. View #20 Darrington #44 Michael #35	23 Mt. View #20 Darrington #44 Michael #35 KO Midland #20	24 Mt. View #20 Darrington #44 Michael #35 KO Midland #20
25 Mt. View #20 Darrington #44 Michael #35 KO Midland #20	26	27	28	29 McConnell #28	30 McConnell #28	31 McConnell #28

**Kairos of Texas**

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Midland, TX 79710

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

*God's Special Time*

The mission of Kairos Prison Ministry International is to bring Christ's unconditional love and forgiveness to...

- All incarcerated individuals
- Their families
- Those who work with them and to assist the incarcerated in the transition to becoming a productive citizen.

## **Meditation from Bill Pearce, TDCJ Director of Chaplaincy Operations**

Kairos Devotional

As I was thinking about what to write for this devotional piece, the thought of the real reason Jesus came to earth kept coming to mind. The Scripture says that Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. As Jesus went about his earthly ministry the people he was always found with were the ones at the bottom of the social ladder. He was with the fisherman, tax collectors, harlots and those not acceptable to the in-crowd of the time. Each time he went to the Temple or synagogue the statements he made were offensive to those that were there.

Several weeks ago I heard through one of our Parole Chaplains that offenders being released to his area were having a very difficult time finding a church that would accept them. As a result, a restorative justice ministry began to assist in the development of a church that would accept them. How sad is it when churches today are only seeking the lost that fit the right social status. I do know that there are those churches that have started ministries to ex-offenders and that is fantastic, but why do we have to start churches for ex-offenders? Why don't churches minister to the lost of all type?

In Matthew, Jesus says in as much as you have ministered unto the least of these you have ministered unto me. That's the Pierce paraphrase. With that in mind are we really being obedient to the Great Commission?

I thank God for ministries like Kairos that do not look at the color of a man or woman's skin, their religious background, or their criminal history, but see a person created by God and one that needs to be shown the true love of God.

As Jesus said, "by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, by the love you have one for another."

