

# Kansas Torch News



## Kansas Kairos Torch

### KJCC Holiday Dinner

December 2017  
Volume 4, Issue 4

On December 2, the joy of Christ was shared with the young men and women at KJCC. A traditional home cooked meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, vegetables, rolls and pie was served to the incarcerated youth in their units

2017 KJCC Holiday Dinner - the numbers:

- 184 youth served
- 16 units + Segregation
- 76 volunteers who went into KJCC to serve food
- 13 of the 16 units were served by Kairos Torch team members and their families and friends
- Unknown - the number of people who provided food, money and most importantly - prayer!

Preparing and taking the food into KJCC is a big effort that involves many people and hours of service. It also involves time, hard work, and commitment by the KJCC staff to make everything go smoothly and safely. We appreciate Chaplain Bob Hanson and the team at KJCC for allowing us to serve God and the young people at KJCC.

---

#### Inside this issue:

Youth Perspective	2
October Reunion	3
November Reunion	3
Weekend #27	4

---

---

#### Kairos Torch Advisory Council

---

**Chair:** Julie Copp

**Secretary/Admin Coord:**  
Lori Williams

**Donor Coordinator:**  
Margaret Boyles

**Treasurer:** Bill Norris

**Mentoring Coordinator:**  
Kathy Fritz

**State Chapter Rep:**  
Sharon Norris

**Facility Liaison:**  
Linda Hodgson

**Food Coordinator:**  
Sandy McAlexander

**Fundraising:**  
Kathy Dietering

**Agape:** Butch McAlexander

**Reunion Speaker  
Coordinator:**  
Mitch Miller

**Newsletter:** Dewey Burris



## Youth Perspective on Kairos Torch

On November 16, we concluded one-on-one weekly mentoring with the young men who participated in Weekend #26 in April 2017 and are still incarcerated at KJCC. We asked them to anonymously share what Kairos Torch means to them by answering these two questions:

1. How has Kairos Torch impacted you?
2. How would you describe Kairos Torch to others?

*"It has made me open my eyes and learn that there is always a second chance if you have royally screwed up.*

*I would describe it as an opportunity for a broad new start."*

*"I want to change and it helped me move on from all the bad choices I made.*

*Kairos is a very good program it help me change in a short amount of time and also tell you things you never new about God also my mentor always believe in everything I told them and gave us there input on situation. Also if something wrong they are very concerned about your feeling!"*

*"God not judging, his loving and caring and He never let go and God forgive you of your sin. Kairos open up your mind to things that are far but close."*

*"Kairos is God's special time.*

*It's a ministry that is full of people you can trust. Being surrounded by people even from the beginning that care for and love you. A way to learn what God has to offer. About improving and developing a relationship with others, God, and yourself."*

*"Kairos has changed me in so many different wayz:*

1. The food
2. The People
3. The storys of God
4. God is worth living for"

*"Kairos has helped me come closer to God. Kairos is an enjoyable and helpful place to go."*

*"Kairos was good and it made me more appreciative the good talks and just to now more about God because I was lost and now I'm ready to now God and there a future for me. I'm ready and I want to thank everybody for showing the love of Christ."*

*"Kairos has taught me that there can be more meaning behind simple actions. Also that know matter how you feel or where your at there is always someone you can count on and He is God! I would describe Kairos as a group of people who sincerely care about you and want you to get closer with God. And there is good food."*

## October Reunion

We had 29 young men and 16 team members at the October Reunion. Dinner was pizza, breadsticks, fruit and cookies. Frank Eschman, Life Care Pastor at Fellowship Bible Church, was the speaker.

Frank shared that we all have things happening in our lives. It's important that we support each other and do life together. He told the story of how Saul, the persecutor, was converted to Paul, the great evangelist. Saul met Jesus and God used him. Frank also shared the story of how Gideon went from a frightened farmer to a might warrior. Gideon is an example of what God can do with an unlikely human. God will take unlikely people and use them. Consider the criminals on the cross - one mocked Jesus and one asked Jesus to remember him. Which one are we?

Frank challenged all of us to find and follow Jesus, no matter our circumstances. Let Jesus into your life. Let Him lead you.

## November Reunion

Twenty-six young men and 17 team members enjoyed Chinese food and apple and cherry cobbler at our November Reunion.

Brett Durbin, Executive Director of Trash Mountain, was the speaker. Brett told a story about a man he met in the trash dump in Nairobi, Kenya. It is one of the top three largest dumps in the world and 150,000 people live there. This man was the boss and head of the Nairobi crime cartel at the dump. When Brett first met him he asked if Brett was a preacher. When Brett said "Yes", the man said "I believe in Jesus but it's too late for me." Brett told him, "Jesus is the God of second chances." Later in the day, this man saved Brett's life when a rival gang arrived.

One year later, Brett returned to the dump. The man was different. He had left the cartel and was allowed to live, which almost never happens. The day he talked to Brett had changed his life. He believed he could change because of Jesus. He has a business plan and is following it. He now has three motorcycles that he uses for a taxi service. His goal is to make enough money to buy a car. He is paying for six kids in the trash community to go to school and he is getting into ministry leadership.

Brett ended his message with this challenge: "Embrace Jesus. He wants you to succeed."

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."**

**Romans 12:2**

---

## Kansas Kairos Torch

PO Box 773  
Topeka, KS 66601-0773



*Listen, Listen, Love, Love*

Kairos Prison Ministry is  
on the web!

KPMIFoundation.org  
or  
KSKairos.org

Kairos Torch is a positive, interactive, and thought-provoking program for young offenders. By developing reasoning and holistic life skills, and engaging in the Torch mentoring program, participants are better able to seek balance in their lives.

Kairos Torch encourages these youth to realize their God-given potential through the creation of a safe environment, allowing them to learn what life can be like in a loving, caring and trusting community. The Kairos Torch experience is an opportunity to introduce the possibility of a spiritual journey with God through His message of unconditional love and acceptance.

If you are interested in supporting the ministry or becoming a team member during a weekend or over a six month mentoring period, please contact:

Julie Copp, Advisory Council Chair

[wjopp@att.net](mailto:wjopp@att.net)

Kathy Fritz

[kfritz@topeka.org](mailto:kfritz@topeka.org)

If you have ideas for future articles, you can contact

Dewey Burris ([burris2874@att.net](mailto:burris2874@att.net))

**Like us on Facebook – Kairos Torch Topeka**

---

## Weekend #27 - April 2018

Weekend #27 will be held April 27 - 29, 2018 at KJCC in Topeka.

Weekend leaders will be Brett and Melissa Thoms. Paul Beck will be Observing Leader and will lead Weekend #28 in October 2018. Butch McAlexander will be the Advising Leader.

### **Training will be held at Town & Country Christian Church**

- Feb 3 (applications and forms)
- Feb 24
- March 3
- March 17
- March 24

April 7 - alternate training date

The tentative date for KJCC facility training is April 12. Meet the Youth Mixer is planned for April 19.

**We need team member volunteers!** Please contact Brett Thoms at 785-501-8640 or [thomsbrett@gmail.com](mailto:thomsbrett@gmail.com) or Melissa Thoms at 785-501-8100 or [mthoms@tps501.org](mailto:mthoms@tps501.org).

Please pray for Weekend #27!

**Agape Love**

**God's Special Creation**

**Forgiveness**

**Remove Masks**