

# Kansas Torch News



## Kansas Kairos Torch

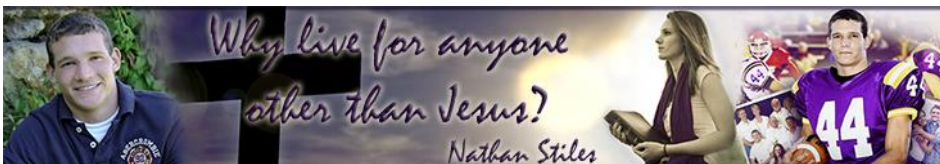
### February Speaker - Nathan Project

March 2017  
Volume 4, Issue 1

For the past several years, the Bibles presented to the young men who participate in Kairos weekends have been made available through The Nathan Project. On February 9th Ron Stiles, Nathan's father, came to the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex to serve as the speaker for the February Reunion program. Ron told the boys the story of how the Nathan Project was created. He explained to them that God can make wonderful things happen out of heartbreaking life events. Ron used the story of Balaam's

donkey to illustrate the idea that obedience to God is the best route to take. Since Nathan's death, over 30,000 Bibles have been distributed to people who need them, and many to correctional facilities in Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, and Iowa. One Kairos volunteer, Eleanor Daniels, shares them at bus stops throughout Topeka. Ron gave the boys a better understanding of the love God has for us all, and the agape response a Christian family

had to the loss of their beloved son.



Nathan Stiles was playing the game of his life. A senior running back for Spring Hill, Kansas, High School, Nathan was elected one of the team captains but was injured in practice and forced to spend much of the season rooting from the sidelines. His enthusiasm for his team and the game never wavered, and he returned for the Homecoming game where he was crowned king. A concussion during that game again sent him to the sidelines, but on October 28, 2010 he was back and playing against Osawatomie High School. Nathan scored two times and gained over 100 yards before halftime. Then, shortly after scoring his second touchdown, Nathan came to the sidelines in pain and collapsed. He was unconscious.

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## Nathan Project (continued)

Nathan was Life Flighted to the University of Kansas Medical Center. The emergency room area was soon full of friends and family gathered to support Nathan by their presence and their prayers. They kept vigil into the early hours of the next morning. Doctors tried everything to help him, but despite every effort, just four days prior to his 18th birthday, Nathan died. It seemed beyond understanding that so promising a young man could die this way. A standout athlete, a 4.0 student and a leader in his church youth group, Nathan also sang in a band, in high school madrigals and in church choir. However, his accomplishments were overshadowed by the love he brought to everyone who knew him. So many people not only from his community but also from the opposing team's community and the entire Kansas City area were

touched by his life — and torn by his death.

When Ron and Connie Stiles returned to the home that had just 12 hours earlier been filled with their son's beautiful singing voice, they faced the emptiness with every conceivable emotion. They found themselves retracing their son's steps. In the basement, Ron and Connie found Nathan's Bible lying where he read it each day. They noticed Nathan's imprint in the couch where he sat. They realized that earlier that day, like every other day, Nathan had been in the Word. Nathan had taken seriously a challenge to read the Bible. It occurred to them that this special time alone with God's Word had helped shape Nathan into the young man he was. Just as he had left his imprint on the couch, God's Word had made an

imprint on his life, and he in turn had made an imprint on so many others. This daily time in the Word was where God blessed Him and prepared Him for his calling in life and in death. It made Him who he was and provided an opportunity for His death to be used for new life.

His parents knew what they must do next — let Nathan's life and relationship with God speak through "The Nathan Project". "The Nathan Project" is actually the same challenge that Nathan took — to read the Bible daily for a year and meet in a group to talk about it.

**I would like to say "Thank You" to Kevin Han for providing the information contained in this article.**



## March Speaker

Josh Berryhill was the speaker for March. Josh has been in the US Army for 24 years and is a Lieutenant Colonel and an Apache helicopter pilot. He has served three one year tours of duty in Iraq and a one tour of duty in Afghanistan. Josh began by telling his story of how he became a follower of Jesus Christ. He went to church 10 years ago because his wife wanted their son to attend church with his parents. Over time, Josh realized that God had been with him all the time and that He had a special plan for his life. He accepted Christ as his Savior and he and his six year old son were baptized at the same time. Josh explained about life in the military and answered many questions by the young men. He told about being with the ground troops when they entered Baghdad and other stories about being in danger. Looking back, he knows that God was with him and protected him even before he

became a Christian. He talked about the fellowship and peace he now shares with fellow Christians in the military. Josh was a great example for the young men and most seemed to appreciate his testimony and service to your country.

**I would like to say “Thank You” to Julie Copp for providing the information contained in this article.**

Excerpts from the lyrics of MercyMe’s song - “God with Us”

Who are we that You would be mindful of us? What do You see that’s worth looking our way? We are free in ways that we never should be. Sweet release from the grip of these chains like hinges straining from the weight my heart no longer can keep from singing.

Lord you know our hearts don’t deserve Your glory still You show a love we cannot afford like hinges straining from the weight my heart no longer can keep from singing.

All that is within me cries for you You alone to be glorified Emmanuel God with us. My heart sings a brand new song. The debt is paid. These chains are gone Emmanuel God with us.

Such a tiny offering compared to Calvary nevertheless we lay it at your feet.

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## Kansas Kairos Torch

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*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

wjcopp@att.net

If you have ideas for future articles, you can contact  
Dewey Burris (burris2874@att.net)

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

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## Kairos Torch Weekend #26

### Core Team Meetings - Leader Butch McAlexander

Saturday 1/21 – Training – 8:30 – Location T&CCC (Complete)  
Saturday 2/11 – Training – 8:30 – Location T&CCC (Complete)  
Saturday 2/25 – Training – 8:30 - Location T&CCC (Complete)  
Saturday 3/11 – Training – 8:30 – Location T&CCC (Complete)  
Saturday 3/25 – Training – 8:30 – Location T&CCC (Complete)  
Saturday 4/8 – Training – 8:30 – Location T&CCC

### Other Training

3/30 - KJCC Facility Training  
4/20 – Meet the participants – 2 hours KJCC  
Each training event is scheduled for 8 hours.

Following are the volunteers presenting Talks and Mask Meditations:

### TALKS:

- 1) Creation: Lori
- 2) "Get Real": Paul
- 3) "You are not Alone": Ronda
- 4) "Who Ya gonna Trust": Melissa
- 5) "Walled Off": Doug
- 6) "Gods Squad-Stickin Together: Dewey
- 7) "Choices": Kathy D

### MASKS:

- 1) "I Don't need Anyone": Julie
- 2) "Religious": Lori
- 3) "King of the Hill": Brett
- 4) "Victim": Kathy F
- 5) "Laughter": Sharita
- 6) "Anger": Eleanor

Training and preparations for Kairos Torch week-end #26 at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex are well under way. Butch is doing an excellent job of training, coordinating and yes delegating as the team prepares for what God has in store for us and the young men He will select to participate. We are all looking forward to another spirit filled week-end event.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Beck for stepping up and volunteering to lead Kairos Torch week-end #27 scheduled for October 2017 and also thank Brett and Melissa Thoms for taking on the challenge of leading Kairos Torch week-end #28 scheduled for April 2018.