

# Kansas Torch News



## Kansas Kairos Torch

### Weekend #27 - April 2018

The Kairos Torch Advisory Council has moved Weekend #27 from October 2017 to April 2018. Weekend leaders will be Brett and Melissa Thoms. Paul Beck will lead Weekend #28 in October 2018.

Weekend #27 will be held on April 27 - 29, 2018.

**Tentative training dates are:** Feb 3  
Feb 17  
March 3  
March 17  
March 31

April 7 is an alternate training date if it is needed. 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).



Chaplain Bob Hanson entering the facility

### Goals of the Kairos Torch Program

- To provide a safe place for self-exploration
- To offer unconditional love and acceptance
- To encourage the sharing of life journeys and help the youth find a full life
- To help youth reach their greatest potential
- To foster spiritual growth and to promote participation in the long-term mentoring process that provides spiritual and emotional support in order to enhance positive self-esteem, promote constructive life choices, and develop a journey toward a lasting personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

October 2017  
Volume 4, Issue 3

#### Inside this issue:

June Reunion Speaker	2
Holiday Dinner	2
July Reunion Speaker	3
Kairos Information	4
Remember to Pray	4
August Reunion Speaker	4

#### Kairos Torch Advisory Council

**Chair:** Julie Copp

**Secretary/Admin Coord:**  
Lori Williams

**Donor Coordinator:**

**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

## June Reunion Speaker

There were 20 volunteers and 39 young men attending the June reunion where they enjoyed a meal of sandwiches, potato salad, and brownies.

Brad Hutton was the speaker. Brad has a degree in architecture from K-State and retired as project manager and VP Construction from McElroys in Topeka.

In February 2016, Brad noticed weakness in his legs and he started to fall frequently. In June 2016 Brad's leg became completely numb. After many doctor visits and tests, Brad was diagnosed in July 2016 with a very rare form of skin cancer. This type of cancer is only diagnosed about 1500 times per year in the U.S. One evening, Brad broke down in tears and prayed to God for comfort. He immediately felt that he was being held in God's hands and he heard a voice in his head say "You will be all right."

Brad began telling everyone about God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ. One day he met a stranger and Brad told him his story for over an hour. After listening to him, the man said that he was a preacher to the homeless and those in need. The man asked Brad "Do you believe you are healed?" After the man asked Brad this question three times, Brad realized that the man was not asking if he thought he would be healed but if he believed he was healed. Brad said, "Yes."

At Brad's next doctor's appointment, no cancer was found. He has undergone 34 radiation treatments and is serving the Lord. During this time he returned to church. He participates in multiple Bible study groups and attends a weekly men's prayer group. Brad's mission is to serve others and to share the story of how God healed him.

Brad started by saying that he was not a public speaker and that this was one of the largest groups that he had spoken in front of. He spoke from his heart and the young men were very attentive as he shared his powerful story and talked about God's power and the love of Jesus.

**"No matter what storm you face, you need to know that God loves you. He has not abandoned you."**

**Franklin Graham**

## KJCC Holiday Dinner - Dec 2

On December 2, volunteers will take a home cooked dinner of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, salad, vegetables, rolls and pies into every unit at KJCC. Every juvenile offender will get the opportunity to enjoy good food, games, songs and fellowship.

We need volunteers to go into the units, prepare food, and to pray. If you are interested in serving, contact Julie Copp at 785-217-3479 or [wjcopp@att.net](mailto:wjcopp@att.net).

## July Reunion Speaker

The July Kairos Torch reunion at KJCC was enjoyed by 39 young men and 20 volunteers. We ate pizza, ice cream, cupcakes, and heard a great speaker. Bob Hanson joined us in his new role as chaplain at KJCC. Chaplain Hanson has volunteered with Kairos Torch as Spiritual Leader for several weekends, including our weekend in April 2017.

The speaker was Pastor Marcus Clark from Love Fellowship Church in Topeka. Pastor Clark was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He is a third generation pastor and church founder. He lives in Topeka with his wife and five children and is the founding pastor of Love Fellowship Church.

Pastor Clark used Mark 5 as the basis of his talk. He said it is the model of manhood if the young men will allow God to shape and reshape them into the men God wants them to be. After reading Mark 5, Pastor Clark emphasized some key points.

**1. It matters where you hang out.** In Mark 5:3 – 4, the demon-possessed man is described as “He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had strength to subdue him.” Pastor Clark emphasized that where we hang out matters. One of the fruits of the Spirit is self-control. This man was out of control and couldn’t be tamed. Where and who we hang out with impacts how we act. Pastor Clark challenged the young men to ask themselves some questions. “Why am I hanging out in tombs and cemeteries with dead people?”

**2. We do harm to ourselves.**

“Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.” Mark 5:5. We blame others but damage ourselves. We can be healed but the scars will remain as evidence of who we used to be.

**3. Let your worship of God be the best thing you do.** When times get tough, you go back to what you do best. Is your best rolling a joint or getting drunk? Worship God now and let it be the best thing you do. Let your worship of God be the best thing you go back to when you struggle with life.

**4. What is your name? What is your identity?** “And Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’”

Mark 5:9. What is the name your mom or dad or family gave you? Your name dictates your identity. What do you answer to? “Inmate?” What does God call you? He calls you “Son” and “Child of God”.

**5. Ain’t nothing scarier than a man with a plan.**

“And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.” Mark 5:15. The people weren’t afraid of the demon possessed man when he was in the tombs crying out and cutting himself. They were afraid when he found Jesus and was in his right mind and cleaned up. Pastor Clark talked to the young men about the process of great change they can be going through during their time at KJCC. People care about them and want the best for them. They can’t help themselves or their families without change. Some people are and will benefit from them not changing.

**6. Go home to family and friends and tell what Jesus has done.**

“As He was getting in the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged Him that he might be with Him. And He did not permit him but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.’ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.” Mark 5:18-20. Pastor Clark encouraged the young men to take advantage of the programs at KJCC, realize that people like the Kairos Torch volunteers want the best for them, put their trust and faith in God, and then go home to family and friends and tell them what Jesus has done.

We thank Pastor Clark for a dynamic and a meaningful message. It was a blessing to the young men and to the Kairos Torch volunteers!

1. *“Every choice either enhances your spirit or diminishes it.” Caroline Myss*
2. *“He has identified us as His own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts.” 2 Corinthians 1:22a NLT*
3. *“The greatest part of telling others about the Lord is that you now have the opportunity to affect the lives of others for good; now they will have the chance to come to know Christ as their Savior.” Allaboutjesuschrist.org*

## 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 youths 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](mailto:wjcopp@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**

## Remember to Pray

Please remember to pray for Kairos Torch weekend #27 coming up in April 2018. Pray for Brett and Melissa as they lead and co-ordinate everything that goes into making a Kairos Torch weekend happen. Prayer God will provide the next six months of mentoring sessions. Pray that God will strengthen and fortify the volunteers who will be mentoring. Pray God will provide the volunteers and supplies required to for a successful weekend. Satan knows this ministry is making a difference at KJCC so pray God will defeat any attempts Satan makes to destroy it.

## August Reunion Speaker

David Hinkle, Associate Pastor and Elder at Fellowship Bible Church, was our August speaker. There were 27 young men and 17 team members who enjoyed a dinner of chicken strips, coleslaw, chips, watermelon, bananas, and cookies.

David shared his testimony and used 1 Corinthians 7:17 as the key verse of his talk. "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him." We are called to "lead" in our life. That means to take responsibility and initiative, but we aren't to lead whatever life we want. We must remember that our life is an assignment from God that is unique to us. God has a plan for each of our lives. David challenged us to seek our God given assignment in life. It all begins with Jesus, but knowing Jesus isn't enough. Even the demons knew who Jesus was. We must each decide to **receive** Jesus. Receive what He has done. Accept His forgiveness and unconditional love. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in you heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9. David encouraged us to understand our individual God given purpose. Only that God given purpose defines us. **Receive Jesus!**