

# Kansas Torch News



## Kansas Kairos Torch

### Weekend #27 - Glory to God!

By Melissa & Brett Thoms, Weekend #27 Co-Leaders

Kairos Torch Weekend #27 was successfully driven by the Holy Spirit. We all experienced the love of God and His healing presence.

We had 27 volunteers and 20 young men who participated. Many of us shared our gifts and talents throughout the weekend and we saw lives being changed. Not only the participants' lives were changed, but the volunteers' lives as well.

We all went in as a family and adopted these 20 young men into our Kairos Torch family.

As we heard testimonies from the hearts of our volunteers, we saw walls falling down, forgiveness bringing hope, and tears to these young men that now see a different future.

We thank all those who participated, especially Pastor Curtis Odum, our Spiritual Leader. He showed us a humbleness we all should strive to achieve.

We thank the facility for allowing us to come in and make a difference in the lives of these young men.

Finally, we thank God for using us in this most precious way, to God be the glory.



Brett & Melissa Thoms,  
Weekend #27 Leaders



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# If You Really Want to Help Me

By Wally Kisthardt

If you really want to help me, take it slow.  
 Feel my words, and understand the world I know.  
 Be there for me in the bad times and the good.  
 Help me do the things I dream of, not what you think I should.

If you really want to help me, show you care.  
 In your eyes, I'll see if you're really there.  
 Take the time to discover what sets me apart.  
 Know me with your head, and with your heart.

For the road I've traveled has been rough.  
 And I struggle in my mind each passing day.  
 And I pray my strength will be enough,  
 To keep me going on my way.

If you really want to help me, take my hand.  
 Walk with me as I find joy within the strife.  
 Seek less to explain, than to understand.  
 And know that you will truly touch my life.

## Listening Tips

Source - Kairos Torch Program Manual

- ❖ Make eye contact
- ❖ Be aware of your body language
- ❖ Pay attention to facial expressions, gestures and body language
- ❖ Read between the lines and learn to say, "How did that make you feel?"
- ❖ Ask open-ended questions
- ❖ Restate in your own words what you think has been said
- ❖ Ask questions when you don't understand
- ❖ Put aside preconceived ideas and refrain from passing judgment
- ❖ Acknowledge that you are listening by occasionally nodding your head and saying things like, "I see."
- ❖ Give the person the same respect that you desire for yourself when you are talking to someone

**Listen, Listen, Love, Love**

## Weekend #27 - Creativity

Kairos Torch is an evidence-based ministry that demonstrates Christ's love and forgiveness to encourage change in incarcerated youth. The purpose of the two and a half day weekend is to encourage the participants to remove their masks so the real person God made them to be can shine. The weekend consists of many intentionally integrated activities to share God's love, grace and forgiveness.

Key concepts are reinforced in many ways including posters to utilize the participants' artistic talents, skits that display their dramatic skills, and team building activities such as designing a family crest and creating churches. These projects are then shared with the weekend community to encourage a climate of listening, learning and respect.

The pictures below are some examples of the talent, teamwork, and creativity that occurred during Weekend #27.

*Table families each make their version of a church. Some churches have walls and others don't, but all have God in them and are a place of fellowship and acceptance.*



- Each table family comes up with a name and designs a family crest.



- Identifying the walls we build to separate ourselves from others...



- A thank you note to the volunteers from the participants



## Weekend #28 - October 26-28, 2018

If you are interested in joining the team October 26 - 28 for Weekend #28, please contact Kairos Torch at [kskairos.org/contact-us](http://kskairos.org/contact-us). Six months of one-on-one mentoring will follow the weekend. Join us as we share God's life changing love, forgiveness, and hope with incarcerated youth.

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## Kansas Kairos Torch

PO Box 773  
Topeka, KS 66601-0773

### Email

<https://www.kskairos.org/contact-us>



*Listen, Listen, Love, Love*

Kairos Prison Ministry is  
on the web!

[kairosprisonministry.org](http://kairosprisonministry.org)  
or  
[kskairos.org](http://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](mailto:wjcopp@att.net)

Lindy Hodgson, Mentor Coordinator

[jhdgsn@aol.com](mailto:jhdgsn@aol.com)

If you have ideas for future articles, you can contact  
Julie Copp ([wjcopp@att.net](mailto:wjcopp@att.net))

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

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## Independence Day Prayer

Source - [thoughtco.com](http://thoughtco.com)

Dear Lord,

There is no greater feeling of liberty than to experience freedom from sin and death that you provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this, I am very thankful.

On this Independence Day, I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that a very high price was paid for my freedom. My freedom cost others their lives.

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty, meet their needs and watch over their families.

Dear Father, I am so thankful for this nation. For all the sacrifices others have made to build and defend this country, I am grateful. Thank you for the opportunities and freedoms we have in the United States of America. Help me not to take those blessings for granted.

Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Jesus Christ.

Amen

