

NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 1008 • Perryton, TX 79070 • Phone (806) 435-5482

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

by Randy Mahannah

Like other electric cooperatives across the nation, North Plains Electric Cooperative follows a set of guidelines known as the Seven Cooperative Principles in conducting its business. Principle number 7—concern for the community—is last on that list, but not in importance. We take that principle as seriously as we do our core mission of providing reliable and affordable electricity to our members.

Either at work or on their own time, cooperative employees accomplish countless tasks for their communities. They serve as baseball, softball and soccer coaches. They form teams to participate in fundraising walks/runs. They serve as ambassadors for local chambers of commerce. (See story on page 19.)

It shouldn't surprise you that our employees take such an active interest in their communities. After all, they live in these communities, too, and they're just as interested in preserving and improving their

way of life as you are. They have the same values, hopes and dreams that you and your family have. In some cases, one of your family members may even be one of our co-op employees!

The electric cooperatives learned

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a long time ago to play an even bigger role in the development of rural Texas than simply providing electricity. Over the years, the cooperatives' emphasis on economic development has led to the location or expansion of several industries. A key to luring those industries is a

sound infrastructure, and Texas' electric cooperatives have been working for decades to bring water systems, fire protection and highways to the rural areas.

The last five letters of the word "community" form another word—"unity," which describes the underlying key to the success of North Plains Electric Co-op. As a member of a locally owned electric cooperative, you are among nearly 3.5 million members served by electric cooperatives throughout Texas and 31 million members served by electric cooperatives nationwide. Your cooperative is one of 65 electric distribution cooperatives within the state.

Through this unified, cooperative approach to business, North Plains Electric Cooperative is well positioned to continue to help our part of Texas prosper and grow for decades to come.

Unity is strength. Community is trust.

NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

WILL BE CLOSED

FRIDAY AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 & 27,

IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS.

NPEC Employees Go To Prison!

Cooperative employees are known for their service to the community, and NPEC employees are no exception. Operations Superintendent Chris Mendenhall and Executive Secretary Paula Lehew are volunteers for Kairos Prison Ministry. Each year they invest 100 to 200 hours of their spare time to minister to the inmates residing at the Jordan Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Pampa, Texas. Chris and Paula are two of over 20,000 volunteers worldwide.

According to Kairos Prison Ministry International's official website (www.kairosprisonministry.org), "Kairos is a Christian, lay-led, ecumenical, volunteer international prison ministry, in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to incarcerated individuals and to their families." Volunteers go into prisons in teams to share meals, teaching and fellowship with the incarcerated on a one-to-one basis. The first visit is a three-day event, during which the volunteer team of 30 to 40 members teaches a short introductory course on Christianity. Subsequent visits to the prison are held monthly over a 12-month period; these are half-day reunions with the prisoners.

The website also reports positive changes as a result of the ministry. In a study of 505 inmates released from Florida prisons, the recidivism rate was 15.7 percent among those who had participated in one Kairos session,



Operations Superintendent Chris Mendenhall from within the walls of Jordan Unit.

and 10 percent among those who had participated in two or more Kairos sessions. The non-Kairos control group in the study had a recidivism rate of 23.4 percent.

Chris visits the Jordan Unit monthly and also helps inside the prison twice a year as part of the initial three-day training event. When asked about this volunteer work, Chris says, "I really enjoy meeting 42 new people and watching God change their lives and their attitudes in a positive way."

Paula works as part of an outside team that prepares meals for the inmates. Over the initial weekend, special meals are served—these include meals that are usually not served in

prison such as steak, fried catfish and individual birthday cakes. She also serves as an Agape chairman for the Jordan Unit.

If you have questions or comments about Kairos, feel free to please contact Chris or Paula at NPEC, 1-800-272-5482 or 435-5482.

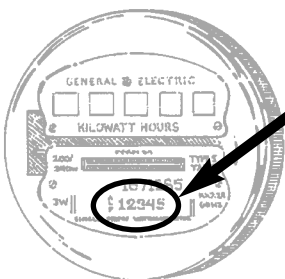
Reminder!



NPEC is continuing its scholarship program.

Please see next month's *TCP* for details, or contact Bill Carson for more information.

WHEN REPORTING AN OUTAGE



Giving us the meter number helps us locate you faster and better than directions.

**For service call:
(806) 435-5482 or
1-800-272-5482**

If you would like a refrigerator magnet to record your meter number to have it easily available in case of an outage, please call NPEC.