

# GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 19 #2

Summer 2001

## STERLING #1

"All Kairos weekends are wonderful, but this Kairos is wonnnnderful!" With that, Rector Wayne Park began the Closing for Kairos #1 in the Northwest Quadrant of Sterling Correctional Facility, 6 May 2001.

About 100 outside visitors attended the Closing, some travelling 200 miles each way. Most were from northern Colorado, as were most of the team members. For months ahead of time, the organizing team did lots and lots of promotion. The Lord responded by doing His part. Result: strong community support.

Warden Furlong and his staff were also very supportive all along. He had experienced Kairos in 1983 in the beginning days of Colorado Kairos in the Fremont Correctional Facility. He was pleased to report to the Closing that this Kairos more than confirmed his recollection of the many benefits of the program, including to the facility staff. Then he said, "To those of you on a Kairos team for the first time, I trust you are more complete Christians than you were five days ago."

Programs Director Mike Ehrmann also addressed the Closing, speaking very enthusiastically about the Weekend and citing its effect on his staff as well as the obvious effect on the residents sitting there behind him. From his remarks and those of many of the residents at open mike, it became very apparent that during the Weekend there had been a significant healing between residents and staff — or, as one resident put it later, between the green shirts and the blue. This happened most deeply at the Forgiveness Windup on Saturday night. Many Kleenex moments.

At the closing there was a lot of sharing of personal brokenness — at open mike time and then in the Fourth Day Talk by a resident who had made his Kairos at Fremont. "In 1997 Jesus Christ broke my heart. An outside team member told me that God was going to use me mightily. But that meant dying to myself mightily. My wife prayed for me. On my Kairos, Jesus Christ broke my heart again. I didn't know no fear until I ran into Jesus Christ. He is still breaking my heart today."

Kairos of Colorado wants all of you to know how much we appreciate your very solid support of this new

program. Wayne is especially grateful, and we commend him for his answering God's call to organize and lead it all. We are also grateful to George Wakefield, President of the Kairos National Board, who served as one of the table leaders.

### CLOSING COMMENTS

I haven't seen this much color in clothes in a long time.

I'm taking back my life that Satan took from me.

Before Kairos I thought "What can Kairos teach me." I was hypocritical, without hope, with a hard heart because I thought I knew it all. Now I have the ability to show compassion, to listen more. I have the conviction of hate and prejudice, and a new set of eyes toward all people, including the blue shirts.

I've been on highs, I've been on lows. In prison I found the Grand Canyon. Now I've found the Way out of it.

I arrived a triple lifer, drained of all hope. Now I know something very important: there may be someone yet unborn who will someday come through these doors, and it is my job to be there to minister to him

There has been transformation for us, yes — but also for those who came in, and for the staff.

I arrived with a lot of prejudice, Like "I'd better sit with the white brothers." I immediately became a minority. I found that most of my hate comes from within myself, so I put myself on the forgiveness list. I gave it all up to the Lord. Then I found out last night that my parole plan was working out.

Through Kairos the Lord opened the doorway and gave us a glimpse of what heaven is like. Through the outside brothers God penetrated my heart.

Why does a grown man cry? Because you loved me.

"I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36

## RECENT CLOSINGS

### DELTA #19

I've been praying for a long time now for God to show me how to let Jesus in. That prayer was answered this weekend.

The 3 days changed everything for me. I am not alone!

I came a gang banger, leave a gang member for God.

I found a family that can't be taken away.

I've got hope again, a jump start to continue with life.

Even though I'm in prison, I take away the knowledge that I'm free and loved.

I found the missing piece to the puzzle.

When I was sentenced to DOC I had no idea this was a part of the punishment. They say the road to heaven is narrow; they had better widen it because now there are 43 more of us on it!

I was loved by total strangers when I didn't think I was worthy of someone else to love me. It was hard for me to love others (other candidates) even here in the chapel, but now out there I'll show you love regardless.

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### CAÑON WOMEN'S #34

I thought there was nothing special here for me. I was depressed, felt like part of the walls here. But Saturday night I found simplicity after I left. This brought me deeper with God. He's changing me and I need to let Him. We're human in here, still breathing, and God has something for us here.

This is the first time I finished something in my whole life. My spirit was very disturbed, I couldn't finish anything. I prayed with a spiritual counselor, got filled with the Holy spirit. Now I've got the power to believe God answers prayers.

I was confused and had lots of anger. I thought nobody could get through my wall. But God found a crack and helped me start tearing it down.

I was running from the Lord. Now I'm brought back. A seed of love dropped into a crack in my heart and I'm going to nurture it. I almost bolted when I got those letters 'cause I felt I wasn't worthy. But I found out I am worth it.

I recently told the Lord I wanted to go home and be with Him and my mom — I wanted to die. Then He gave me Kairos. Now I am home, and have a grandma and several moms and even a dad. This has been heaven to me.

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### TERRITORIAL #31

The letters from overseas were awesome!

We arrived hungry, hungry for God. We started eating. Eating makes you warm inside, leads to fellowship. Found we need to eat spiritual food.

I knew the Bible better than most of you, but God showed me that there's a lot more to being a Christian than that — that I need Christian fellowship.

Kairos is a way to come to Jesus, a way to open the door to your heart.

I have about two months to live. I go back to the hospice tomorrow. You don't realize how much love there is here in this place.

I used to make fun of Christians due to their "superior" attitudes. There were lots of conflicts. Now I've found people in the world who care for me. I'm not going back to my old ways, even though my buddies want me to.

I fell away from the church because they were mean to me every time. Now I have a new relationship with God. I got on my knees and prayed to God to take away the spirit of homosexuality from me.

This morning at ten o'clock I accepted Christ in my heart. When I came back into the room everything was so clear and bright to me. I'm going to tell everybody about Jesus.

It takes more than a prison to break a tough guy.

"I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36

## KAIROS of COLORADO

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.

We are volunteers, with no paid staff, who depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. Please use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries, or write to the address on this newsletter.

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## KAIROS KALENDAR – 2001/2002

Fremont	#38	Sep 20-23	#39	Mar
CWomen	#35	Oct 18-21	#36	Apr
Delta	#20	Oct 18-21	#21	Apr
Sterling	# 2	Nov 1-4	#3	May
Territorial	#32	Nov 15-18	#33	May

To volunteer, please call the Coordinator.

## COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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Territorial:	Chuck Weida	719-548-9102

Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub

## PRAYER REQUESTS

For our brothers and sisters in the prisons, and for those recently back out "on the street."

For team leadership, team formations, team members.

For the Evans family; and for Glen Burgener, Gerald Gill, Lorraine Harding, Duaine Medina, George Tewksbury, Bill Tipton, Edmund Vallejo, and Chuck Weida. Some are waiting, others are healing. Please pray.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** Our Kairos database now includes email addresses. This often facilitates communication without Long Distance charges. Please email your email address to: [jemas@gateway.net](mailto:jemas@gateway.net)

## DENVER WOMEN'S

We are in need of volunteers to attend the monthly reunions. Any ladies or clergy who are already cleared through Central Office, and have attended the Basic Training (6 hours), would only have to attend a short "facility specific" training at DWCF (1 1/2 to 2 hours). Our reunions are on the 3rd Sunday from 12 noon to 3 pm, so they do not interfere with the other women's reunion. We have had 5 or 6 Kairos volunteers each Sunday, and from 25-30 inmates. More "sacrificial servants" would be welcome. Pray for Kairos in DWCF!

Many have asked when we will conduct Kairos Weekend #1. A prerequisite is that the facility be fully staffed. Meanwhile please let Mary Sogan know of your interest in serving on the team — and at the monthly reunions. As of 17 June we have had four. The women are so thankful for each one of us who come in.

## KAIROS ADVANCED TRAINING

22 Colorado team members attended this course on 8-10 June in Colorado Springs. John Thompson, new Executive Director of Kairos International, was the trainer, assisted by Mary Sogan. The course is mandatory for all rectors and a good way for any team member to get the "international perspective" of Kairos.

## BLUE TO GREEN TO BLUE

On Sunday morning at Delta Kairos #19, one of the DOC staff members was moved to share a word with the candidates and team, as follows: "We are all part of the same spiritual family here. Just because the uniforms and clothes we wear are different has nothing to do with how we worship. There is still only one God and Father who is in charge over all of us. Because I wear blue doesn't mean I can't be ministered to by someone who is wearing green. We are all Christian brothers here in this room, seeking God."

"I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## HERE I AM, LORD

In the song "Here I am, Lord" we find God saying things like:

- "I have heard my people cry...
- "Who will bear my light to them?
- "I have wept for love of them...
- "I will tend the poor and lame...
- "I will set a feast for them...
- "Finest bread I will provide...
- "I will give My life to them.
- "Whom shall I send?"

And then we find ourselves singing:

- "Is it I, Lord?
- "I have heard You calling in the night.
- "I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
- "I will hold your people in my heart."

So, those of you who are not serving on Kairos teams,

is the Lord leading you? Once you have heard Him calling, you can never be the same — as when you first hear the call of the sea, or the wild, or anything outside your comfort zone. Yes, you can stay home, anchored to the safety of the familiar, but your spirit now knows that you are to be out there where God has called you, with Him in charge and walking beside you..

Is He calling you to His people in the prisons? Listen carefully. We need new teams. All of our teams need constant refreshment. We are now in six prisons in Colorado. Others are asking for us. Is God asking you for your living sacrifice, for a prison to be the place of your spiritual worship (Romans 12:1)?

"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

"I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36