

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 18 #4

Christmas 2000

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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⌘ PLEASE !!

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37-38)

There are many prisons in Colorado, many residents waiting to be "harvested." Every once in a while a warden or chaplain contacts Kairos and asks for us to start the ministry in their facility. But the workers are few.

We sing the song "Pass it on!" We talk about letting the "living water" flow through us (John 4:14). We talk about dying to self (Matthew 10:39, John 12:25). We talk, we talk, we talk. And some of us walk.

Dear reader, ask yourself: am I walking my talk? You who once gave yourself to serving on Kairos teams, where are you now? The harvest is plentiful — waiting for you, waiting for you to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the prisoners you once loved and cared about.

Dear reader, if it's been a while since you served, or if you have not yet had the blessing of serving on a Kairos team, please pray about it now, especially if you live anywhere within reasonable driving distance of Sterling or Denver Women's, where we are forming brand new team.s. When you have the word from God, then contact the appropriate coordinator (see page 3).

Some of you might also want to pray about helping out in other ways, such as a gift of part of the treasure over which God has given you stewardship. You will be blessed!

⌘ THANK YOU !!

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

We constantly give thanks for the opportunities to serve God in a ministry like Kairos. All of us who are actively involved want to express deep gratitude to our fellow workers, to the many hearts and hands that form the teams that go into the prisons to help nurture our fellow members of the Body of Christ.

Those active on teams thank God for the many who support in background ways, including those who pray regularly for the ministry and who support individual team members when their team service takes them away from work, home, and loved ones.

And always, always this includes those who donate money in support of this ministry. We know that God pays for what He orders, so we believe that the constant in-flow of generous gifts from many donors bears witness to His having "ordered" this ministry.

We are especially grateful for the many gifts of five or ten dollars, knowing that often these are a "widow's mite." God's blessing!

So, on behalf of all the Kairos community, for donations past, present, and future, we sing: "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks!"

"Present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all human understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

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

ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS

FREMONT

It's getting close to Christmas and we will be having our two-day retreat at FCF again on the 16-17 of December. Please plan to attend. Fellowship with the inmates is very special this time of year.

Many of the inmates have come to us and expressed their thanks for coming at such a special time of the year, leaving family and friends for time with them. We will still have our own fellowship in the evening on the 16th going out to dinner together. We are truly blessed, brothers, in our ministry to the inmates and to each other. See you soon!

Remember, the FCF team needs your continuing financial support. We are catching up but still behind. Special gifts would be much appreciated.

DELTA

Delta team members John Colvin (Rector for Delta #19 next April), Fred Somerlot, Luis Atencio, Dan Santiago and John Thatcher attended the Kairos National Advanced Training in Albuquerque, November 17-19. Tuition was covered by the Colorado District Board.

Some of our Kairos inmates sing in the DCC Chapel of Hope choir, which touches many lives as they praise the Lord through their music and witness as to how God is working in their lives. Some of our team members are helping Chaplain Bill Potter arrange for performances of the choir Christmas program at various western slope churches. The choir recently produced an album of praise music for the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, which is selling the CDs and tapes as part of a fund raising effort. Copies may be purchased through Chaplain Potter or Chaplain Davis at DCC, (970) 874-7614.

At the Kairos #18 Closing, the security chief, Major John Davis, affirmed that during Kairos weekends, Kairos changes the complexion of the whole facility. He said that "During Kairos, personally, I get blessed and fed. For you men, now the challenge begins. It's up to you what you do with what you have found here. Only God can change and fill hearts with love."

WOMEN'S DENVER

We expect to begin monthly reunions after the first of the year. Meanwhile we are concentrating on getting our volunteers cleared and trained by the DOC.

STERLING

We are seeking Christian lay and clergy men to serve at the first Kairos Weekend for inmates at the new Sterling Correctional Facility in Sterling, Colorado. The weekend will be held 3 to 6 May 2001. Before the event, volunteers will participate in nine training sessions, to be held on Saturday mornings in Fort Morgan, starting on 10 March. Prerequisites are that volunteers need to have attended a Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Koinonia or similar short course in Christianity. If you are interested in volunteering and or receiving more information about this opportunity, please contact Wayne Park at 970.577.1483 or via email at waynepark@aol.com. We especially encourage those of you who live in the North-eastern quadrant of Colorado.

WOMEN'S CAÑON

In December we held our first three-hour Reunion. 66 Residents attended. We had a joy-filled Christmas party with "Happy Birthday to Jesus" cake, punch, other goodies, and Christmas music. Our inside Council varied the meeting format to celebrate Christmas in a unique way. After reading the various Christmas-related scripture passages, they had a contest patterned after "Who wants to be a millionaire?". All of the questions were based on the scriptures and the prizes were Christian books supplied by Chaplain Julie.

Team #34 is coming together nicely and will start meetings in February.

TERRITORIAL

30 residents started Kairos #30 and 30 finished -- a first for CTCF, and a powerful weekend! Because of lack of handicap access to the prior facility, Kairos was moved to the Lower School, a smaller space so we could only invite 30 residents vs 42. Rector Doug Meares and crew did an outstanding job dealing with the details of using the smaller facility. We are so blessed to have Chaplain Dan Canady and Lt Kim Beicker working with us. One of them was available the entire weekend. This TLC was especially helpful on Saturday evening when everything suddenly had to be shut down due to an external event. By the grace of God on Sunday we were able to resume right where we left off. PTL!

Note: Comments from #30 Closing will be in next issue.

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

KAIROS of COLORADO

We are Christians reaching out to inmates in Colorado prisons with the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and new life, which are available to all who repent of their sin and submit to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

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

Fremont	#37	Mar 15-18	#38	Sep 20-23
CWomen	#34	Mr 29-Apr 1	#35	Oct 18-21
Delta	#19	Apr 19-22	#20	Oct 18-21
Sterling	#1	May 3-6	#2	(?) Nov 1-4
Territorial	#31	May 17-20	#32	Nov 15-18

To volunteer, please call the Coordinator.

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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Territorial:	Chuck Weida	719-548-9102

Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub "Spiritually Speaking" by Jim Strub

PRAYER REQUESTS

For our brothers and sisters in the prisons.

For team leadership, team formations, team members.

For God's will and comforting presence for the Evans and Merritt families; and for Cecelia Lobato, Ross Foltz, A.J. Luckey, Duaine Medina, Pat Romero, Gerri Quintana, and Bill Tipton. Some are healing nicely, others are waiting. Please pray.

CAÑON WOMEN'S KAIROS #33 POSTSCRIPT

For variety, we are sharing with you a few comments from some of our brand new team members. Their reflections may help those who have never served on a Kairos team understand better why we keep going back. We pray that their enthusiasm might inspire more to volunteer and to recruit others to serve, especially as we expand to Sterling and Denver Women's.

"I very much enjoyed the weekend. I was overwhelmed with the changes I saw in these women from Thursday night to Sunday; it was enlightening. I saw women go from angry, hurt and depressed to forgiving, joyful, and hopeful for the future. Radical changes in three days, and all brought about by the Holy Spirit. You truly could feel his presence there that weekend. I was grateful to have been a part of the weekend, and will return for more Kairos weekends."

"We loved Kairos! It was wonderful, spiritual and just plain enjoyable."

"For our part, we thought it was a good weekend. Things went well and were powerful. Did we think this

is a worthwhile program? Absolutely! Will we do this again? You bet! Have we processed everything in our brains? Not yet -- not even close."

"Words cannot describe how wonderful the week-end at CWCF was. I experienced a new level of the Lord's power. I learned that we need to continue to evangelize in order to keep what the Lord has so freely given to us. Because we have to give it away to keep it. In other words, God gave us His grace so we need to share His love so others can experience His grace."

"The women at CWCF responded better than anyone on the outside would ever respond. They opened up and allowed their walls to come down faster and more honestly than on any street weekend I have ever been on. We can really learn from their honesty."

"Not only have the women in CWCF learned and grown from their week-end, but I have been changed. I am not sure what the Lord is trying to show me but in time I'm sure He will let me know. I am just thankful the Lord has allowed me to work for Him in CWCF."

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

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GOD'S SPECIAL TIME
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DELTA #18 CLOSING

We knew only the text of the Bible but not the true meaning of God's love for each one of us.

The fire was out, I was hungry, anxious but with an open heart and mind.

I found a five star spiritual restaurant, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, devotion and dedication to the family of Jesus Christ.

I did not like what I saw in the mirror, but Jesus gave me the strength to change that.

I came to Kairos with a mistrust of white people and questions like "why did God create me black" and "God, why am I hated so bad". I found answers to all of these issues. Here I was loved to death.

My heart has been softened here and this allows me to accept other races.

Fourth Day Speaker: I came to DCC in August '98 hating Christians. I wanted to be a maverick and with my Mohawk haircut, other inmates respected me for being "a real convict". When two brothers worked hard to get me to come to Kairos, I worked hard to avoid it. My boss, Captain Mary (head of food service) made me take time off to attend. On day 1, I thought everyone was nuts. On day 2, I tried to sleep in, but the Chaplain wouldn't allow that. By the third day, I was a changed man. I have been walking with the Lord ever since. Brothers, when you get out, find a church. If you are rejected, just keep looking until the Lord shows you your church. Without Christian staff here, there wouldn't be Kairos at DCC.

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