

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

DENVER WOMEN'S #1

Kairos #1 finally came to DWCF Dec. 5-8th, 2002. A team of 28 women of faith met for 8 consecutive Friday nights leading up to Thanksgiving to unite as the body of Christ. We had five female spiritual directors/clergy. Twelve of the team members were new to Kairos. All in all the Holy Spirit was present and God was glorified.

Some highlights:

- A resident said it was nice to be called "resident" instead of inmate or offender, and that helped me see the importance of calling them that.
- The staff gave us permission to go until 9 p.m. if we needed due to lost time during count, etc. That was a BIG help; totally took time pressure off.
- We were able to have the cross ceremony but then had them address envelopes for Chaplain Linda to mail the crosses home.
- The forgiveness cookie bags made for powerful sharing Sunday morning.
- Going all day on Sunday allowed us to get ALL the weekend in, including an additional family chapel visit, the "Hang in There" talk, and the introducing and practicing of group reunion.
- 23 of the 24 residents sought spiritual counseling.
- All 24 who began the weekend completed it.

The open, positive, "can I help you?" attitude of all of the staff at DWCF was a true blessing. Chaplain Linda Vecchiarelli (a recent Emmaus grad) and CDOC's Darryl Proffit were with us most of the time. Their presence was a tremendous help in smoothing EVERYTHING throughout this first weekend. In fact, the entire staff at DWCF blessed us with their positive attitude and cooperation, especially Captain Valdez, Captain Tafoya, Major Irions, and Associate Warden Noble Wallace. We knew they were there for us all through the weekend. Then they all attended the closing, along with about fifty visitors from the outside. Too cool! Thank you, Jesus.

Jean Mares, Rector

FROG – Fully Rely On God

DENVER WOMEN'S #1 CLOSING

In the intros Thursday we were asked to say what our "assignment" is at DWCF. Assignment? What's that? Now I know what my assignment is – to share Jesus.

I thought I had to earn Jesus' friendship, but now I know he wants to be my friend. I can read the scriptures, pray, and share the words with my friends.

I was ashamed. The important people in my life have rejected me. The Lord spoke to my heart and said "I'm the one who is telling you that you are beautiful."

This weekend I did not feel "judged" – which I have felt through my whole life.

You helped me find that little girl in me that I'd lost.

I came to get away from the unit. I found out things about me I really didn't like, mostly the result of running away from me. I hid my pain all my life. Thank you for taking me the way I am, and helping me find out who I am.

I no longer have to be a victim, but am now a victor.

I am taking away a reverent fear of God.

CAÑON WOMEN'S #37 CLOSING

We needed help but didn't want anyone to help us.

As a Wiccan, I was scared of how others would look at me, not sure I wanted to give all of myself to God.

At 35 I learned I've got to follow directions.

This weekend reminded me of what it feels like to be loved, and to love somebody back. You brought out the specialness in all of us.

I've been letting go of grudges. That doesn't mean I like you any more than I did, but I can love you a little.

We're taking away a piece of every person who was in that room.

FALL 2002 MEN'S CLOSINGS

FREMONT #40

We needed refueling. We found others in need and the affirmation of the Lord's presence.

We found a new way to look at the world – a way to walk past each other and smile without looking at the ground.

I cried myself to sleep last night and slept like a baby.

We've danced in the center of the fiery furnace with God. [See Daniel 3]

I have a number. 40 years from now I may forget this number but I'll never forget the family of St Matthew.

I forgave a man Saturday evening of something that happened four years ago.

You people threw a life-saver out and saved a life.

The devil pulls us along on a chain called sin.

I've had some good stuff in life, but the love here is way more.

DELTA #22

We're taking an unforgettable time, new awakening, and a new life with us.

We found that we can be emotional and have sweaty eyeballs for God.

When I get out I hoPe I have as much enthusiasm as the outside team showed us this weekend.

It's been a long road. I thought I could do it all on my own, but in the last 4 days I've had a spiritual walk with a living God that I'll remember for the rest of my life. I've had a calling on my life for a long time. Now it's time to walk the walk, not just the talk.

This weekend it wasn't the police knocking at my door, it was Jesus knocking on my heart.

I'm 6'7" tall and weigh 350 lbs and no one dares to hit me, but this weekend Jesus did.

TERRITORIAL #34

Kairos found men who could cry and hug. Love is only a word – action makes love a reality.

This is one family, my family. I don't see convicts. I don't see people from the street. I just see people.

What I never learned in church was how to forgive people. Now I know how.

I didn't expect to stay the whole time, usually don't. But I did. The "Wall" story really touched me.

I knew I needed to give God a chance, so I came here. Now I want God in my life.

I had lost everything and everybody (family, etc). But now I've got it all – Jesus!

STERLING SOUTH #2

I've been alone for 43 years . I could never "love" anyone and didn't want anyone to use the four-letter word "love" around me. [now through tears] **"Kairos don't fight fair!"** Kairos taught me about real love. You came at my walls with jackhammers and I was just so tired of running and hiding and being labeled a convict living by the convict code. From now on I just want to be known as the "man that loves God." [standing ovation – everybody knew what a miracle this was]

I used to act like I was the devil. Now I can "grow up to be the man I've always wanted to be" and lead a good family with my faith.

I've put up and hid behind barriers for 34 years. Now I know I don't need them anymore. I'm free!

I am the biggest, strongest, toughest man here, but now I'm going to be a positive leader in this community "at any cost." No more macho image.

I'm now in a new gang, the gang of Jesus. I'm gonna leave the other gang for good.

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

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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KAIROS OF COLORADO

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to incarcerated individuals, and to assist them in building up the body of Christ in each prison.

We are volunteers. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. We encourage you to use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries.

We publish "God's Special Time" quarterly. The Episcopal Church of St Michael the Archangel (Colo Spgs) prints it. Jim and Peggy Strub are the editors.

2003 SPRING WEEKENDS

Fremont	#41	Jerry Stoneberger	Mar 13-16
Sterling South	#3	Randy Weldon	Apr 3-6
Cañon Women	#38	Cindy Weakland	Apr 24-27
Delta	#23	Luis Atencio	Apr
Sterling North	#5	Brian Beattie	May 1-4
Territorial	#35	Jim Carter	May 8-11
Denver Women	#2	Maria Crespin	Jun 5-8

Visitors are welcome at Kairos Closings, which are usually the Sunday afternoon of each Weekend. Contact the Facility Coordinator at least 40 days ahead to start the Department of Corrections clearance process.

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

Next meeting: 0900, Saturday 11 January 2003

ATTEND A CLOSING!

Hear the sharings firsthand. Just contact the rector or

TOMMY SOUTHERN STARNES

11 January 1937 – 22 November 2002

Our friend Tom has gone home. As a group we last experienced his Texas smile and simple faith at the 20th Anniversary Celebration in Frisco. Just before that he had been a table leader at Fremont Kairos #40. He was not well, had his neck in a brace, but was sure the Lord would restore him. A few weeks later he discovered that he had Lou Gehrig's Disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). The doctors didn't give him much time to live. Exteen Moye, an ex-resident of Fremont, moved in to help him. They had met in Fremont where Tom had worked Kairos since 1984. For years Tom had ministered to Exteen. Finally, Exteen ministered to Tom.

We will miss this giant of a prayer warrior.

LIMON #1

Now that Kairos at Denver Women's is underway, our next objective is to begin Kairos at the Limon Correctional Facility. This is a medium security prison of about 850 men just south of the town of Limon, about an hour and twenty minutes from Denver. Warden Gary Watkins has asked us to come in and is providing lots of help, as is the Limon community,

We hope to conduct Limon Kairos#1 no later than the Fall of 2003. If the Lord is leading you to be part of Team #1, please contact Dick Evans or Jack Burson SOON. This is a great opportunity to participate in a new beginning!

Dick Evans: rdeco@pcisys.com 719-597-3426

Jack Burson: jack.burson@olac.com 303-499-3024

Make a friend. Be a friend. Introduce your friend to team membership.



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GOD'S SPECIAL TIME
Volume 20 #4 Christmas 2002

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

20th ANNIVERSARY

“So they began to celebrate”
(Luke 15:24, NIV)

On the 28th of September we did indeed celebrate! With fellowship and prayer and food and witnessing we celebrated 20 years of Kairos in Colorado – for about six hours, in Frisco. There were over 100 of us there, including 15 or 20 from the Western Slope. PTL! Presiding at the festivities were Bill Potter, founder of Kairos in Colorado, and Joseph Mares, our representative to Kairos National. They presented plaques of appreciation to the wardens of all the CDOC facilities with Kairos programs. Bill and Joseph opened the mike to testimonies by former residents, seven of whom shared how Jesus has impacted their lives, usually as a result of the Kairos program. We concluded with Wayne Park’s presentation on “The Next 20 Years” – an urging to discern where God may be leading us, such as launching Kairos in more prisons.

YOUR SUPPORT

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING KAIROS!

Prayers are our main form of support – prayers of our team members, their families, their churches, and so many of you out there in our Kairos Community – the prayers of God’s people. We give thanks.

Donations are our financial form of support – tax-deductible donations from our Kairos volunteers, churches, and you, our generous Kairos Community. We give thanks.

Prayers about donations combine the two, especially in this Christmas season when we give in gratitude for all God has given us in His Son. As you read this, please give some extra prayer to a special year-end donation to Kairos of Colorado. If you want to designate your gift for support of our ministry in a specific prison, please indicate that in the memo space on your check. Envelope is provided. Merry Christmas!