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"The saints are always amongst the unofficial crowd that is not noticed, and their one dominant note is Jesus Christ."

Oswald Chambers

## FROM THE CHAIR

Kairos Volunteers are trained with two couplets for a Kairos Inside weekend. "Listen, Listen" and "Love, Love." The first couplet is associated with providing a forum for forgiveness, addressed in a set of talks and a Saturday night ceremony that allows everyone attending to submit a list of persons whom they "hold in unforgiveness." They offer this list to God in a ceremony to balance a doctrinal "promise" from the Lord's prayer. In it, we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We first forgive others so that we may seek forgiveness for ourselves. It works.

The second Kairos couplet is "Love, Love." In this case, volunteers model the love of Christ in all their interactions with these, His incarcerated creatures, in each facility we serve. Love and righteousness are the nature of God. Jesus reminded us that the hallmark of His followers would be the light of their love, which requires souls purged of anger and hatred and unforgiveness in order to reflect it.

For this reason, Kairos programs are built on forgiveness, prepped to be love labs. We bring the love of Christ to participants so that they can see what it looks like. During the 72 hours they respond, sometimes quite dramatically, to God's forgiveness and His love. And, they recognize it for what it is. It isn't the love of the volunteers that fills them. Volunteers are just carrying God's love as His vessels. God demonstrates the power of love in our weekends, reunions, two-day retreats, and instructionals. The love that participants experience is called *agape* love. *It is the strongest take-away of the weekend. It is what graduates talk about when they give their testimonials at reunions. It is what they talk about to their cellies when they return to their unit. Carrying/wearing that love is a great honor and a powerful experience, not only for them, but for the volunteer team members as well.*

Therefore, we sing, "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord," and "They'll know we are Christians by our love." The inmates experience that unity, fully or partially, with us. In fact, *we lucky volunteers know we are Christians by experiencing the same love, also. Agape love is as tangible as forgiveness. Experiencing the two Kairos couplets is the reason for the dramatic effect Kairos has on everyone. Love replaces the anger and resentment and hatred and fear, beginning in the forgiveness talks and ceremony on Saturday. With the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and the agape love He brings, the hatred is softened and cleansed and does not easily return. When God's love fills the scars left by unforgiveness with agape, the result is sublime. The heart is cleansed, drenched in the healing love of God.*

Experiencing this transformation is powerful. No wonder we can't stop singing His praises. Most of us come back for another dose as soon as practical.

"Listen, listen, Love, love" cultivates the *agape* love of God and invigorates the Body of Christ, even in prison. Hallelujah!

Kevin Condon

## BLOG ARTICLES WANTED

Visit our new blog at <http://kairoscolorado.wordpress.com/>.

Better yet, write an article for it. Send it to me and I'll put it up. Here are some topics I'd like to publish articles on:

Your experience as a first time volunteer!

Your most recent reunion stories, honoring confidentiality by omitting names, please. (See example below)

Your team building stories for your last team.

Your recruiting stories and experiences.

Prayers for Kairos of Colorado, or for the inmates of a particular facility.

Details on fund raising efforts, such as ice cream socials and musical events.

Recruiting successes.

Pastoral prayers from the churches you attend.

Photos.

Videos .

Sound files of talks or of music you can share.

Did I mention photos and videos?

Links to articles you have read or viewed online to share with others.

Historical memories to share of Kairos in Colorado, or other states where you have served.

In His grip, but needing some of you to help provide content. If you read something you like on the blog, please either comment or copy the URL of the article (highlight the link and right click your mouse - you'll see what to do) and send it to friends.

Kevin Condon, Blog Editor ([kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com)).

## Witness Talk from DW February Reunion

When I was in county jail for two years, I was broken. I suffered from a crisis that held me in bondage. I lost all sense of direction, there was no hope. I just about gave up. I was taken to the hole three times because I didn't want to live. I didn't want to talk with family members. I was deeply depressed. I felt sorry for myself. I became very selfish, unstable, and would not face reality because at that time Satan had a hold over me. I was on four different kinds of psych meds. I couldn't think straight because I didn't want to. I was full of fear. I allowed a wall up around me, and I stayed inside that tower because I knew that I messed up and made bad choices. When I got into trouble, I let myself down, my family down, and more important, I let God down. I was so out of it, I would not let God in.

On August 26, 2010 I arrived here at DW. After two years of Satan's mess, I heard a voice. I couldn't understand what was being said to me, so I kinda blew it off. Anyway, I called home, and my second to oldest daughter said hello!!! I said, "It's me." She started praying over the phone. I cried. My daughter said, "Mama, please don't shut us out. We love and we need you." Those were words I needed to hear. When I stopped crying, I let God in. I accepted my role as a mother again and came in touch with reality.

The Lord started opening up doors that had closed and has since then opened up many more. When that phone call was over, I went to my room, got my Bible, and started petitioning the Scriptures. My first one was Jeremiah 29:11. It says, "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." I started reading the Word daily and praying faithfully for restoration and for my sins to be forgiven. I stopped taking all medications. I have had time to think clearly and to let go and let God have His way. God is and has been so good to me. I am so glad that He's preparing me for my life's journey and walk with him. When I opened up my Bible and started reading the Word, the wall came down.

When I finally got accepted to a 4-day Kairos, I was still a broken vessel. When that weekend ended, my eyes had been opened and the darkness when away. I attended Kairos 17 and have not been the same since. I used to be a fan of God, but after Kairos 17, I became a follower of God - and I glorify His name.

I now fellowship with other inmates. One afternoon one of the inmates came to me and asked me, me of all people, would I pray for her because she was going through tough times. Now that I am able to bow down and humble myself, I had no problem praying with her.

I am now having a spiritual blessing that has brought nothing but joy and peace in my life during my stay here. God has blessed me to be a blessing. With the resilience I have inside me along with my faith, I manage to somehow look for opportunities behind these walls to learn to accept my situation. I took action. I let go of all unknown feelings that had control over my mind. Satan has no authority over any of us, and I refuse to let him back-stab me again. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

I am still far from perfection and God's not done with me.

## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

### God's Consolations

Ministerially, I'm what might be called a "late bloomer," in that I didn't start "the Process" toward ordination until I was into my 50's. (We second-career clergy are often referred to as having "late vocations.")

I'll spare you the story of what I call the "Celestial 2x4 across the forehead" that launched me onto that journey, but I want to share an important aspect with you. In my own denomination, "the Process" includes many steps as the "aspirant" and his/her community enter into mutual discernment of the nature of his/her calling. It was three years from the "2x4" until I was approved to enter seminary, if that's any indication.

One requirement was that I be in Spiritual Direction throughout the process. Though my heart wasn't in it when I started, I have to admit that spiritual direction can be quite valuable. A good spiritual director soon comes to know his directee well enough to cut through delusions and nonsense to help find God in even the little things. In fact, my most recent Spiritual Director has been active with Kairos for many years; he is the one who suggested I get involved.

My first spiritual director had me read *The Dark Night of the Soul*, by John of the Cross. That is where I first encountered the word *consolation* (not to be confused with "consolation prize") in opposition to *desolation*. We can apply these terms to one's spiritual life, which normally has its ups and downs.

*Consolations* are the extreme "ups" when we feel God's loving presence and approval very strongly. Many is the time when I've felt such a blessing in the process of ministry; that's part of the "high" that many team members feel during a Kairos weekend; we know God has been pleased by the fruits of our efforts.

On the flip side, *desolations* are those times when we feel as if we have been abandoned by God. We should know better than to think it was God who created the distance; instead it is we who have taken a turn away from God in some way.

The problem with *consolations*, of course, is that they can be addictive and distracting. C. S. Lewis warns us indirectly in the *Screwtape Letters* when Uncle Screwtape (a senior demon) indicates how pleased he is that "the patient" has become a Christian. He encourages Wormwood (a junior demon who is the patient's case worker) to stroke the patient's ego so that he becomes prideful (and easier pickings).

Combining the above, we should always be grateful for the consolations that are of God, and wary of imitations. God's Grace is undeserved; it's an expression of His love, and not a payoff for mere works.

In Kairos, we serve to bring Christ's love to His children on the inside (and their families), who have rarely experienced it. It's about Christ's love and those He loves. It's really not about us. We must always guard against thinking it is; *ha satán* (the Deceiver) is never far from us.

May each of you be blessed by God's consolations as you minister to God's children.

Bill Kindel

## FACEBOOK for KAIROS of COLORADO

Since our last newsletter, we have created a Facebook group which you are all invited to use. Use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kairoscolorado/>. On it you will find information of the prayer vigils needing help in Colorado, video links to information on how to attend a Walk to Emmaus, news provided by all Colorado Advisory Councils on upcoming needs and events, Advanced Kairos Training news, training opportunities to improve your recruiting and outreach, and general chat and jokes and stuff that you are used to seeing on Facebook. Please come and join and "like" what you see, sharing it with your friends so they can learn more about Kairos and join us in this valuable, vital ministry.

Kevin Condon

## STERLING EAST #10 CLOSING

14 April

Several comments from the men at the Sterling Kairos East #10 Closing really struck home. One man said, "I didn't see or feel 'green' today!" (The residents wear green at SCF.) Another man said this weekend "felt like home, at least like I imagine what a home would be like." Yet another man said, "So this is what family feels like!" We thank God for using us as vessels inside Sterling Correctional Facility! All glory to God!

At open mike there was a man who said he grew up Baptist but converted to Islam as an adult. He said he felt accepted and loved here at Kairos. He also joked that he hadn't even been 'water-boarded' by the Christians this weekend (which shows his acceptance by the larger group, and also demonstrates the humor that exists even in this dark place). The same acceptance and love were expressed by one Mormon (who, among other things, thanked us for not making stereotyped jokes about him having multiple wives) and two Messianic Jews (one who called himself an Israelite, and one who said he had converted to the Jehovah's Witness faith). Then there were the two tables where the members talked about how 'different' the people at the table were and how those differences made their table families strong – because this institution is a place which values conformity and where differences could be dangerous.

As always, we were very impressed with many young men who seemed like they should be out in the world sharing their love and talents, but instead they are paying for choices made in the past. One such young man wanted us to pray with him for his being able to re-unite with his wife, from whom he is estranged. At this time, he doesn't even know where she is. We prayed with him for God's will to become evident in his life. One of our outside team members asked this young man "what if she doesn't want to be re-united," and he said that he didn't care, he only wanted her to forgive him and let him back into her life. This represented another heart-breaking example of the hurt and suffering that happens when people go to prison.

Another young man, who is obviously a natural born leader and who wants to share his love for Christ and his brothers with all inside the institution, said when he got his letters, they "broke him down." Once again we were struck with how much talent and potential are evident behind these prison walls. Once again it was made clear to us how choices in a man's life can lead to good or ill – that everyone needs God's love, and we must be the vessels for that love on earth. If we can help one man turn his life around, the value to himself, family, community, and society is incalculable.

With God's help all things are possible. We all, inside and outside brothers and sisters, were blessed during and after this weekend. God changed many lives, which we know because we witnessed it, and we realized we simply do not have that kind of power – but He does!

Sterling Advisory Council

## DENVER WOMEN'S #19 CLOSING

9 June

The impromptu serenade the graduates gave the guests and team was just the frosting on an amazingly awesome weekend cake at DWCF.

The elegant family of Elizabeth, the royal family of Esther, the precious family of Priscilla (once dysfunctional, but now fully functional), the sassy family of Sarah, and the rambunctious family of Ruth had much the same responses to 'how did you arrive,' 'what did you find,' and 'what are you taking with you,' as families always do. Then it was time for individuals to come forward, and the guests and team were blown away at how God had transformed so many lives.

One woman asserted that Thursday morning, if she had been asked her name, she would have given her DOC number. But by Sunday afternoon she knew her full name with pride. Another was certain the rules about allowing a change in faith designation from every six months to every twelve were because she had changed hers so many times as she wandered from one faith to another. Now she claims Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She had come in as a tree but was now a fine 18<sup>th</sup> century antique desk – not that she was old but a fine and useful thing. Still another confessed she'd come in mean and angry, and the team of Kairos #19 just dug in their heels and were nicer and nicer to her until, by Saturday, she literally danced down the hall to the meeting room. Not at closing but Sunday, she'd asked a team member to quit hugging her with her eyes as she was feeling just too warm and loved. Still another confided that if the spirit were as evident every day, she'd probably never want to parole. One came in the Jew she had been born and raised while another wandered away from her Christian upbringing to become Buddhist, and both found or refound Jesus along this weekend. Yet another testified that her analytical, inquisitive mind had blocked her claim on Jesus. Now she embraces Jesus as her Lord and Savior, as have great minds through the ages even as they too have questioned.

Then came the thoughtful clear encouragement given the new Kairos graduates by the fourth day speaker. What a weekend it was – and to think that God trusts us to take this special program into prisons all over the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Glenda Condon

**27 April 1925**

**ROSS BLACKSTOCK**

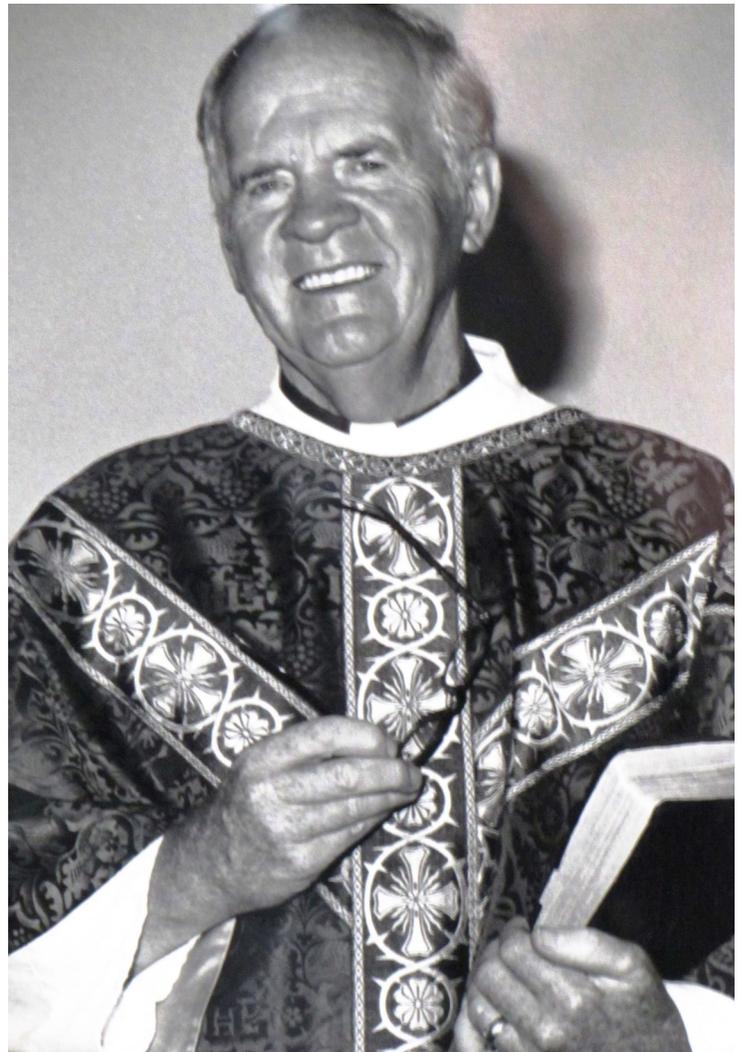
**12 May 2013**

The Reverend Ross Blackstock died peacefully in his home near Hotchkiss early on Mother's Day. He and his lovely, supportive wife Virginia would have celebrated 60 years of marriage on 13 June.

Ross was born and raised in Gunnison. At age 19 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific during WWII and in Japan during the occupation. He graduated from the CU School of Pharmacy in 1950 and was a pharmacist for 21 years, owning Blackstock Pharmacy in Gunnison from 1953-1971.

Answering God's call to the ordained ministry, he and family moved to Sewanee, TN, where in 1976 he received his Doctor of Divinity degree from The University of the South. He was ordained an Episcopal deacon and then priest. During the next 36 years he served in seven different Episcopal churches in Colorado, Utah and Alabama. He also served our Lord in various other ministries, including Marriage Encounter with Virginia in many locations throughout the U.S. and as a clergy team member for Episcopal Cur-sillo. He served on the Delta County Library Board for 8 years, and from 1998 to 2003 on the Charitable Trust Board of the Delta-Montrose Electric Association.

Father Ross was one of the founders of Kairos at the Delta Correctional Center (aka Delta Christian Campus), serving as clergy on teams from 1991 until 1998. After a bit of a "sabbatical," he again served on Delta Kairos teams from 2003 until 2006. His kind sense of humor and gentle spirit were special gifts which he shared with the offender population in the Kairos program for ten years as the Lord used his obedience in service to change many lives in a positive way.



Father Ross Blackstock was the hands and feet of Jesus in many ways. Thank you, Lord, for Ross.

**DELTA #43 CLOSING 28 April**

1. Something was missing from my life and I was running out of options and I found Christ.
2. This changed my life dramatically. I have been in trouble from age 22 to 27 and I am going to change and not come back.
3. I am walking away with a weight lifted off my shoulders.
4. I will show you how much I learned by staying out of prison.
5. I have felt cheated by Christianity, but through this weekend I have felt God's love.
6. I received a little glimpse of heaven.
7. I received optimism, and I want to turn my life around.
8. I found that if you want freedom and liberty, seek Jesus.
9. I never had any love before this weekend, and Kairos gave me a different perspective.
10. I came indifferent, bitter and with a lot of baggage. Kairos showed me sacrificial giving and that man has a loving heart. God is proud of each of you. I will start trusting again.

Submitted by Harvey Gray, Kairos 43 Servant Leader

## RIFLE #16 CLOSING 7 April 2013

**Matthew:** Arrived lost, ignoring God, hungry, or no spiritual condition.  
 Found grace, fellowship, friendship, brotherhood, and forgiveness.  
 Taking open hearts, fellowship, and full stomachs.

**Mark:** Arrived content, not perfect, no harmony with church, like a flashlight with dead batteries.  
 Found blessings, identity in Christ, high on the presence of God, and encouragement.  
 Taking courage, confidence, better plans for our lives, love of God, and intimate fellowship.

**Luke:** Arrived expectant, uncertain, wanting to be restored.  
 Found more understanding, faith, we are not alone, love, and guidance.  
 Taking new life, stronger faith, confidence, and desire to make a friend, be a friend and lead that friend to Christ.

**John:** Arrived not as spiritual as now, eager, and with broken spirits.  
 Found peace, love, friendship, structure, pride and respect.

Taking new nature, forgiveness, God's presence and friendship, and the knowledge that I am loved.

**Individual comments:**

I used to think that taking the gospel to inmates was a waste of time and money, but since coming to prison I have had to ask God to forgive my prejudice against inmates because I now know it is worthwhile.

When they were singing about God loving us and them loving us, it made me feel like family and it felt great.

I grew up going to church, but for the past 11 years I have been making bad choices. I would turn to God and He was always there, but then I would wander off and I felt like the prodigal son. I felt very alone here in the compound. I was closed off and very rude to people, but this has opened my heart to turn back to God. The love I have felt this weekend I'll take with me everywhere.

All I could think about was getting out and getting high. I started getting high when I was 11, and I have been in and out of jail and prison since I was 15. Kairos has opened my eyes to a new high.

I have been to many training seminars both in and out of prison, but I have never felt the presence of God before.

I left my family behind 15 years ago, now this is my new family.

## 2013 EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
13 July	STATE COMMITTEE MEETING (Keystone)	Kevin Condon
28 July	<b>KAIROS ICE CREAM SOCIAL*</b> 2 to 5 pm at Grace Church, 6969 Sheridan Blvd, Arvada	Pat Mills *
30 July – 3 Aug	<b>KPMI SUMMER CONFERENCE</b> NCED Conference Center & Hotel, Norman OK	Wayne Park
10-13 October	DELTA #44	Tad Coit
10-13 October	TERRITORIAL #55	Lonnie Womack
20 October	State Committee Teleconference	Kevin Condon
31 Oct – 3 Nov	RIFLE #17	Don Haynes
31 Oct – 3 Nov	STERLING WEST #30	Scott Glahn
5-8 December	DENVER #20	Lee Kulbitski
		Glenda Condon

\* This event is to benefit men's and women's Kairos in Colorado. Besides ice cream for donations, there will be live music, silent auction, bake sale, casserole sale, and a bubble-blowing station. Outreach and recruiting activities will also be part of the afternoon. This is low-key but meant to reach all in attendance.

Set-up will probably begin at 12:30 pm and clean-up should be easy. Team members from Sterling, DWCF, and Hudson are asked to be there to assist at this fun event. Your prayers regarding the success of the event are needed now. Musicians, singers, set-up workers, clean-up crew, ice cream servers, salespeople, casserole makers, bakers, silent auction donations or solicitors, and Kairos advocates needed. The more the merrier! Contact Pat Mills 303-433-0113 or Paula Jensen 303-427-6505 for more information about volunteering.

# KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

[Kairos Prison Ministry](#) is a lay-led Christian ministry which conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions. The Kairos program starts with a weekend event which allows participants to receive Christ's love through the servitude of Christian Kairos volunteers. During this event participants are given the opportunity to experience a spiritual renewal, accepting God's call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution, and beyond. Participants are encouraged to establish small, two-to-five-person "Fourth Day" Prayer and Share groups within the institution. The groups meet regularly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another, other residents, and staff in the institution.

Kairos is currently in 36 states and nine other countries – Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. The course materials are available in English and Spanish. The ministry includes about 30,000 volunteers worldwide.

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**"All my fountains are in You"** (Psalm 87:7)

The marvelous thing about the life of God in us is that there is no reaction of exhaustion, but a continuing pouring in all the time (Psalm 87:7). If we work from the real source of energy, viz. our relationship to God, everything that happens brings more life and fuller, with no reaction.

*Oswald Chambers*

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