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## GET OUT OF THE BOAT

Kairos Volunteers? Get out of the boat!

In the 14th chapter of the book of Matthew and in the 6th chapter of John, we read that after feeding the five thousand Jesus sent the apostles across the sea by boat while He stayed behind to dismiss the crowd. Later that night, after they had rowed what John estimated to be three or four miles, battered by the wind, Jesus came to them walking on the water. He scared them; they thought He was a ghost. He told them to "take heart", not to fear. Their leader, Peter, said, "if it is you, command me to come to you." Jesus replied "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward Him. We know Peter noticed the strong wind and became frightened, beginning to sink. Jesus saved him, reproving him on the strength of his faith, but noting his courage and obedience.

When you recruit, choose men and women who hear Jesus' call to "come" and who "take heart," looking beyond their own fear to do His work. Recruit men and women who will put on the courage Christ offers them. Be overt about it. Say, "we're here to find men and women who want the courage Christ offers" and the blessings God offers to those who follow Jesus' lead.

If anyone of us wishes to pursue His grace and mercy ardently, we must get out of the boat, following Him as closely as Peter does in these gospel accounts. Instead of keeping a safe distance from the work He has prepared for us to do, we must dive in, get wet. If we need encouragement, those with more Kairos experience will inspire us. They will talk about their "life sentence" in prison ministry. Experienced volunteers don't consider Kairos volunteering to be a chore, but a joy; a real blessing, a way of life. It has stretched their faith, and a bigger faith allows them to do even greater things, as Jesus told us.

Our message to fearful, timid volunteers is a challenge: "Come on in, the water's fine." Come in and enjoy the blessings and the tangible increase in your faith so you can do greater things! Don't shiver on the shore. JUMP IN!

Kevin Condon, Chair

"Resentment  
is like drinking  
poison and then  
hoping it will kill  
your enemies."

*Nelson Mandela*

## HOPE – THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS



“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. For today, in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11



As children, many of us eagerly waited for Christmas morning to arrive. It was a time of great expectation to see what gifts we would receive from Santa. We knew something good was coming, a family celebration, perhaps toys from Santa, or from the Christ child. We slept reluctantly, keyed up with happy thoughts. For some of us, because of our poverty, there were few, if any, gifts, but for most, there was love. Yet for some of us, the scarcity of gifts may have included emotional deprivation or abuse so that there was nothing for us but sadness about the coming day. Of course, what we really needed was warmth and affection.

No matter what our childhood experience and its lasting effects, the hope engendered by this day in the liturgical year is not unfounded and will ultimately never disappoint us. God’s desire was not just to give us gifts but to be The Gift (for and in our humanity.) Our longing to rise up singing and shouting about this incomprehensible wonder of God’s goodness coming to us in Jesus can hardly be contained. The joy of Christmas is for everyone; it is a time for all of us to be glad because the one who was born on this day is Life itself, our hope for and the way into eternal life. When God becomes human in Jesus, our humanity is fully embraced by the Divine, and nobody is excluded. God identifies with the poor, the weak, the outcast, the marginal.

We, as Kairos volunteers, are chosen by God, in faith, to bring His light to the residents. In faith, like the shepherds, seen or unseen, noticed or unnoticed, we know that the light that surrounded them surrounds us. The angel who proclaimed the Good News to them is proclaiming the Good News to us. God had come into their world as a helpless infant in the manger uniting divinity to their humanity and identifying with them in their poverty. That same God, in Jesus, continues to live in our world and identifies with us in our lowliness and weakness, one with us in our humanity. The angel’s message for the shepherds is also for us. As volunteers to the incarcerated, we open our hearts to them in sharing our stories with them and praying with and for them.



May we be alert to ways that we can continue to bring the Good News to the residents. Also, let us pray that God strengthen and empower our words and actions to become a beacon of hope to them of Jesus’ love and mercy.

In His love,  
Chaplain Joy



## TERRITORIAL #55 CLOSING – 13 October 2013

**From the five table families** (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Peter*):

**1. In what spiritual condition did you arrive when you came to Kairos?**

We were anxious, spiritually broken, curious, shy, confused, spiritually negative, humbled, tired, and craving God. Some felt undeserving, spiritually lukewarm, very hard – like stone, scared and thought they would be judged. Some said they had demons and were disconnected. One said that he did not know his place in life any more – resulting from what he identified as phoniness in the world and the church alike. Others were motivated, inspired but alone.

**2. What did you find here?**

We found growth, Love, Joy, comfort, friends and Brothers we did not know we had. We developed strong relationships with Christ, became new men with a strong Spirit. We developed better relationships, united ourselves with the LORD, found brotherhood and new tools to live life. Found forgiveness, self realization, revival, and a way to let the past go so we can move forward. One man said, I'm a sinner with issues to deal with after 20 years in prison. We found that different religious denominations and backgrounds can unite on the common ground of Christ.

**3. What are you taking with you when you return to the compound?**

We gained salvation, planted seeds and gained a few extra pounds of joy. We are never forever lost and love the brothers and each other. We have new brothers from different mothers and the LORD along with tools on how to share with others. We gained a different outlook on authority, strength for the journey, new friendships, The Good News, and a new kind of confidence. We know that the Body of Christ has many members and parts. One said he saw such "realness" – didn't see anything phony – had a real moment of sensitivity.

**From Open Mike:**

- It was an awesome experience – God was there. I am going to take it to the Yard and I challenge my brothers to do the same. Let's take a stand for 2014! Don't be fake or phony about it.
- First, I came for the food – when I left, I couldn't eat no more. I found love from the team.
- I have so many different emotions, feelings and energy – there was not one negative moment. I hope it doesn't stop here – I agree with my brother that we need to take it to the Yard, our friends, families, wives and children.
- I challenge my brothers – it's a little disheartening that more of our Kairos brothers are not here, but let's commit to love and care for each other.
- WOW! WHAT A TRIP! Now I know what God is all about – He is all LOVE. I am so blessed from those here inside and outside. It is an honor and privilege to have God in our lives. Many of us are in different "quarters" in our "superbowl" life – some are in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, some just at their half time. One thing is for sure, no matter which quarter we are in – We need God in our lives.
- I came with an open heart, mind and spirit. Kairos gave me new hope and confirmation. I know now that God has other plans for me out on the street. I have a new family out there on the street – not like the old one I left. I got forgiveness – lost hate and anger.
- The greatest thing that happened to me was the letters. I now know about the power of Prayer and the Holy Spirit.
- I had a paradigm shift this weekend. I've been doing hard time for a long time – I have a life sentence and I'm tired of it (*living like I have been*). *I have to and am changing. I would never talk in front of people I don't even know as I'm doing right now. People outside Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility (CTCF) don't know that there are people trying to change in here. We need to take the posters we made and show them to the outside to show how God is working.*
- I spent 12 years at Colorado State Penitentiary (CSP) – I was one of the worst. I grew up in church, my grandfather was a pastor, and my father was in ministry – went to prison and died there. I gave my life to the LORD in 2004. I was a gang member – now I teach them a different way. Now, I have a peace I never had before. I am grateful for Kairos – the fellowship and revival. I love You. The volunteers are patient, kind and so thoughtful.
- (*From a deaf brother*) *All the other deaf guys already graduated from Kairos – I felt strange and kind of left out. There was so much love, feeling and fellowship – 4 Days are not enough – I get to go home this Wednesday!*
- I thought Kairos was some sort of weird religion or something. The Agape from around the world showed me there are others with the same struggles and problems. We need to SOLDIER ON – only you can do what needs to be done – Be a Light and a Blessing – You are part of God's Army – SOLDIER ON.

**From the 4th Day Speaker:**

I had the honor of serving with eight men – men of courage and soldiers of Christ. Perhaps one day, we and others will look behind and see the foundation that was laid during Kairos 55. He paraphrased from Matthew 25:45: '... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

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## T-55 Closing (continued)

### From the previous Kairos Graduates:

- I was a server for Kairos #55 and this was the best Kairos ever
- Kairos isn't chips and cookies – it is a lasting RELATIONSHIP
- When God comes in your life – you cannot be the same. The battle is just beginning
- I observed the 4<sup>th</sup> day speaker wake up at 3 AM every morning to pray for each one of you on Kairos 55. He encouraged the men to continue the walk begun today.

*Submitted by Glen Wiersch*

## DELTA #44 CLOSING – 13 October 2013

Now there is more to me than my past.  
Kairos is influencing all the men in this prison.  
I plan to leave behind a heart of unforgiveness.  
I found that I am my own worst enemy.  
I found freedom in prison.  
I have a hard time not talking about Jesus!  
I thought I would die in prison, but Jesus reached down and gave me a hug and filled me with the Holy Spirit.  
When I came in here I put down my pride and let Jesus into my heart.  
I believe He had a plan for me, Kairos was it, and now I know God.  
If I knew you all were going to be here, I would have ironed my greens!  
I appreciate this humbling experience, I just want to follow Jesus; He has broken down my walls.  
I would have hated to die in this world without the opportunity to celebrate in the next one!  
I've been at the bottom, now I know what it's like at the top!  
When I walked away from my faith, it turned into fear...now I have a hunger for the Lord again.  
I have regrets for the mistakes I've made, but now I am looking forward to the future.  
I learned a lot about myself at Kairos, now I can accept the gift that God has given me.

*Submitted by Steve Parish*

## RIFLE #17 CLOSING – 3 November 2013

The men attending Rifle #17 arrived feeling stresses, broken hearted, confused, curious, run down, hungry for truth, and like spiritual infants.  
They found love, radical grace, kindness, unity, good answers, friends, fellowship, a new beginning, and a better relationship with God.  
They are taking a message, renewed strength, freedom from demons, agape love, faith, confidence, forgiveness, a deeper understanding of God, and memories.  
Individuals offered the following comments:  
I found that I was loved even when I didn't love myself.  
I'm tired of prison and Kairos has given me strength to stay out of prison.  
I hurt a lot of people on my way here, but the Lord brought me here and I'm leaving a better man.  
I gave God a little opening when I was at CRDC, and here He has demolished my wall.  
When I arrived I felt like someone else should be in my place, but I Thank God that I got to be here and experience this.  
It has been an awesome weekend. We came together as one and I have been changed forever.

*Submitted by Tyne Bush*

**"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you."**

*John Wooden*

## A DENVER OPPORTUNITY

Through a generous contribution to Prison Fellowship, residents of Denver Women's Correctional Facility are able to participate in a three-and-a-half to four year seminary curriculum leading to a certificate in Christian Leadership.

The course is **The Urban Ministry Institute** (TUMI), part of World Impact. It began in May. There are 16 modules of nine lessons each with quizzes, finals, exegetical papers, and ministry projects required. Several Kairos graduates are students in TUMI. It is also available "on the street" and several Kairos volunteers are students in that program. I am one of the mentors inside DWCF, and Kris Briggs is taking it as well as serving as the grader.

The ministry projects are so inspiring and moving. Linda Bryant who has signed up for Kairos repeatedly, but never chosen, signed the proper document to allow her Letter to Jesus be published in our newsletter. She did the editing to shorten it herself.

Glenda Condon

Dear Jesus,

Like the thief on the cross, I too am a thief. My Pride, Self-Sufficiency, bad attitude, selfish desires, and need to control has stole from many. I have shamed and embarrassed my family, and myself by allowing myself to be blown off course by every ill wind that blew my way. I am a thief I have stole from my children, when out of anger I corrected them with harsh unthought out words, emotionally I hurt them, and stole from them some of their self-esteem. Then with one huge bad decision to accept some checks that weren't mine, I robbed my children of their mother by coming to prison. I stole from them their security, their faith and trust, their happiness, their home, their confidence in me to always take care of them, to be there for them. Things I can never replace.

From others, I stole their self-respect, confidence by words I spoke to them or about them, or looks I gave them. I even stole from myself, - my self respect, my integrity, and my Christian testimony. Jesus, make me to know your ways, teach me to walk your path. forgive me for my past failures, and heal me. Thank you for loving me no matter what. I love you Jesus.

Love Always  
Linda Bryant

## DENVER #20 CLOSING – 8 December 2013

The closing began with all of the resident pilgrims entering South Visiting to a room of Christian brothers and sisters singing "Oh When the Saints Come Marching In." The women were visibly overwhelmed. As everyone took their seats, Lee Kulbitski, the weekend leader, invited a round of applause for the new pilgrims. Lee invited each family to come up to the podium and share the three questions about the weekend. All groups responded to the same three questions during the early afternoon of the final day. Question #1: In what state were you when you arrived on Thursday? #2: What did you find here? #3: What will you take with you?

**Family of Sarah:** #1: Lost, broken, helpless, searching, and beginning to learn; #2: Hope, love, friends, acceptance; #3: five pounds, new found hope, new friends, new education, Jesus, forgiveness.

**Family of Martha:** #1: Battered, wounded, numb, indecisive, open-minded; #2: help, hope, friends, sisters, promises, miracles, hope in God; #3: lessons of love, assurance, peace, direction, inquisitiveness, everything, light heart, The Lord, hope, faithful God, prayers, friends, OK to cry, keep being determined

**Family of Ruth:** #1: Empty, hesitant, thirsty, wanting more, indecisive, cold heart; #2: growth, faith, completion, inspiration, melted heart, God; #3: new beginnings, invincible, bigger family, real people, laughter, more blessings than we had ever had before meeting God

**Family of Elizabeth:** #1: Brokenhearted, confused, spiritually healthy, heartbroken; #2: forgiveness, camaraderie, reassurance, acceptance, beauty; #3: full heart, serenity, Christian family, full stomachs and extra pounds, more knowledge of the Lord

**Family of Mary:** #1: God is good, lonely, broken, at the bottom, straddling the fence; #2: love, safety, family, peace, Jesus, the Bible, strength, never loved in this way; #3: true meaning of friendship, not digging up roosters, twenty pounds of spiritual food, three legs of the spiritual stool.

After each family shared as a group, the residents were given the opportunity to individually share their weekend experience. Of course, they were instructed to only give God the thanks for the weekend, to not perform, and to keep it to two minutes. Overall, they made a valiant effort in sticking to the rules. A few just could not help themselves and thanked the team. The team just pointed toward God and the residents quickly made the adjustment and gave glory and honor to God for their weekend. There were beautiful moments, one after the other. The words that these women shared washed over the visitors and team members and they will be long remembered as experiences that exemplified the power Jesus through the gift of the Holy Spirit to bring hope to the hopeless, love to the forgotten, and joy to the broken. One of the poignant things stated was by **Nicole**: "I lost my voice singing. For whatever reasons, some of us do not have the love of a family and now because of this beautiful weekend, I thank God and I now understand what love means! Kairos 20 baby!!"

One of the most moving moments during the closing was when a resident named **Georgia** came forward. She is very quiet and shy and hardly said a word the entire weekend, but it was evident that she was being dramatically altered. She said, "I was wandering around and then I got put in here, prison. But that wasn't enough; I was selected to attend this Kairos. There were beautiful voices, and beautiful women in here. I am thankful I found what I was looking for, it was God." Another such moment was when **Danith** spoke. She said, "When I came here, I believed that nobody cared about me. My table family proved me wrong. I learned a lot; I want to follow Jesus; I want to go to heaven."

Other statements were: **Tatiana**: "My light was burning out and now my light is ignited again. I have peace of mind, I am grateful." **Jessica**: "I didn't want to come, I was closed-minded, but now I have had this beautiful experience and I have learned about myself. Now I am happy; I love God." **Bianca**: "I love all of you people here. I have received lots of certificates for things in my life, but this is the most important that I have ever received." **Teresa**: "You are all people of God. This is a negative place so for us to have this opportunity to grow spiritually and to get a loving Christian family, I am grateful to God." **Frances**: "Thank God! I was broken hearted and now I am restored. I have prayed because my son would not speak to me for a long time, but during this weekend, I prayed again and just during this weekend, I decided to try again and he answered the phone and talked to me. All the glory goes to God!" **Samantha**: "OK, I am a skeptic, but it is OK to ask questions. I am searching for answers. It was great here this weekend because in here we forget what it is like to walk into a room and not be judged." Other statements were: "I was shown pure love," "I haven't been a part of a family for a very long time and now I am," "I have not slept on Dec. 7th for a very long time and because of this weekend, I finally slept on Dec. 7th," "I was shown what real agape love was."

The closing ended with the 4th Day speaker. Her name was Luz. Some things that she shared were that her English

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## Denver #20 Closing (continued)

was not very good, so please forgive her for not saying everything correctly. She began by saying that her Kairos was #11 and she had given her life to God. She said that she was shocked to have been chosen to be the speaker and actually said no, but God said, "Girl, you have been praying and asking me to use you and when are you going to listen to me?" She said that she would be the 4th Day speaker.

She said that she prayed to be used by God in prison to make things better for others. She said that sometimes it was hard to distinguish between God's voice and the devil's. She began to listen and learned to tell the difference. Her story was that she followed a man to America from Mexico and she thought that she had the dream, but that dream dissolved and she turned to alcohol, bitterness, and anger toward God. She was in deep darkness and she tried to kill herself, but by God's grace she was saved. After her crime, she came to prison. She attended Kairos and learned about God's promises and His forgiveness of self and others. She said that her wounds were being healed. She said that Kairos was amazing and life-changing. She said that in prison, it is what they make of it. Kairos is a way to make it better because the weekend gives a new Christian family and people to support them in prison. Since her Kairos, she has attended monthly reunions, the prayer and share and other Christian opportunities. She ended by saying that they needed to be involved in Christian Action and she now saw how others saw God in her. She said that she would support their new walk in Christ. She said, do it for God. Luz ended her talk by saying that she was thankful that she had said yes to talking to them. She said that she would see them around the yard.

After the 4th Day speaker concluded, it was an opportunity for the Christian community to welcome the residents into the Kairos family. There were handshakes and smiles all around. It was a glorious ending to a glorious weekend.

Praise be to God.

*Submitted by Debbie Womack*

## 2014 EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
<b>25 January</b>	<b>STATE COMMITTEE MEETING &amp; ELECTIONS</b>	Kevin Condon
	<b>Castle Rock:</b> First United Methodist Church, 1200 South Street	
<b>3-6 Apr</b>	<b>RIFLE #18</b>	Danny Brown Tyne Bush
<b>3-6 Apr</b>	<b>TERRITORIAL #56</b>	Gary Kulbitski Jim Carter
<b>24-27 April</b>	<b>DELTA #45</b>	Abe Marinelli Bill Bennett
<i>24-27 April</i>	<b>STERLING EAST #11</b>	John Tamborski Mark Cook
<b>16-18 May</b>	<b>ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING</b>	Liz Costello
	<b>Denver:</b> Epiphany Episcopal Church and La Quinta Motel	
<b>5-8 June</b>	<b>DENVER #21</b>	Debbie Womack Glenda Condon
<b>9-12 October</b>	<b>TERRITORIAL #57</b>	TBD Jim Carter
<b>16-19 October</b>	<b>DELTA #46</b>	John Triebwasser Bill Bennett
<i>TBD Oct/Nov</i>	<b>STERLING WEST #31</b>	Mike Carey Mark Cook
<i>TBD Oct/Nov</i>	<b>RIFLE #19</b>	Chuck Vande Veegaete Tyne Bush
<b>4-7 December</b>	<b>DENVER #22</b>	TBD Glenda Condon

### A Request, and an Opportunity to Serve Kairos of Colorado.

In thirty years the editor of this newsletter has accumulated a lot of Kairos manuals, paperwork, computer files, music material, team records, etc. Some of it – emphasize some – might be of interest or value to others in the community. He has scanned the old newsletters, passed on the Treasurer's records, and compiled a history. Meanwhile, people ask him, "Are you ready to go home?" and he answers, "Yes, but my basement isn't." So he is now looking for someone to help him go through what's left and determine what of it might be of value to the community – and then maybe be the keeper of it for a while. The rest of it will receive a decent burial. Please contact Jim Strub if you can help, especially if you are relatively young – like under 60.

# 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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Like you I am broken, in need of healing. Like you I am blessed, capable of bringing healing to others. Together, wounded healers become the real presence of Christ and share the mission of salvation, the healing of God's world. (II Corinthians 1:3-4)  
*Suggested by Sandy Miller, DWCF Team*

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