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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear brothers, sisters, servants in Christ,

In the last newsletter I told you how the new State Committee was composed of the most amazing servants in God's Kingdom on earth. But it isn't about them.

Since then, hundreds of committed Kairos volunteers have spent many thousands of hours and dollars planning, training, and conducting several astounding 3-Day weekends at facilities around the state. But it isn't about them either.

It is, however, all about Jesus. I heard God moved mountains at the recent Denver Women's weekend, as always. I was blessed to witness first-hand the Holy Spirit's miracles at the most recent Sterling weekend, as I have seen so many times before. I'm not surprised anymore when I see what happens when people come face-to-face with their lord and savior, Jesus Christ, through His vessels, which are us. That's what we are all about, being His vessels, his arms and legs in this world.

In Kairos, we learn pretty quickly that we don't have the power to change even one of these inmates' hearts or lives. But Jesus does. He is sufficient for anything they might be going through, just as He is sufficient for our lives. When I first joined Kairos in 2001 (thanks to Wayne Park), the wise men and women in Kairos taught me never to claim any credit for anything amazing that happens on these weekends. They always said "ALL Glory to God!" not to us. I have come to understand what that means at a much deeper level.

Similarly, we don't have the power to convince people ("recruits") to join us in volunteering in the prisons. Jesus has already called those new volunteers by name, and placed the desire to serve in their hearts and souls. Our job is just to get out there and do our best to explain the inmates' need for Christ. The demand for Christ's love in the prisons is way greater than we are capable of meeting right now. But that's why we need to be God's arms and legs to invite more and more people to serve in Kairos. I believe many people will be moved by God to serve Christ in the prisons if they understand the needs these incarcerated men and women have, which is to know the love of Christ.

So, our State Outreach and Recruiting Committee has been planning several kinds of actions to find and recruit new volunteers and clergy. We will train every Advisory Council's Recruiting Leader how to approach local churches and clergy to identify people who are ready to take the next step in their spiritual growth. We will implement follow-up procedures to ensure those people who desire to serve are connected with experienced Kairos leaders and led through the CDOC registration and training process. We will connect with people wherever they are, in churches, at Emmaus or Cursillo closings, on the web, at Kairos

"No Christian has a right to be weak in God's strength."

Oswald Chambers

FROM THE CHAIR (continued)

closings, in Men's and Women's Groups, and other places. We will have brochures, sign-up cards, video testimonies, and many other materials to help people understand what Kairos does, and how to get engaged.

These are exciting times! Kevin Condon and Lee Schafer are already making huge progress towards starting Kairos at the Bent County Correctional Facility. They're recruiting pastors, volunteers and inmates. They had 81 inmates attend a recent prayer and share group in the prison, so God is already moving big time in that institution! You can read about it in Lee's letter below. Thank you, Lee.

So, please pray for our current and prospective Kairos volunteers. And then let's all get out there and recruit those new volunteers!! God will bless our efforts!

God bless all of you, and God bless this ministry.

Randy

EXCITING NEW START AT BENT COUNTY CF

I wish you could have joined us yesterday. Our Lord and Savior showed up and showed off in a powerful way.

Russ and Karla Gorrell, Chaplain David Hestand, and I started the day in a meeting with the Warden, Barry Goodrich, and the Assistant Warden, Steve Brown. It was obvious that Chaplain Hestand had done a lot of leg work and preparation. The Warden and AW were familiar with Kairos and the Kairos Institutional Memorandum. When I asked them what concerns they might have with security with a large group like Kairos, the only concern was dress. That is something that is always stressed in our Kairos training – proper dress for both the volunteers and the visitors at closing. I think David, Russ, and Karla would all back me and say that both the Warden and AW were very supportive of the Kairos program. They indicated their willingness to work with us to make the program successful. They agreed that we could do the cookie distributions to the entire facility, bring in fresh fruit to serve each day, and start our Thursday session earlier in the day.

Wednesday afternoon, we met with the pastors of four area churches near BCCF. The pastors of United Methodist Churches in La Junta, Ordway, Rocky Ford, and Las Animas were present. Once again the hard work that David has been doing on the behalf of Kairos was very evident. All four pastors were supportive of the Kairos program and looking forward to getting started. From this group we have leadership needed to start an Advisory Council for BCCF. We have a volunteer from this group willing to serve as the unit liaison. We set a goal for the end of September to have a fully functioning Advisory Council in place for BCCF.

The pastor of the Las Animas church said he saw no problem with us using his church as a place to prepare food and more than likely they would be willing to provide the Thursday evening meal for our Kairos team.

We talked with the Warden and AW about the food preparation. There are several ways to do this that are acceptable to them. One is that our outside team buys the food and we take it inside in hot containers or food could be purchased from local vendors and catered, and/or the prison would prepare the food inside after our purchase. The Warden asked for the price that Sterling was charging for food preparation.

Our day was capped off with a great evening of worship with the brothers in green at BCCF. The house band was absolutely great. We had 81 inmates attend our very first service together. We had opened the services to everyone and probably half of the attendees had never been to a Kairos event before. Rev. Russ brought the message. As I sat and observed the men, there were many big smiles on their faces and you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. We had the service in the small gymnasium and it is going to be a great place to hold a full Kairos weekend.

Yesterday, it was obvious to me that God is and has been at work at BCCF. I thank God for brothers and sisters in Christ like Chaplain David Hestand, and fellow Kairos volunteers Russ and Karla Gorrell. All the glory and praise goes to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In Christ, Lee Schafer, 19 June 2014

Editor's note: If you want to help start Kairos at Bent County CF with prayer, money or volunteering, please join the [Facebook group \(Kairos of Colorado\)](#) and follow the progress daily.

CHOICES

Personal **choices** are central to all of our lives.

The first talk on the Kairos Weekend is “**Choices.**”
The 12 June page in “Jesus Calling,” Sarah Young’s
book of daily meditations, is on **choices.**

She references two scripture passages:

1 Corinthians 10:10

“And do not grumble, as some of them did – and
were killed by the destroying angel.”

Luke 1:79

– the concluding lines of Zechariah’s declaration
of John the Baptist’s mission to prepare the way for
the Lord...who would “shine on those living in
darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

JESUS CALLING

June 12

LET ME HELP YOU get through this day. There are many possible paths to travel between your getting up in the morning and your lying down at night. Stay alert to the many choice-points along the way, being continually aware of My Presence. You will get through this day one way or the other. One way is to moan and groan, stumbling along with shuffling feet. This will get you to the end of the day eventually, but there is a better way. You can choose to walk with Me along the path of Peace, leaning on Me as much as you need. There will still be difficulties along the way, but you can face them confidently in My strength. Thank Me for each problem you encounter, and watch to see how I transform trials into blessings.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:10; LUKE 1:79

COOKIES

Forgiveness Cookies a la Denver Women’s Correctional Facility

This is how the forgiveness cookies are handled at Denver Women’s Correctional Facility. It is not necessarily how you should do it at your particular facility for any number of reasons. Then again maybe it is just how it can work for you.

I was not in Colorado when Kairos began at DWCF so I cannot say for certain that this is ‘the way it has always been done.’ I do know it has been done this way since June 2004 with great success.

Needless to say, we have the approval of those in charge at DWCF. Each guest is allowed to return to her room with a paper bag containing three cookies. Cookies and paper lunch sacks are included on the inventory of supplies we take in each time. We have found several grocery outlets that have bakery cookies in sealed containers that are big and special and almost as good as homemade. One of them, for example, routinely has fifty of these cookies in chocolate chip, oat-meal raisin, sugar and sometimes other flavors for \$5.00. The servant inside team puts three cookies – one of each flavor – in the paper sacks and folds the top over. As the women leave at the end of the forgiveness service on Saturday evening, they each receive a bag.

We definitely do not have bags of cookies for all the residents at DWCF. The bags of cookies are part of the forgiveness talk and service (all the parts are needed to make the whole), so those not guests on the weekend have not taken part in it. Those who are Kairos grads have had their time of giving forgiveness, helped along with the sweetness of cookies during their weekend experience. If they have yet to experience the weekend, getting them early without having “the whole story” dilutes the power of this vital part of the weekend experience. That would be a shame.

Glenda Condon

**GO TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE –
and LIKE it.**

[Facebook of Colorado](#)

RIFLE #18 CLOSING — 6 April 2014

The candidates expressed a variety of arrival conditions; weak, hungry, confused, afraid, apprehensive, and straddling the fence unsure which way to go. They found greater understanding, love, new brothers, changed hearts, not alone, and that one can communicate with others without judgment. They were taking confidence, peace, a desire to get stronger in the Lord, and the love of Christ who loves us no matter what life we lived before.

There were many individual comments,. A sampling follows:

- I never knew how far out of tune I was with the Lord.
- I was border line, I didn't know if I wanted to give my life to Christ but this experience has made up my mind.
- Appreciated the love and caring, we don't get much of that in here.
- I have never felt so loved; it makes me want to change.
- When I came here I was very nervous, but now I have no worries since giving my life to Christ.
- I didn't believe in God before this weekend and I was on the wrong path, now I have opened my mind and heart to God and I am on a better path.
- We talked about things I don't normally talk about, but I was able to speak freely because I felt safe.
- I've been down for a while and this is the most love I have felt in 10 years.
- I talked to my mother last night and she said, "I can hear happiness in your voice that I haven't heard for a long time."

Submitted by Tyne Bush

DELTA #45 CLOSING — 27 April 2014

- What I found at Kairos was complete, timely, and consistent Truth.
- I was hungry for the Lord...now I am STARVING!
- I didn't think that God knew who I was, now I know that He KNOWS me!
- I blamed God for all the bad in my life...I was holding so much inside. After the forgiveness ceremony Saturday night, I woke up smiling on Sunday morning. My cellmate even noticed!
- I was into drugs, alcohol and gangs. By age 23 I had cirrhosis of the liver. I could not forgive myself...but NOW I HAVE!
- I had no idea what I was meant for...I was chasing this and that. I found out that God has been chasing me, now He is in me, and I know I'm meant to be a soldier for Christ!
- In four short days I have gained a new family!
- I lost my son and I gave up on life. Now I am ready to give my heart to God.

4th day speakers comments:

I've found that it is impossible to talk your way out of a situation you behaved yourself into.

If you want to see the face of Christ...just look at our guests...

Service changed my life as I lived for others, not myself.

You will know what you are alive for when you know what you are willing to die for.

you may only be one person in the world...but find someone to invest in!

Let us use our lights to light up the darkness!

We had a terrific weekend, as usual. I sat at a new team candidate table with four new guys, and they were as blessed (or more so) than the Inside candidates!

Submitted by Steve Parish

DENVER #21 CLOSING – 8 June 2014

Kairos #21 at Denver Women's Correctional Facility was AWESOME!! The Spirit of Christ filled the rooms where we met. I wish I could have taken a group photo of the women's stressed faces on the first night (one resident called them sourpusses) and one with their glowing faces on Sunday to show the comparison after accepting Jesus Christ's gift of love, forgiveness, and grace.

Before the closing, the participants were asked three questions which they then shared at the closing.

1. In what state were you when you arrived on Thursday?
2. What did you find here?
3. What will you take with you?

Here are some of the answers shared by each family at the closing:

Family of Sarah: #1 Indifferent, weakened condition, confusion; #2 contentment, renewal in energy; #3: rejoicing, renewal in faith.

Family of Martha: #1 Scattered, lost, broken, spiritually asleep, wanting more; #2: strength, deeper meaning, new family, faith, acceptance, God's love in tangible form; #3: power of the name of Jesus, confidence, education of a lifetime, chance to change lives, maturity in Christ.

Family of Ruth: #1: Broken hearted, confused, anxious, excited, angry at God; #2: love, peace, forgive God, new family, new support system, flame in my heart to be a woman of God, joy; #3: love restored, Spirit and faith, eagerness to share faith, open heart, inspiration.

Family of Elizabeth: #1: Not believing, not good, confused and broken, curious, lost but now feel giddy; #2: peace, joy, love happiness, lots of new friends, unity, more put together than when I came in; #3: Holy Spirit, new beginning, new friendships and bonds

Family of Mary: #1: Good, strong, not complete, unsteady; #2 Spiritual enlightenment, love, peace, opportunity, more ways to be nuts for Christ; #3: first steps toward forgiveness, friendships, intimacy, more ways to be a religious nut.

Participants were also given an opportunity during "open mike" to individually share their weekend experience:

Jeanine: "Best day of my life!"

Melanie: Spent 5 years on a 10-year sentence. Troubled person and learned how much she is loved. "I'm loved!!!" Exclaimed she feels so alive, so blessed, and glad "God put me in his hand."

Amy: Described having an uplifting experience, breaking free from bondage, letting go and giving to God. "We are all one family, one body, one Christ."

Tammi: "Never experienced anything like this before. God has healed me. I was in a 'sleeping state.' Kairos woke me up. If it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone."

Mary: 35-year sentence; down 13. "I left behind two beautiful children, and I was broken. I didn't believe in God, and I was so mad at him. I'm loved. I'm a woman of God."

Manda: Had tried since 2010 to get into Kairos and had no idea that Kairos would be so uplifting and spiritual. "I mask my feelings, but I've been able to be honest with these women."

Jennifer: Didn't know what Kairos was. Signed up with two others who did not get accepted. "I had a bad upbringing with awful father. The Wall and the forgiveness ceremony helped me forgive my father. I feel awesome and really good!"

Brittany: August 19th five years ago had an accident that left her paralyzed. Angry with God and blamed Him. Knowing the women she met at Kairos, she feels loved.

Chante: Heart about to burst with excitement. "These women came in as sourpusses and now they are all smiling. Prison is such a dark, lonely place. I grew up in a loving Christian home, but hated God after my husband killed himself. Being a Christian is about sharing Jesus in this place with as many people as possible – be a light."

Lisa: "Prison is not a nice place. During the forgiveness ceremony, God healed me."

Danielle: Last three years struggling with burden why she is here. Thankful that she forgave herself and many others.

Holli: Didn't know what to expect. "I'm a better person than I was yesterday. I learned there is more to God."

Maria: Over the years, she was involved with different religions, but Kairos helped her get back to God.

Betsey: She gave thanks to God. As a recovering perfectionist, she considered God as her assistant manager. Despite her perfectionism, she made a very bad decision. "It was a battle for my soul – I thought that I was worthless."

Amanda: "When I first walked into the doors, looked down at the floor; I didn't want to look at anyone. I now feel accepted, forgiven, and loved." Lost her soul when she got locked up. Said Kairos is the best "secret" she's ever discovered.

The 4th Day speaker was **Lacie**. She shared about having a closer walk with Jesus while in the prison. She encouraged the women to attend a church service, Prayer and Share, and Bible studies at the prison. She also encouraged them to

say "Hi" to each other in the yard and talk to each other and let them know they could ask her questions about Jesus when they saw her. Lacie shared that she had always struggled with her identity, which was through other people and what she meant to them, but being in prison has allowed her to grow in Jesus. She especially mentioned her growth through taking The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) classes. Lacie was happy to share that she has found her own, "forever" personal identity as a "Child of Christ."

The Christian community welcomed the residents with open hearts (mentally, not physically) as their new sisters-in-Christ, because we are family. It was fun to watch how everyone was comfortable mingling and talking to each other. Only through the Spirit of Christ could something like this happen. Praise the Lord!!

Submitted by Kris Briggs

STERLING EAST #12 1-4 May 2014

Don and I have been serving Kairos since 2003 and this was, by far, the most powerful Kairos weekend. I was on the food provision side of the weekend (the Faith Team - female volunteers and two Sterling team members), serving in the back room with the "inside team," which is composed of previous Kairos graduates who are still residents at Sterling.

Sometimes the inside team share bits of their stories, but thanks to Mike Pickett, in the back room during the weekend, Mike asked the inside team, "What has Kairos meant to you?" One by one, almost every man shared his testimony. It opened up the flood gates for both the inside team and the Faith Team and was probably helpful to the 4th day speaker in preparing his talk.

Because they revealed so much of their stories, the inside team figured they had convinced us that they were monsters - animals (as one man put it) and doubted we would come back.

When we returned, they were pleasantly surprised - even shocked.

I guess what I want to say is that when we share God's love, real love, we are able to look beyond their sins and honestly, say, "You're not that guy anymore." Because of Jesus, we are made new. Thankfully!

Yesterday we did some additional sharing and a few guys voiced that this weekend was more powerful than their own Kairos weekend. Not just because of us, but because of our willingness to see who they were and love them anyway. They also loved being able to serve their fellow residents and even prayed for them to come to Christ, too.

The closing was filled with shared testimonies, and many new brothers in Christ. Isn't Jesus amazing? He really does turn our messes into messages of hope. He changes lives and reveals His heart through each one of us.

It makes my heart happy to know that He's not done with us yet. As long as we can breathe, we can witness for Him. Please continue to pray for these guys. Today they face the real challenge of moving back into their jobs, with the same people and we need to continue to be prayer warriors for them.

Thank you SO much for your prayers over the weekend, they were felt each moment.

Submitted by Brenda Schreiber Bates, 4 May 2014

2014 EVENTS

		<u>LEADER</u>	<u>OBSERVING LEADER</u>
16 August	STATE COMMITTEE MEETING Cross Creek Resort and Conference Center , Frisco	Randy Weldon	Paul Osborne
2-5 October	RIFLE #19	Chuck Vande Veegaete	Ken Ooley
9-12 October	TERRITORIAL #57	Rusty Siefner	Dick Wilson
16-19 October	DELTA #46	John Triebwasser	Gene Jolley
30 Oct – 2 Nov	STERLING WEST #32	Michael Carey	Dave Caikowski
4-7 December	DENVER #22	Kris Briggs	Edna Robinson

"Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life –
gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life."
Oswald Chambers

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 34 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 international ministry now includes about 30,000 volunteers in 444 different Kairos communities.

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