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"If I obey Jesus Christ in the seemingly random circumstances of life, they become pinholes through which I see the face of God."

Oswald Chambers

OUTREACH AND RECRUITING

A wise old volunteer told me a few years ago that Kairos didn't have a money problem, but a volunteer problem. That is certainly true. As our volunteer base gets older and our inventory of DOC trained volunteers gets smaller, we have to put on a full court press to bring on new volunteers. But how?

This coming year, as last, we will be focusing on this problem. Last year we put in place a Facebook Group (Kairos of Colorado), which now has 70 members and a blog that still needs work but has had some good articles to share

<http://kairoscolorado.wordpress.com>

If you would like to post an article or comment on those already posted, do it.

In the coming year, I'd like each of you to help increase our recruiting by 20%. That is our goal for each AC. I'd like to invite past weekend leaders, preferably the Advising Leader for the next weekend from each institution, to join me. As immediate past leaders, these men and women are most intimately familiar with present volunteers, and can help implement our recruiting and outreach support. With your help, we will train volunteers to contact not just their friends at church but also the pastors in your market area to help us identify the most likely volunteer from each church. Through videos and online meetings to answer questions, we will help you bring these prospective volunteers to a next step that results in new volunteers for your facility. We will help you present our message and recruit more volunteers. We'll invite all pastors and volunteer prospects to our Facebook group, where they can read about what is going on, and to our blog when good articles are posted that they may want to share.

I'd like to request that each Advisory Council rep notify me by email with your council's selection for this recruitment committee volunteer by calling me to discuss recruiting for your facility and how we can help you. Please send their name and contact information, including email and phone, to me at

kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com

by the end of your next facility reunion or group meeting.

We have lots of requests to add facilities to Kairos in Colorado and no volunteers to do so. Pray for our successful accomplishment of this worthy goal.

Kevin Condon

303-377-3580

Outreach and Volunteer Recruiting Volunteer
and Colorado State Chair

CAN KAIROS of COLORADO GROW IN 2014?

At a recent Ice Cream Social, I asked a Kairos graduate on a live video, who he thought should attend Kairos inside prisons in Colorado. His surprising answer was “everybody”. He went on to say that prison is filled with very broken men (he was a Sterling Kairos grad). In his view, prison is a wonderful place to hit the reset button, and Kairos volunteers and our Kairos Inside programs show inmates where the reset button is to transform to a better life. Prison transformation is a cliché. Like deathbed confessions, prison conversions are legion. However, transformed lives in prison are dramatic, as inmates, through the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, often emerge from deep darkness into the full light of a living God who makes them His own. My ex-offender friend had experienced this transformation himself, and agreed that although his experience was exceptional, he had never talked to a prisoner who did not benefit from Kairos. So, every prisoner should get to go on a Kairos!

However, we cannot do more facilities or even more programs in existing facilities without recruiting more volunteers. Often our training on how to recruit new volunteers is neglected. Our ability to incorporate new volunteers into our ministry is poor. We can do better. I believe that we can increase the size of Kairos of Colorado by the end of 2014. And we need to. Hudson CF may get a new contract to house California prisoners requiring two weekends in 2014, Sterling has asked for another weekend on the “high” side, catering to Units 1 and 2, where security level is close. That will take another full team of volunteers. We have also been asked by a former Kairos volunteer, now the chaplain there to start a program at Bent County Correctional Facility. Others have suggested that Fremont CF is quite open to resumption of Kairos there as long as new leadership and a full team are created for the purpose.

To do this and to continue to meet the needs of other facilities, more volunteers are needed. One way is to work more closely with our own churches. We must realize that our ministry really does depend on volunteers and community support through the churches that we attend and that our neighbors attend. We should cultivate them better.

What are you doing to help your pastor and churches near you understand the importance of what Kairos does? Here are a few ideas.

- If your pastor supports you, ask to be a presenter at his clergy group where he meets with other clergy from churches in your community. Tell them there is a crying need to minister to the “least” in our society, those in prison. Read the Matthew 25: 31 – 46 passage and then ask the group what they are currently doing and whether they can provide resources and volunteers for Kairos work.
- Get a pad of placemats or placemat sized sheets of paper and take them to youth classes and tell them about Kairos, answer their questions, then wait as they make their poster/placemat for you to take to the prison. Thank them.
- Here are links to the resources you need to make your presentation. Make sure the meeting you present to has Wi-fi so the web can deliver your video or form by clicking on the following links:

<http://vimeo.com/6935281> -- On Both Sides of the Wall Kairos Intro

<http://vimeo.com/6248288> -- Paul Davis Ex-offender Testimony

<http://vimeo.com/6918825> -- My Redeemer Lives Silent Choir

<http://vimeo.com/6909194> -- Cookie Ministry, West Virginia

[Guidelines for Guests](#), used for those who just want to attend a reunion

[Volunteer Application](#), to qualify for training

- Talk to your church about hosting a weekly bible study for ex-offenders in your community. You can't lead it because CDOC wants you to stay away from outside relationships with anyone not off paper for three years, but you CAN attend a church activity where they are present. Create one. Involve a bible teacher who is not a Kairos volunteer.
- Go to local businesses to seek monetary donations. Find out which ones employ ex-offenders. They are open to the work Kairos is doing.
- Get a buddy in your efforts. Team work makes you will hold each other accountable. Set a goal and do something.
- Put on a full court press to get both Guests to your reunions and Attendees at your next Closing.
- Participate in the Kairos of Colorado Facebook group.

2014 is the year Kairos of Colorado expands. Be a part of it.

Submitted by Kevin Condon

SHIPWRECK

Thursday, August 29, 2013, I attended the "Women in Ministry" luncheon at Faith Bible Chapel in Arvada and was blessed to hear Debbie Stewart speak on the topic of 'the Journey' / 'the assignment.' She read from Acts 27: 1, 22, 25 and Ezekiel 14:23. She stressed that Paul was obedient and faithful, and that God wants us to be obedient and faithful.

Paul was obedient in going to Rome, but was shipwrecked in Malta. This is an example of God's special time with Paul and the rippling effect that his obedience had on the people in Malta. Even though he was shipwrecked, the people got word of his intentions and began to serve God.

Chuck Holton told the following story on CBS News, July 4, 2011:

"The tiny island of Malta in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea has a rich history as one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. It all started with a shipwreck, as told in the book of Acts, about 60 AD while the apostle Paul was en route to Rome. Boarding an Alexandrian grain freighter on the isle of Crete, a fierce Nor'easter blew the ship off course. It looked like all was lost.

"On the fourteenth night, they were still being driven across the Adriatic sea when the sailors sensed land approaching. They took soundings and found that the water was 120 feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found that it was 90 feet deep. Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, the sailors dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for daylight."

"When daylight came, they did not recognize the land. But they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea."

"With the storm still raging, the ship struck a sandbar, and began to break apart. With the vessel and her cargo a total loss, the nearly 300 men on board swam for their lives. Miraculously, everyone survived.

"Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta," the story reveals.

"And so began a Christian influence in Malta that has continued down through the centuries. Today it is the most religious nation in Europe -- 98 percent of its citizens are members of the Catholic Church. Saint Paul is memorialized throughout the island, nowhere more than in Saint Paul's bay, where tourists come to visit the Shipwreck Cathedral, and see the spot where most believe Paul's ship ran aground nearly 2,000 years ago."

Debbie talked about the word 'time' and the fact that one of the Greek words for time, "Kairos," has a very spiritual meaning – an appointed time for the purpose of God. Secondly, Kairos is a time when an opening appears, which must be driven by force if success is to be achieved. This was God's special time for Paul to influence the people in Rome.

Debbie also talked about 'shipwrecks in our life.' In Acts 27:22, Paul was shipwrecked in Malta. It says, "But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed" (NIV). She said "when you are shipwrecked in your life, take courage, for you will not be destroyed; you will come out on top. In Acts 27:25, the Lord gave Paul an assignment and the Lord gave the shipwreck. Nothing happens in our lives that God does not know about. He appoints and allows shipwrecks for His own good purpose. The devil does not always discourage us with the lie – he also will discourage us with the truth. The Lord has purpose and blessing in your shipwreck.

Debbie then shared a part of her personal life, where she experienced her shipwreck when her son was incarcerated in prison. Upon visiting him for the first time, she stood back and looked at the people – the way they looked, the way they dressed, the way they smelled – and she said to herself, "I don't belong here, I'm not like these people." It was at that moment that she had a 'come to Jesus meeting' with the Holy Spirit. She realized that she did belong there because her son was there and that God had a purpose and a plan for his life. She needed to be there to speak words of encouragement to him and to others. She immediately ran to the ladies room where she fell to her knees and began to call on God. Right there in the women's room, she cried and prayed and asked for forgiveness for her attitude. Soon afterward, she saw a robust African American come in and go in the stall. She heard her as she let down the top on the commode, sat down and began to wail "Lord, why? By that time, Debbie knew that she had to comfort and to encourage that woman. She knocked on the stall door and asked 'are you all right?' The woman opened the stall and said 'my son is in prison and this is the first time I have come to visit him.'" Debbie said 'my son is here as well and this is my first time to visit him'. The woman immediately gave her a bear hug and held on for dear life. Debbie was able to get her out of the stall into the open space and she begin to minister to the woman and to assure her that God has a purpose and a plan for both of them and their sons. In essence, that was God's special time for both of these women – God's 'Kairos' time. Debbie understood that God has purpose and blessing in your shipwreck. She and that woman are still friends to this day.

Ezekiel 14:23 says "You will be consoled when you see their conduct and their actions, for you will know that I have done nothing in it without cause, declares the Sovereign Lord."

Finally, Debbie said, as a Christian you can have a shipwreck, but you will land on top.

Thank God for Kairos. "He makes all things beautiful in His time."

Submitted by Edna T. Robinson, DW Team Member

A 4th-day WITNESS from DW-19

I attended Kairos #14 at DWCF. When I came to Kairos, I was still in shock and denial about why I came to prison. After all the abuse and belittling I endured in my life, I felt like I was being punished for someone else's wrongs. Surely it wasn't my fault. When I sat where you are, I think I must have looked like a deer caught in headlights.

Listening to each Kairos leader describe her life, my walls of self-pity and isolation began to break down. I could identify with their struggles and difficulties. I wasn't alone. Like everyone else, I have to walk this earthly road with all its thorns and thistles.

Once the wall of self-doubt and self-destruction began to come down, I could see around me more clearly. What I found out was the grass really is greener on the other side. Even a prickly cactus like me can have beautiful flowers.

Before my Kairos experience, I was the kind of person that stayed to myself. I didn't socialize or have friends. I do love Jesus; I do my Bible studies — enriching my own life. However, nobody was enriched by my life and all that I've experienced and I wasn't enriched by others. I was a light hidden under a bush.

Coming to Kairos has shown me that I need to put myself out there. I had to not just open the door, but to step through it. I had a lot to learn from others and a lot to teach.

Through Kairos I've learned how to be a friend and have a friend. I learned how to forgive and let go — to stop allowing the past to dictate who I am. Now I look forward to being all I can be.

A relationship with Jesus takes work and time, just as in any relationship. This is what brings joy like springs of living water into your heart. With the Agape love that you learned about this weekend, you need to share that joy and love with others like the Kairos leaders have done for us here and continue to do for others. I read in the Daily Bread just this morning that we should continue to worship Him by obeying Him in our daily life, looking for opportunities to serve.

Remember how you worked together in groups to make posters, praying for each other, listening and sharing? It should not stop here. "Who is the church?!" We are the church. As the church we are to love, edify and teach others. Heb. 6:10 "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

When I went through the forgiveness ceremony, it felt like the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders. The only way to keep that feeling is to continually forgive others, repent and ask forgiveness from God and to forgive yourself.

When I read my letters, I felt so loved and worthy. It's hard to even put into words how it felt to have others recognize me as an individual with value. I watched each of you reading your letters and it touched my heart to see how you were affected.

My goal is to go into the ministry and teach others about that Agape love, forgiveness and salvation that only comes through Christ Jesus. My prayer for you is that you take what you have learned here and share it with others, for this is real love. It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served you this weekend. Thank you.

NOMINATIONS FOR STATE COMMITTEE

For our Colorado State Kairos committee it is that time again — election time, that is.

Our current elected state committee officers have agreed to have their names listed on the slate for election at the January face-to-face meeting.

If you are an AC rep, please look for an email from John Parker with that information and share it with your facility's volunteers.

If any of our volunteers has someone he/she would like nominated, please send to Glenda Condon the name, contact information, and the office for which that person is being nominated. She will then confirm with the nominee his/her willingness to serve and that the State Committee Operating Procedure qualifications are met.

Glenda Condon

ggcondon@gmail.com

ICE CREAM FUN AND FELLOWSHIP



The First Annual Kairos Ice Cream Social was held on Sunday, July 28, 2013 from 2 to 5 pm at Grace Church of Arvada, 6969 Sheridan Blvd. It benefitted both men's and women's Kairos. Volunteers from the Hudson, DWCF, and Sterling teams helped plan and put on the event. The ice cream social's intent was not only to raise funds, but also to be an outreach and recruiting event to the community at large. An unintentional benefit of this event was a rare opportunity for members of men and women's Kairos teams and their spouses to spend time together socializing.

A silent auction, bake sale, and live entertainment were part of the Kairos Ice Cream Social. Rain for the majority of the three-hour time period stopped a few of the planned activities due to confining most of the participants, volunteers, and activities inside the building. This resulted in a lack of indoor space and an underutilization of the outdoor area as planned.

In spite of the rain, the event was very well-attended, especially for a first-time event. Attendance figures were not obtained, but an estimate, based on ice cream consumption, would be that between 180 and 210 people were at the event.

Ice cream sales were by donation only. Ice cream cones, sundaes, and cherry crisp with ice cream were offered. \$404.00 was collected from these sales. Baked goods were requested by email in advance to all three teams for the bake sale at least twice, and donations were plentiful. \$447.00 was collected from the bake sale. (After the event had ended, the ice cream cones, leftover baked goods, and partially full containers of ice cream were given to the high school youth group meeting upstairs at 5:30pm. They were rather happy to have the leftovers.)

The Silent Auction had numerous items up for bid and included restaurant and other gift cards, a week stay at a condo in Mazatlan, a catered dinner at a beautiful home in Coal Creek Canyon, a set of golf clubs, Premier jewelry, art work, a battery charger, movie tickets, and other donations from businesses and Kairos volunteers. \$2,284.66 was cleared from the silent auction.

The live entertainment portion was varied and a combination of music, magic, video, and testimony. Two videos were shown at the beginning of the afternoon - "The Silent Choir" and "The DWCF Video - 10 min." Terry Bessler, Ron McLeod, and Dave Jones from the Hudson team and Lee Kulbitski and Kathy Awtrey from the DWCF team each provided a 15 to 20 minute set of music. All five musicians collaborated to provide a third set of music for the crowd.

Music was alternated with other entertainment. These were: a magic show presented by Ron and Sherry McLeod; testimonies by Maurice Engelby, Jim Bailey, and Chris Myers (all CDOC releases and Kairos graduates)* at one time; and then testimonies by Steve Garcia (a CDOC releasee who had an encounter with God in prison)* followed by Patty and Bert Morrison (Kairos volunteers). Ron Dalton acted as MC.

Grace Church assisted outreach and recruiting by printing 150 brochures and interest cards for the event. Various volunteers talked to attendees about Kairos and handed out printed materials, but there was no room for a recruiting table, to decorate placemats, or make Agape posters as planned.

Submitted by Pat Mills



*Special thanks go to Kevin Condon and Jean Yanchek who worked with CDOC officials to obtain permission for these parolees to speak at this event.

HEAVENLY HUMOR

Q: Does God have a sense of humor?

A: How can we his creatures think things are funny unless the whole idea came from God in the first place? I've never heard a sermon about God's sense of humor. Nor have I read a theology book that lists God's laughter as one of his immutable characteristics. But I think it is. And unless we see that side of God, I'm not sure we'll totally appreciate him.

Think about his creation. Surely he made creatures such as the otter, dolphin, and penguin, just because they delighted him so much. Or consider what we find in Scripture itself (keeping in mind that Scripture was inspired by God). **Job 39:13-18** (a very serious book) describes the life of a stork in pretty funny terms. Verse **17** says, "For God did not endow her with wisdom or give her a share of good sense." I hope I'm never described that way!

The prophet Jonah (found in the book of the same name) was a "drama queen" who makes us laugh in retrospect. After running from God, being rescued from drowning by spending three days in a fish's belly, and then complaining that God rescued Nineveh from destruction, Jonah throws a tantrum about a vine dying because it made him so hot and uncomfortable to lose its shade. In **Jonah 4:9** he complains about the vine saying, "I am angry enough to die." Doesn't it make you want to say, "Good grief, Jonah. Lighten up!" God must have had a sense of humor not only to put up with but use Jonah for his glory and purposes.

Proverbs is a funny book at times. If you read it aloud to a group, it's difficult not to laugh. **Proverbs 11:22** says, "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion." Doesn't that give you delight on the days you feel more piggish than beautiful? You wonder if Solomon had just fought with one of his many wives when he said, "Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife" (**21:9**). However, my favorite proverb is **22:13**, "The sluggard says, 'There is a lion outside!'" That sounds like as good excuse as any to me on days when I feel lazy. I don't recommend trying it with your boss next Monday though. And there's the night person's favorite verse, "If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse" (**27:14**). I had a roommate in college who quoted this to me, reminding me that not everyone wakes up cheery.

But I think **Hebrews 11:12** is the funniest verse in the Bible: "Therefore there was born even of [Abraham], and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars in heaven ..." (*emphasis mine, NASB*).

Of course God's humor is never cruel the way humans twist it to be at times. In fact, God is entirely pure and untainted, thus so is his humor. Such a God inspired the author of **Proverbs** to write, "A happy heart makes the face cheerful" (**15:13**), or seen from the opposite point of view in verse 30, "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart." **Proverbs 16:24** says, "Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Aren't you glad?

This is from JoHannah Reardon, managing editor of ChristianBibleStudies.com. She has written seven novels and a family devotional guide, and she blogs at www.johannahreardon.com. For more in-depth Bible studies, go to ChristianBibleStudies.com.

Submitted by Pat Mills

Note: the writers of the Gospels were more serious.

For example, Matthew doesn't say where the Magi stayed when they went to Bethlehem to worship Jesus.

(The Camelback Inn)

REMAINING 2013 EVENTS

		<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
10-13 October	DELTA #44	Tad Coit	Bill Bennett
10-13 October	TERRITORIAL #55	Lonnie Womack	Jim Carter
20 October	State Committee Teleconference		Kevin Condon
31 Oct–3 Nov	RIFLE #17	Don Haynes	Tyne Bush
31 Oct–3 Nov	STERLING WEST #30	Scott Glahn	Mark Cook
5-8 December	DENVER #20	Lee Kulbitski	Glenda Condon

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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"We are called to live in such a perfect relationship with God that our lives produce a yearning for God in the lives of others, not admiration for ourselves."

Oswald Chambers

The Colorado Chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry International publishes this newsletter quarterly. Kairos is a 501(c)(3) ministry. Donations are appreciated and tax-deductible.
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