

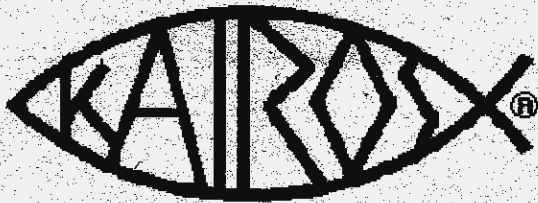
KAIROS OF COLORADO, INC

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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936

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PRISON MINISTRY

"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"

Volume 11 #1 --- Spring 1993

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

!! URGENT NEED !! MEMBERS FOR FACILITY ADVISORY COUNCILS !!

The Facility Coordinators are NOW looking for volunteers to serve on their Advisory Councils.

Advisory Councils? What's that? There's an article on next page that explains them. Please read the article. Then, if you feel led to serve on your Advisory Council, please contact your Facility Coordinator ASAP! Their names and phone numbers are:

Women's: Gerry Lam 719-390-8732
Fremont: Eric Goldy 719-784-3340
Territorial: Gene Wilkowski 303-939-8171
Delta: Andrew Kaminski 303-752-4184

Note: An AC for Limon will be formed when it is time to organize Limon Kairos #1.

!! SAVE JUNE 5TH !! !! KAIROS RETREAT !!

Our Colorado Kairos family is growing! Some of us serve in one facility, some in another. Some are on time-out. Some who were in are now out (Praise God!). So it's time for a family reunion! We are planning to do this on **Saturday, 5 June 1993** -- all day, at a location still being determined but probably in a park-like setting somewhere to the southwest or west of Denver.

We plan to give you the details in the May edition of the newsletter. Meanwhile, please try to reserve the 5th of June for our family reunion. NOTE: this is for **everybody** in the Colorado family of Kairos -- not just the committees and councils, not just the team members -- **everybody**. We are ALL one in the Body of Christ!

(Contact: Rev. Dave Buckingham, 303-777-5715)

KAIROS NEEDS FINANCIAL SPONSORS

We currently reach over 300 new inmates each at a cost of over \$100 per inmate. Please back our "front line" team members with your help. Please send this form and mark **TREASURER** on enclosed envelope.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____ PH: (____) _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

We still have Kairos logo **LAPEL PINS** for sale -- gold on red or blue -- beautiful for gift and/or witnessing. Write **PINS** on enclosed envelope.

Number of blue pins _____

Number of red pins _____

Total number of pins _____

times \$5 each = _____ (FULL PAYMENT ENCLOSED)

NAME: _____ PH: (____) _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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TERRITORIAL: Gene Wilkowski
DELTA: Andrew Kaminski
LIMON: Jim Saunders

EDITORS: Peggy and Jim Strub
PRINTING: courtesy of St Michaels Parish (Episcopal), Colo Spgs

KAIROS needs your **CORRECT ADDRESS**. Returned Bulk mail is **EXPENSIVE**. If you are moving, **PLEASE** send your **NEW ADDRESS** on this form --> and mark **NEWSLETTER** on enclosed envelope.

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ ST ZIP _____
PHONE: (____) _____

ADVISORY COUNCILS (ACs)

Kairos now has full programs in four Colorado prisons (Women's, Fremont, Territorial, Delta) and has started Monthly Reunions in a fifth (Limon). We have been operating all these programs centrally from the Colorado District Committee (also known as "the Board"). This has been quite a load on one committee, so the committee has decided to decentralize, using an organizational pattern provided by National Kairos. This pattern includes an Advisory Council for each prison facility where we have a full program. The AC interacts with its facility thru its Facility Coordinator (just as the DC does now for all the facilities), and each AC has a representative on the DC to participate in the general operation of the district program at large. Those of you who have a Kairos Manual (recent team members), can find a description of this on pages 407 and 408.

At this point the District Committee plans to continue to provide bulk supplies (Bibles, crosses,

buttons, grouping cards, and Freedom Guides) and to arrange team accomodations (except Delta). The District Committee **MAY** also continue to arrange for kitchens and photographers (except Delta), be custodian of the Cañon City properties shed, and act as the central point for incoming and outgoing general palanca. The intent, however, is to decentralize as much of this as is practicable. We intend to make the assignment of responsibilities between ACs and DC a main topic for discussion at the District-wide Retreat, currently scheduled for Saturday, 5 June 1993. See article on page 1.

We hope to have the four Advisory Councils formed before the retreat. Each Council should have seven to ten members, all of whom are to be active volunteers in the Kairos program of that facility. The membership of each Council should be representative of all the outside movements (Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Emmaus, and Koinonia). See request for volunteers on page 1.

KAIROS MEN -- SIGN UP FOR LIMON

Kairos has started at Limon! Praise God, who has led all concerned to take this big step in faith. There have already been two Monthly Reunions at the Limon Correctional Facility -- thanks to arrangements by Chaplain Alan ReKate and LCF staff, the enthusiasm of the inmates, and the efforts of facility coordinator Jim Saunders and five other outside team members. There are some 30 Limon inmates who have completed Kairos weekends at other Colorado facilities. About 20 of them, together with many other inmates, are attending the reunions. Their witnessings to each other and the

outside team members have been poignant and touching -- as the Lord would have it!

The Monthly Reunions are on the third Sundays, from 1:30 to 4:00. Outside team members need to be cleared by Limon security, no matter what other facility they are already cleared in. Please contact Jim Saunders (303-794-3623) for the forms and information. Nine men are currently cleared for Limon. **We are praying that at least 25 more outside men will commit to this new Kairos community in time to offer Limon #1 in October.**

CALENDARS and CONTACTS

KAIROS WEEKENDS

NOW is always a good time to volunteer for a Kairos **TEAM**, sign up to attend **CLOSINGS, DONATE** for expenses, and **PRAY**.

Team meetings start two months before each Short Course, so team formation starts about four months ahead. In addition to oldtimers, teams always need **new people** who have participated in similar outside weekends (see next column).

Closings require signing up at least six weeks ahead of time so that the Department of Corrections can check on everyone before approving them for admission to a specific facility. Please **pray** about your part in this ministry -- **team, closing guest, and/or donor.**

The contacts below are the Kairos prison Coordinators. Dates are those of future weekends in each prison.

Fremont (men)	September 9-12
Eric Goldy	719-784-3340
Women	April 15-18 & Oct.
Gerry Lam	719-390-8732
Delta (men)	April 29-May 2
Andrew Kaminski	303-752-4184
Territorial (men)	May 13-16 & Nov.
Gene Wilkowski	303-939-8171

OUTSIDE WEEKENDS

The Kairos prison ministry is not affiliated with any outside Short Courses; however, we strongly recommend this unique "Encounter with Christ" for all Christians. Such a spiritual experience is required for Kairos team members.

If you've already been blessed by this experience, sponsor a friend. If you haven't, then find someone to sponsor you. You won't regret it!

These Short Courses are offered at various times and locations -- and they fill up fast! Here are contact persons for information and dates:

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Walk to Emmaus (Ecumenical):
Sharon Matthew, Littleton, 799-3658
Betty Clifford, Rifle, 625-0636
Episcopal Cursillo (Coed):
Gary Rose, Parker, 841-7865
Kathy Noland, Grnd Jnctn, 434-1910
Catholic Cursillo, Denver:
Sue/Frank Martinez, Den, 693-3726
Catholic Cursillo, Colo Spgs:
Cath Diocese, Colo Spgs, 636-2345
Koinonia (2-day, Coed, Ecumenical):
Al Lowrie, Littleton, 764-7308
Jim Willard, Ft. Clns, 226-3521

LAST FRIDAY REUNIONS

- o 6:30 PM, last Friday of every month (If five Fridays, then it's the fifth Friday.)
- o Bonds of Love Church, 9th and Acoma, Denver
- o Family potluck supper
- o Prayer, fellowship, sharing, praising God

These "last Friday" Reunions are a real blessing to many, including some who made their Weekend while in prison. Members of the Denver-area Kairos community are currently holding the reunions at the above location. These reunions bring old and new friends together for an evening filled with love and the presence of the Lord.

We encourage all of you to become a part of this. Bring along former inmates you know of, especially those just recently released. We **especially invite anyone** interested in this ministry -- prospective team members, prayer and donor supporters -- to come and see. For information contact:

Bob St. Clair 303-278-0032

MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND, BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST

FROM THE FREMONT #21 CLOSING

It's a trip to see all you people from the street. 90% of the people in here have no support, so we really appreciate your support. Thank God for being God!

What you people behind the scenes did means more than you'll ever know -- the salad, olive, cucumber, tomato... the place mats made by kids. The sense of abandonment we feel, the obstacles out there on the other side of the trap... I know that I'm going to have rough times as a Christian back there. We need community. I commission you, my brothers in here, to take me aside and tell me when I'm not behaving right.

We came with hatred, doubt, critical attitude, broken spirits, low self-esteem...

We're taking a different life that we didn't know existed. It's rough out there in that yard.

It's amazing what the Lord can do in a day. When you speak from the heart, people accept you. I can do that now. I've been a Christian for several years. Now I know I must get off milk and on to meat, so "where's the beef?" I've asked the Lord to redeem my time in prison. Kairos is part of that, and it's bigger than I thought.

I'm feeling love here I never had in my whole life. I thank God for my low self-esteem, 'cause without that I wouldn't have turned to God.

I lift weights every day, but I never lifted any weight like the love of Jesus did. His love lifted me up.

There's been a lot of darkness in my life -- hate, anger. I hurt and used a lot of people. But after Kairos, I learned to open up, to feel -- really feel -- even here. This spiritual adventure is going to be rough, but with Jesus we'll have the victory.

If we can combine our energies in Jesus' love, we can spread the good word here and accomplish a lot. Some of us feel like the man hanging next to Christ, and I want to be with Christ in paradise, too!

I've been praying for God to take away my anger. This weekend He did. A guy went off on me in med line today. Normally I'd have been fighting in no time, but I just told him Jesus loves him.

I had so many unanswered questions that I drifted away from church. Kairos showed me the love of the Lord through people who came here and shared their lives with us. I thank the Lord for bringing all of us here, for showing me the way, showing me love, peace of mind I've been seeking for so long. The energy here today is so strong, I know I'll never drift away again. You've shown us what the love of Jesus can do.

One inmate jotted down his witness before presenting it at the Closing. He gave us permission to copy his script, which follows:

As I think about my life before I came to Kairos, I discover more and more how impossible it is for me to look back because I have lived for a long time responsible for no one, answering to no one, and committed to no one except myself!! And during this period of my life I considered the world mine for the taking, and truly believed that I was living life to the fullest. But you know what? I was deceiving myself!!! I am an incomplete man -- in need of wholeness, and I find that my life is not at all what I thought it to be. In fact, it is terribly lacking in many things, the foremost being love!! But now, through some great fortune, I have found that love and, along with it, the true essence of friendship!! The brothers in this room tonight will always be a stain that'll remain in my brain and, most importantly, each and every one of yous have a place within my heart when we part!! Memories are treasures that time cannot destroy. They are the happy pathway to yesterday's bright joy!! And I thank yous for your mercy and love and for letting me enjoy your kingdom of love!! Though I must admit when I first came to Kairos I thought it was only for a moment of pleasure, but to my surprise it turned out to be a lasting treasure!! And I would like to direct this great sincerity to my brother, partner, and true of truest friends, 'cause like roses in a garden, kindness fills the air with a certain bit of sweetness as it touches everything and everyone everywhere!! It's a shame but through my partner last night, his kindness has shown me how shallow my life was!! And now I decided to open my heart to Christ!! Thanks to my partner, you have made me change my whole outlook on life!! I thank you for not giving up on me!! The magnitude of my happiness at this moment is immeasurable. In truth, no words can justly describe the way I feel, for it is a feeling which rises above all earthly joy. To be honest, it is truly a wonderful change from the loneliness and despair which I have felt for so long. The Lord does work in mysterious way. I find purpose and meaning to life now, and that gives me the ultimate satisfaction!! The Lord has a love which is based on mutual trust, loyalty, and deep devotion! And I bask in its warmth and delight in the divine pleasures which are the fruits of its existence!! Thank you, Lord, for this!! And brothers, if you found some beauty in any word or line, it's just your soul's reflection entwined with mine!

"God's Special Time"



Prison Ministry