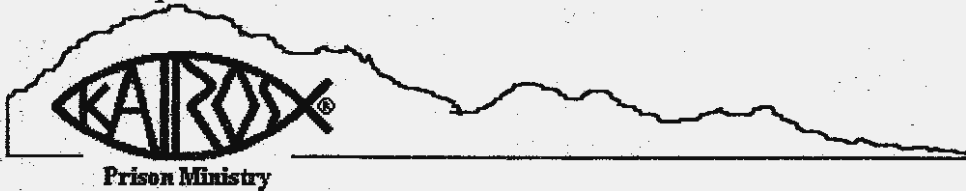


"God's Special Time"



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**"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"**

Volume 14 #1

Spring 1996

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

**1942 GENE WILKOWSKI 1996**

**"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit -- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other." John 15:16-17**

Jesus chose and appointed Gene Wilkowski to go and bear fruit -- fruit that is lasting. Gene prayed to the Father. His prayers touched many lives. Gene obeyed Jesus' command to "love each other", especially these last several years as he served Kairos and the men in Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility as our Kairos Facility Coordinator.

Jesus called Gene Wilkowski home in March. St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Boulder overflowed for his memorial service on March 15. "Surely the Presence of the Lord" was in that place as we celebrated Gene's going home "On Eagles' Wings" -- the theme of the service. Another theme was Gene's absolute trust in his heavenly Father -- the childlike trust Jesus said is necessary to enter the kingdom of God (Luke 18:15-17).

Included in the service bulletin was THE STAR STORY, which we tell on every Kairos Weekend. Gene loved this story. Last Christmas he said that soon his new job would be to become a part of that star. We'd like to share that story with all of you here:

*"We can all remember the story of how a new star led the three wise men from the east to the manger in Bethlehem. . . how the wise men had followed that star until it stopped in its travel right above the place where the baby Jesus was born.*

*"A few days after the wise men had found Jesus, there was a meeting of all the angels who had been involved in placing the new star in the sky, that guiding light which had been named THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM. The angels gathered to discuss what should be done with the star. . . after all, it had fulfilled its purpose. It had led the wise men to the manger, to the Christ. It was no longer needed. What to do with it? It could not just be left there. But what to do with it? That was the big question.*

*"There was endless discussion among the angels, with first this proposal reaping enthusiastic support and then that proposal exciting even more approval. The discussion went on and on, but finally it was decided unanimously THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM would be broken into billions of little pieces and one tiny piece would be put in the eye of each baby at birth.*

*"Our task, yours and mine, is to look for that piece of the star in every person's eye. It is there if only we look for it."*

We saw that piece of the Star in Gene's eye, just as he found it in the eyes of so many others -- whatever their prisons.

## KAIROS of COLORADO

..... is a Christian prison ministry reaching out to inmates in several Colorado prisons with the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and new life which are available to all who repent of their sin and submit to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Our ministry is carried out by dedicated volunteers and has no paid staff. We depend entirely on tax-deductible donations from our volunteers, churches, and YOU, our generous supporters.

You may use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries, or write to the address on this newsletter.

*Thank you for your prayers and support!*

Printing: Church of St Michael the Archangel (Episcopal) Colo Spgs

## KAIROS KALENDAR

### NATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE COLORADO - JULY 17-21, 1996

	Spring 1996	Fall 1996
Fremont	#27 --- Mar 21-24	#28 --- Sep 19-22
Women's	#26 --- Apr 18-21	#27 --- Oct 17-20
Delta	#9 --- Apr 25-28	#10 --- Oct 24-27
Territorial	#21 --- May 16-19	#22 --- Nov 21-24

Please keep all of these in your prayers and note the dates for your calendar. We always need Pray-ers, Closing guests, and team members. *"Christ is counting on you!"*

## DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS

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EX-OFFICIO:	Joseph Mares, Rev. Bill Potter, Mary Sogan, Wrdrn Bob Hickox	

Editors: Peggy and Jim Strub

## WILKOWSKI MEMORIALS

The family of Gene Wilkowski requests that memorial donations be made to Kairos of Colorado (address on this newsletter) or to

Contemplative Outreach of Colorado  
750 Clarkson  
Denver, CO 80218

These ministries were very dear to Gene. Your gifts help them to continue their labors for God's kingdom on earth. The family members extend their sincere gratitude to all who choose to remember Gene this way.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW !!!

### NATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE in COLORADO, JULY 17-21, 1996

National Kairos holds a SUMMER CONFERENCE annually in various parts of the country, with the assistance of the local Kairos District. As you can see by the headlines above, the 1996 Conference will be right here in "Cool, Colorful Colorado". Reservations have already been made for July 17-21 at the YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch near Granby.

The National office takes care of Kairos-wide publicity, program arrangements, collecting fees, and paying conference center bills. Our Colorado District is responsible for on-site helpful hosts, registrars, name tags, closing banquet entertainment. . .

Kairos has grown in numbers a great deal since the last Summer Conference held in Colorado in 1987. That fact, along with having the Conference in such a popular vacation destination as Colorado, leads us to believe that we can expect an excellent turnout from all over the country. Our former National Representative, Mary Sogan, has done an outstanding job with arrangements so far. Now it's time for the rest of us to step in and help out. So please go to your "prayer closet" and ask the Lord just how He would have you offer to help.

*Contact Coordinator Jose Quintana, 303-650-1376, soon with your "YES!"*

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"*

*And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8*

**FOOTNOTE for Kairos locals:** In addition to the lodge for which National Kairos is handling reservations, Snow Mountain Ranch has camping sites and cabins which you can reserve directly with the Ranch office. These are very popular with vacationing families and need to be reserved as early as possible. We are assuming that we locals will be able to register for the conference as "commuters", paying for meals and registration. We'll get more information on that later, but don't wait for that before reserving space. The office phone numbers are 970-887-2152, or 303-443-4743 for Denver metro area.

## **WANTED: BUTTON MAKER ---**

We desperately need someone to make the "buttons" we like to give the inmates on each Kairos. Fremont #27 did not have any to give out. We have a machine for assembling them, but need someone (or group) who will do this loving act of "agape" for us. **Is the Lord calling you?**

## **WANTED: TEAM MEMBERS ---**

Several recent men's Kairos Weekends have been short on team members. Sometimes this has led to reducing the number of residents from 42 to 36 or 30 -- in other words, six or five table families instead of seven.

As most of you know, to be a team member one has to have experienced at least one "street Kairos" -- like Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Via de Cristo, or Koinonia. Exceptions can be made for those who participate in the current pilot program, a one-day "Mini- Kairos" that four Kairos districts, including Colorado, are currently authorized to conduct.

So pray through the membership list of your "street Kairos" community. If the Lord gives you a leading that some man (or woman) should be considered for invitation to a Kairos team, then please, please talk with that person, then give that name to a member of the appropriate Advisory Council -- without delay.

The current members of the Advisory Councils are:

**TERRITORIAL:** Art Vigil, Coordinator  
Moses Archuleta, President  
Joe Esquibel  
Paul Garcia  
Peter Tomashek  
Jeff Klausner, current Rector

**DELTA:** Darrell Corlett, Coordinator  
Mike Wuertenberg, Pres & current Rector  
George Martinez  
Danny Ramirez  
Rick Simonson  
Ted Van Horn

**FREMONT:** Jim Waters, Coordinator  
Dick Evans, President  
Norm Fritzier  
Dan Halperin  
Terry Kruse  
Lynn Kershner, current Rector

**WOMEN:** Gerry Lam, Coordinator  
Donna Bolte, President  
Louise Abeyta  
Lorraine Harding  
Dee Pomerinke  
Gloria Abeyta, current Rectora

## **FROM FREMONT 27 CLOSING ---**

That bag of forgiveness cookies -- I was going to duke it out with this guy last night, but I gave him that white bag instead and we apologized to each other.

We found the enemy does not have power over us. We're taking the power of Jesus to resist him. What the enemy intended for evil, our heavenly Father turns to our good.

I had a lot of hate and unforgiveness, and here I found out how to forgive and be forgiven. The love we found here -- we're going to keep in touch so we can keep it going and share it with others.

This brought some scary options -- to trust and love people, but this got me started.

I called my Mom the first night, told her this was nondenominational and sharing God's word. She told me to go ahead and come. "But, Mom, it's 12 hours a day." "Son, you need 16 hours a day -- GO!" I'm glad I did and now I share this with those back there that are still lost.

In this green environment, we try to put up a strong front, but inside -- whew! I've accepted God and all this, and I'm going to follow this the rest of my life. Some of us said we came for the food, but we really came to get closer to God. Kairos folks, I love you!

Last night my eyes were leaking like they're doing now. We came empty, but God filled us to overflowing last night. If the tables were reversed, I wouldn't have cared enough to come into prison to share what you have. I've worn green 17 years, been to a number of seminars. I've tried to walk with God on my own and have failed. What you've shown me this weekend, through your witness, is that none of us can do this alone. You've been the personification of the God who accepts us, loves us, forgives us. I think God will have to assign each of you a couple of angels to help you hold the crown of glory that you'll have. These are tears of joy for God's love. I ask that we agree to ask God that this won't be just a memory in a couple of days, but we'll keep the Son shining in us.

I was very angry when I came and mad at God. But the simplest thing, a placemat from a 7-year-old, brought it all back -- that God loves me anyway.

I remember when my daughter was born 22 years ago. This Kairos gave birth to this 280 pound baby.

**MAKE A FRIEND**

**BE A FRIEND**

**BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST**

## WHAT DID GOD GIVE ME?

*At a recent Kairos Monthly Reunion the inmates read John 3:16 aloud, and then asked: "What is it that God gave us when 'He gave His only begotten Son?'" One of the men responded by reading from a testimony he had written out ahead of time. Here are some excerpts from it, used with permission.*

The last time I stood here I discussed what I always talk about -- my attitude toward my ex-wife, my crime, the system, and the need I felt to learn to forgive. What was most important to me was that, as I fought the legal battle, regardless of the outcome, I would come away stronger in my faith. Well, the legal battle is over and my fear over my fragile faith was unjustified. I can say as I speak to you today that my faith gets stronger every day. The legal battle ended of my own choosing. My lawyer wanted to quit my case, because he didn't agree with the direction I thought it should take. My father didn't think I was taking enough responsibility for my actions. I got so frustrated that I was close to fighting everywhere I turned. So I told the lawyer to withdraw the motion, even though I had proof that the sentence was illegal, because the plea bargain was illegal.

Personally, I knew that regardless of anything else, there remained one unavoidable fact -- I had raped my ex-wife. I was angry and vengeful toward her. I had indeed deserved to come to prison. I thought about her father -- the fact that I believed he had a hand in how I got as much time as I did -- and for the first time I placed myself in his shoes. If I had his power and his legal connections, would I use them to avenge my son? The answer is yes. He doesn't see his daughter as a woman or as a wife when she is hurt. He sees her as his little girl, and wants to protect her or, in this case, avenge her. To think less of him for that is to be a bigger fool than this situation has already made me into being....

A week ago I received the first correspondence ever from my son, who is now ten years old. He told me he missed me. In the letter was a picture of him. This was the first time I had laid eyes on him since 1991, four days before my arrest -- over 1700 days. Needless to say, I was thrilled. Then I got a letter from my father. In it was a copy of a letter he had sent to my sister, a letter to him from her, and a letter to both my sister and myself. In his letter he had criticized my mother on how she had raised her children, suggesting that he would have been better suited to the task. To say I was enraged is an understatement. My father had chosen to distance himself from my childhood. He had been an alcoholic and had been verbally abusive. A violent temper, but not physically violent.

For the first time since I ended up in prison, I can finally say with honest conviction that I regret what I did to my ex-wife. In one way or another, I have always tried to justify my actions by trying to blame her, when it is evident that my anger was for long before she entered into my life. The healing process has finally reached the forgiveness phase I was seeking.

So, what does John 3:16 have to do with all of this? I wasn't sure. I asked a brother here and he said "He gave." Then I understood. God gave Jesus over to death so that through his purity of spirit and wisdom we could be cleaned of our mistakes. If Jesus can ask his father to forgive us in the face of his own murder, how can we not forgive others who have betrayed us in far lesser ways. In essence I got what I asked for -- the means to forgive. In doing, God gave me the insight to understand that I am the one who has the most to be forgiven for.

That picture of my son is clear-cut testimony that my ex-wife has been willing to forgive me all along. How can I possibly ask her to forgive me, when I was unwilling to forgive her. What changed is the nature of how I perceive the injustice of this situation..... It is my duty to God and myself to honor this woman, who has not seen fit to try to alienate my son from me. (Realize that she was the one who sent my son's picture to me.)

The lessons God teaches us are not always pleasant. They heal through the hurt.

So, what did God give me? A blessing I do not deserve.