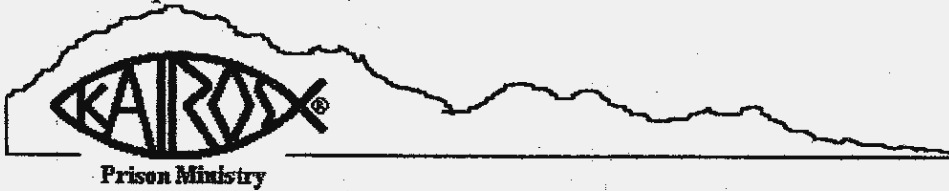


"God's Special Time"



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"
Volume 15 #1 Spring 1997

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

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

ONE IN THE SPIRIT

At the Fremont #29 Closing, one of the inmates shared that beginning on Thursday night he became very moved by the spirit of unity he sensed among the outside team members -- how bonded to each other, how loving of each other, how they treated and regarded each other. He said this is what got him started into a deeply spiritual weekend.

How often we forget the main purpose of the team meetings, and why it is so important to attend them. They are not primarily for administrative details, nor for rehearsing talks. They are for "team formation" -- for forming a unified, bonded **team** out of what would otherwise be just a group of individual Christians. The team-meeting sequence in the Manual has this purpose as its end.

Jesus prayed to the Father that **we** would be in this kind of unity -- and He gave a reason for it. "The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (John 17:22-24). The last phrase is worth repeating: **"...so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."** That is our witness to the inmates, beginning on Thursday night and right on thru the weekend -- **so that they may know that God has sent us and that He loves them even as He loves us.**

At the same Closing, another inmate said: "We learned the importance of bonding, strengthening, and being accountable to each other." How do you suppose he learned this? By what he heard? More likely by what he saw -- a unified, bonded, loving team.

Many of our teams go in this way. This one did. Let's pray that from now on they all do!

ALL QUOTES FROM NRSV SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING BY JIM STRUB

KAIROS of COLORADO

We are Christians reaching out to inmates in 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.

We are entirely volunteer. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations by our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves.

Please 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

	Spring 1997	Fall 1997
Fremont	#29 --- March 13-16	#30 --- Sep 18-21
Women's	#27 --- April 17-20	#28 --- Oct 16-19
Delta	#11 --- April 24-27	#12 --- Oct 23-26
Territorial	#23 --- May 15-18	#24 --- Nov 20-23

Team formation is underway for Women's #27, Delta #11, and Territorial #23. Our next newsletter will include Closing comments from these weekends. Please keep these teams in your prayers and note dates on your calendar. Remember:

"Christ is counting on you!"

Outside weekend information:

Walk to Emmaus, Registrar Jim Lollar, 303-659-6108
Catholic Cursillo, Denver: Gerri Quintana, 303-469-9667
Catholic Cursillo, Colo. Spgs.: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404
Episcopal Cursillo: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448

CDOC CLEARANCE & TRAINING

As of 1 January 1997, only those volunteers who submit the new 1996 CDOC Form 900-1A "Volunteer Application", receive clearance, and complete CDOC's 8-hour training course will be retained in CDOC files. Previously approved volunteers who have not filed a 1996 Form 900-1A by 1 June 1997 will no longer be cleared. All volunteers, old or new, must complete the 3-step process before serving in a prison. Once cleared by this new process, the volunteers are recertified by CDOC annually, by use of Form 900-1B.

MAKE A FRIEND

BE A FRIEND

BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

PRESIDENT:	Dave Tillack	303-753-1529
VICE PRES:	Jack Burson	303-499-3024
SECRETARY:	Donna Wood	970-686-9658
TREASURER:	Jim Strub	719-634-2821
NATIONAL REP:	Art Wise	303-526-9038
SPIRITUAL DIR:	Bishop Bill Davidson	970-667-7274
SPIRITUAL DIR:	Rev. Bill Cooper	970-669-8775
SUPPLIES:	Paul Garcia	303-433-3115
TRAINING:	Ken Grosse	719-598-3508
FACILITY COORDINATORS:		
WOMEN:	Marj Rust	303-642-3362
FREMONT:	Jim Waters	719-632-5759
TERRITORIAL:	Norm Fritzier	719-597-7205
DELTA:	Darrell Corlett	970-244-6985

Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub

YOUR DISTRICT BOARD

As you can see by the roster above, we have several new Board members to welcome into service. Jack Burson has been a Lay Director for Walk to Emmaus and is training to be a Fremont Rector. Donna Wood has been active in Episcopal Cursillo, and has served on many Women's Kairos teams as Musician, Table worker, and Spiritual Counselor. Ken Grosse, active in Catholic Cursillo, was Rector of the just completed Fremont #29, and recently attended the Rector training workshop in Amarillo. He brings valuable skills to help re-activate local training workshops. Marj Rust has been an Episcopal Cursillo Rectora, served in Women's Kairos, and is well into learning the essential and difficult job of Facility Coordinator. We thank Gerry Lam for her help in getting Marj launched. And we welcome back Jim Strub as Treasurer again. Jim's service includes Walk to Emmaus Lay Director, and Kairos Rector. **WELCOME ABOARD!**

We'd also like to fill you in on the Board members carried over from last year. Dave Tillack has been a Walk to Emmaus Lay Director, a Kairos Rector, and a past Board member as Secretary and Vice President. Art Wise, from Episcopal Cursillo, has served several Kairos teams, and is a past President of the Board. Bill Davidson is a retired Episcopal Bishop (Western Kansas) with experience in Cursillo and several Kairos teams. Bill Cooper is a retired Methodist minister with many years of Walk to Emmaus and Christian writing experience plus Kairos. Paul Garcia came to Kairos from the Koinonia community and has served on many Territorial teams, including as Rector. Jim Waters made Episcopal Cursillo and has been a dedicated Kairos volunteer ever since, including as Rector. Norm Fritzier, from Walk to Emmaus, served on numerous Emmaus and Kairos teams on the way to becoming Territorial Coordinator last summer. And Darrell Corlett, who made a Via de Cristo weekend in South Dakota, has served many Delta teams, including as Rector.

The next Board meeting is at 6:00 pm on April 10th at the Greenwood Community Church, Bellevue at Holly.

I came to Kairos wondering, "Does God exist for me?" I found that the answer is "Yes", I'm not an outsider, I belong.

I was afraid God wouldn't accept me. I found the power of God here and salvation. I'm taking with me the knowledge that I'm accepted and loved by God.

We're overwhelmed with the "Spirit of the Lord in this place". We've become a family.

We came low in spirit, void. I thought Kairos was pretentious at first. But we saw the power of God in your love. We're taking love, the Holy Spirit, that Kairos is also special time sharing with each other. We learned the importance of small groups, not to be a clique, but for bonding, strengthening, and being accountable to each other.

We came a mess — a big mess, hungry, hot and cold, hit and miss, vessels needing to be molded, confused. We found agape — unconditional love. We came as individuals, but are taking with us renewed relationships with the Lord and with each other. We're happy to be part of this table family and the family of Kairos.

We came dubious, undecided, weary, unbelieving. We found love — true love, encouragement, fellowship, and that we can depend on each other. We're taking the knowledge that there are people out there who believe in us, that we're not just trash.

There is some of your doctrine that I don't agree with. But if I have to choose between perfect doctrine and this love, I'll take the love.

I've never seen such a perfect example of pure love as those placemats the children decorated just for us.

When I saw in those letters how many were praying for me, that really touched me. I really thank the Lord for all these blessings.

I don't want to criticize people like I was doing, but to love them. When God's love builds a fire in your bones, you can't deny it!

When the prayer group in our pod got scattered, sent to other pods, we found that it didn't break anything up -- it just spread it out. From what I see here, the world's not lost -- it's gonna be great.

We found God's purpose for us and what to do with that. We learned discipline, how to put our flesh into submission to the Lord.

The glow on our faces shows you what this meant. And so I say to Kairos, keep on doing what you're doing. We're so blessed by this.

We have all heard the story. In the beginning there was Cursillo. It was in Spain -- "Un Cursillo en Cristiandad" (A Short Course in Christianity), Roman Catholic, aimed primarily at spiritual reawakening, mainly for the men. After a while Cursillo blossomed in other countries and in other denominations of the body of Christ. Eventually these renewed people took Cursillo into the prisons. It soon became obvious that the best way to do that was to be ecumenical, not denominational. Reason: the prisoners were of many different denominations, or had hard feelings about certain denominations, or were not of any denomination and needed to come to Christ "from scratch." Thus Kairos was born, in 1976 as an ecumenical Cursillo movement in the Union Correctional Institution at Raiford, Florida.

Kairos not only had to be ecumenical; it also had to be evangelistic. The outside Cursillo movements were intended to **strengthen one's Christian walk**. The inside movement needed also to **present Jesus Christ for the first time** for the benefit of those prisoners who had never encountered Him before -- in other words, to bring Christ to them and to foster Christian community among them, like what St Paul did.

We see statements in the Kairos Manual like: "Kairos has been called the best example of the early church in existence today" (page 1). "Kairos is an **ecumenical**, lay run prison ministry. It has been developed to operate in the highly volatile prison environment" (page before i), meaning that it is no longer a carbon copy of any particular outside Cursillo movement ("street Kairos") but rather a special format developed expressly for its own unique ministry to the incarcerated, which includes many unchurched. Experience shows that the most effective way to do this is for Kairos teams to include members from as many "street Kairos" movements as possible. Thus the Manual reminds us that "Kairos is an **interdenominational** Christian ministry..." (page 1).

So, Kairos is ecumenical and interdenominational. We are like the scriptural Body of Christ that St Paul talks about in I Corinthians 12:12-27 -- one body, many parts. The parts **are** different, different from each other, from different denominations, but all part of the same Body, and one in the same Spirit. No one part is more important than any other. When one part hurts, the others hurt. When one part rejoices, the others rejoice. For this to happen, it's helpful to be aware of how we differ from each other, so that we may respect the differences as well as know what we have in common. This makes us stronger Kairos team members -- and stronger Christians! We will still be whatever denomination we are, but we will have a broader awareness of the Christian world at large.

Most important: we will be lifting up **Jesus Christ** rather than any particular "street Kairos" or denomination. As Jesus said: "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32).

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MUMM'S THE WORD

Once again we want to thank the MUMMS for providing the Word to Kairos. Shirley and Bob Mumm have been delivering hundreds of Bibles from the Monument Bible College to us every six months or so since the dawn of Kairos in Colorado. This act of agape can not be kept mum. May God continue to richly bless Shirley and Bob and the Monument Bible College!

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THREE FIRSTS FOR FREMONT #29

For the first time, visitors to a Fremont Closing were brought into the main part of the prison, "below the trap" into the former prison dining hall, which is where the last three Fremont Kairos weekends have taken place.

For the first time, the Fremont Closing began mid afternoon (about 2:50 pm) and was complete by 5:00 pm, thus giving the northern visitors and team members a fair shake at getting home at a more reasonable hour. This is made possible by the shorter Sunday schedule in the new (yellow) Kairos Manual and by omitting a Sunday afternoon meal.

For the first time, Fremont is going to allow 75 residents to attend the Monthly Reunions, aka Ultreyas. For some time the number has been limited to 60. Now it's 75. Praise God!

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HOUSE OF EMMANUEL

Those of us involved in Kairos team formation are familiar with the recent uncertainties concerning which manual to use -- the Green Manual or the Yellow Manual. Meanwhile, there is no uncertainty in at least one quarter, namely at the House of Emmanuel, where it's the E-Manual all the way! As many of you know, our beloved brother Joseph Mares has put his compassion, handy-man skills, and prison experience at the Lord's disposal in the forming and operation of this "after-care house" in Denver. There are now four residents, including a man who had been elected the six-month leader of the Fremont Kairos community just before his unexpected release. Before long there should be four more. The intent is to be self supporting, based on each resident contributing two-thirds of his job income as rent. But for the time being, there is a need for some outside help. All contributions to the House of Emmanuel are tax-deductible. Mailing address is:

P.O. Box 19730
Denver, CO 80219

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An excerpt from the March-April national Kairos newsletter:

"KAIROS BOARD STRESSES UNIFORMITY

"At it's annual meeting, held January 24-25 at Canterbury Retreat Center near Orlando, the Kairos board was very clear regarding the necessity for uniformity in the presentation of Kairos weekends. They affirmed the board action a year earlier designating the 1996 yellow manual as the official Kairos weekend manual along with the orange Continuing Ministry manual. The ministry is weakened in the eyes of prison officials, chaplains, supporters and interested observers when individual districts or local ministries create unauthorized activities and deviate from the standard as approved by the board. The ministry was rejected by one group of observers at a weekend where unauthorized practices were taking place.

"The executive director was given instructions to work with those district organizations and individual ministries who are not currently in compliance to work out a plan to help them bring their ministries into normal practice. A temporary variation was granted for two districts currently in team formation for spring weekends to make their transition from the green to the yellow manual once these two weekends were over."

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STANDIN' IN THE NEED OF PRAYER

Sue Martinez -- plus Frank, the children, and all those around her. She has finished the patchwork quilt and has started another as her time with us grows longer than expected. She still has a wonderful spirit, including the Holy.

Father Dave Jones -- plus Nell and those helping them out. In January Dave had a cat-astrophe -- at the top of the basement stairs he tripped over the cat. The impact with the bottom of the stairs and concrete floor caused a considerable amount of damage, especially to his head. By the grace of God and lots of TLC he is recovering nicely, up and around, and eager to get back to as near normal as possible. Head injury requires a lot a prayer.

All four of our facility coordinators. These folks are the Kairos front line in what has seemed like a constant stream of rearrangement and change of direction concerning the volunteer ministries in the CDOC facilities. Please pray for stability in the arrangements and God's peace in the minds and spirits of our coordinators.

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