

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 19 #1

Spring 2001

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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POWER

Power outages. Power politics. The power of position. Powerful people.Our world.

Powerful sermons. The power of God's agape love. The power of the Word, and of the Holy Spirit.. ...Our spirit.

Which power structure do you live in? Hmm?

At a recent Monthly Reunion a twenty-year old resident shared that he had been in trouble ever since he could remember, mostly from his involvement with gangs, just as his father had done. Now and then he had tried to let Jesus lead him, but eventually he always let the gang have its way. Now he was trying again to follow Jesus. But it was a big war — Gang versus God. A power struggle.

In the ongoing electric power crises in California, it is painfully obvious how much we depend on gadgets, especially electric-powered gadgets. Until recent times, most people were connected to the land and weather for their well being. Only their wealth could shield them from coping first hand with nature — i.e, with God's creation directly. In that context, Jesus said that it is as hard for a rich man to come to God as it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle (Matthew 19:24). Now we live in a world of relative ease, made more and more so by electric-powered gadgets readily available to anyone with a credit card. So now Jesus might say that it is hard for most of us to come to God because we are slaves to our gadgets (cell phones, laptops, GPS receivers, etc). This is the big war of today — Gadgets versus God. A power struggle.

We each need to know which war we are in — whom or what we really depend on. Thank God, when we go into the prisons in this ministry, we are relatively gadget-free. We depend on God. We depend on the power of the Holy Spirit. In Kairos the connection between God and man is spiritual, not electrical. God wins!

WOMEN'S DENVER

Kairos has started at DWCF. Praise God!

With five outside team among them, over 50 inmates conducted their first Monthly Reunion on 18 March (3rd Sunday). Many of the participants, including the reunion leaders, were veterans of Kairos Weekends at CWCF, ranging from #4 through #31. They spent some time introducing themselves to each other and talking about the program. One of them shared that what was special about Kairos was that "they don't try to stuff the Bible and their beliefs down your throats, but the process they use loves you to want to know Christ."

The new Chaplain, Reverend Steven Cox, is firmly supporting and enabling the program. To facilitate matters, he and Mary Sogan are encouraging the inmates to get into weekly Kairos groups immediately.

The team needs prayer, gifts to cover start-up costs, and more members. DOC-approved volunteers will need only the 2-hour facility orientation.

STERLING

Wayne Park, Rector for Sterling #1, reports that team formation is well underway. The meetings are in Fort Morgan. The team members are mostly from northeastern Colorado, with about 60% of them new to Kairos.

The Sterling facility has agreed to having 100 guests at the closing. We would like to fill all of those 100 spots in a joyous celebration of this new ministry. YOU ARE HEREBY INVITED! All you have to do is submit a DOC application form for clearance. You can get the form by contacting Andrew Sisneros at:

4979 West 8th Street Road, Greeley CO 80634;

phone: (970) 352-2259;

email: 970-418-4810@page.nextel.com.

The closing is scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm on Sunday, 6 May, and to be over at 7:00 pm. You will need to be at the front entrance by 4:30 pm for processing into the Visitors' Center.

Please offer up some Sterling prayers.

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

4 June 1921

ROSS C. FOLTZ

31 December 2000

There is a strong message in Ross Foltz's having left this life at the cusp of the year. For him, it is one life lived, another born anew — gathered in Christ's love, at Christ's table, praising God and giving eternal thanks!

We give thanks for Ross, especially for his eagerness to be a servant to the prisoners of Territorial, even in an advanced time of his life, even after serving so many others in so many other ways all his life.

There are many places set at Christ's table, including an important place for every believer, regardless of station in life. Ross wanted everyone to know this. He told his wife, Anne, that he wanted an altar call at his funeral! So at "A Celebration of the Life of Ross Foltz" on 6 January, Father Paul Garrett asked the participants to look into their hearts to see if there might be an unopened invitation to Christ's table.

There is also a strong message in having the celebration of Ross's life on the day of Epiphany, the day marking the arrival of the wise men in Bethlehem after a long and difficult journey, with its many risks and unknowns — a winter journey in the desert with many potential dangers — but they did it, being driven by a sense of urgency, energy, and dedication. This is what Ross did all his life as he journeyed in the unknown as he followed his star. In a sense Ross had many stars — his family, his metallurgical engineering, his teaching, his companies, his airplanes, his missionaries, his evangelism, his passion for getting man together with God's natural creation.

Ultimately, Ross had but one guiding Star — Jesus Christ. Ross had his own personal epiphany, that time when the inflooding life of Jesus came into him, suddenly, as soon as he saw his Star. From that moment his life became like Starlight to the world around him. We are grateful that that world included us here in Kairos of Colorado.

19 June 1923

A. J. LUCKEY

8 March 2001

"Smile! God loves ya!" That was A.J. And that always got our attention. Next would come the Gideon Bible, or the tract, or the Salvation card. Then, once more, we would be face to face with Jesus.

The Lord called A.J. to Kairos in its early days here in Colorado. Many of us had the joy of serving with him on many, many teams. He was comfortable sharing his own ups and downs with us and with the inmates, always making sure we would see how the Lord's hand was present in each situation.

In 1992 when we started Kairos out on the Western Slope, A.J. volunteered to be on the team. Once again the Lord's hand was present in a most intimate way. On the Saturday afternoon of Delta Kairos #1, at the celebrated communion service, A.J. had an unforgettably close moment with Christ, a moment that changed everything from then on. Keen to the Lord's leading, he began to find "circumstances" leading him to move from the pine forests of Conifer to a ditch farm near Austin, where he then became firmly embedded in the Delta Kairos community. One of the inmates there gives the following witness: "A.J. was a man who knew how to reach out with all the love one can give. He touched my life and turned me around so that I could see Christ, see Christ through him."

In his later years A.J. had to deal with a lot of pain — physical and otherwise. Through all of it he always had the Lord Jesus at his side, often through the prayers of the many who loved him. The doctors tried remedy after remedy to ease the pain in his back and legs, but through it all it was only love and A.J.'s perseverance and faith that got him through each day, one day at a time. The pain did not stop him from being God's man. Mercifully, his very personal Savior and Lord took him home while he was having a daytime nap — no pain. At last, no pain.

When each of us finally hears the celestial choir, there will be a familiar low gruffy voice singing "How Great Thou Art!" — and then, "Smile! God loves you!"

DOC POLICY FOR VOLUNTEERS

A word on Colorado DOC policy for all volunteers, including us:

Except when in a DOC facility, we are not allowed any intentional, planned personal contact, including telephone, mail or e-mail, with anyone under DOC custody. This restriction continues until two years after the inmate has been released from custody, including parole.

Two years AFTER he "kills his number", all restrictions end. Before that time, he is free to write to any of us Kairos volunteers, but we cannot respond as individuals, else we risk losing our DOC clearance.

A word of deep gratitude for all your gifts in 2000, especially for those in the spirit of a widow's mite.

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

KAIROS of COLORADO

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.

We are volunteers, with no paid staff, who depend on God to meet expenses through donations from 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.

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KAIROS KALENDAR — 2001

Fremont	#37	Mar 15-18	#38	Sep 20-23
CWomen	#34	Mr 29 Ap 1	#35	Oct 18-21
Delta	#19	Apr 19-22	#20	Oct 18-21
Sterling	#1	May 3-6	#2	Nov 1-4
Territorial	#31	May 17-20	#32	Nov 15-18

To volunteer, please call the Coordinator.

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Sterling:	Wayne Park	970-577-1483
Territorial:	Chuck Weida	719-548-9102

Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub "Spiritually Speaking" by Jim Strub

PRAYER REQUESTS

For our brothers and sisters in the prisons.

~~For team leadership, team formations, team members.~~

For God's will and comforting presence for the Evans, Foltz, Luckey, Richardson, and Thorson families; and for Duaine Medina, George Tewksbury, Bill Tipton, Edmund Vallejo, and Chuck Weida. Some are waiting, others are healing. Please pray.

FREMONT #37 CLOSING

We discovered how bad our spiritual condition really was — like dilapidated, rundown buildings.

We found loving fellowship in people we didn't expect.

We take away the boldness and strength to live this life, not because we have to but because we want to.

I found acceptance of who I am, not what I am.

I now know that without God I'd be lost. I called my home pastor last night, found out that the whole church has been praying for me and will welcome me back!

I found the boldness to go on to the next step — to eat meat. I had considered suicide, now I want to live.

I was doing a lot of things for God but found I was missing something — love. Now what I do (which is a lot) I will do with love.

I am not a prisoner in Fremont anymore. I am now a prisoner in Christ.

Yes, it's good to read and learn the Bible; but it's more important to show God's love.

We are relatively safe in here. We pray for you out there, with so many shootings, alcoholics on the road, etc.

When I took the letters bag back to my house, my cellie asked about it and I told him it was agape. "What's that?" I gave him a hug and said "God loves you!"

I need to be comfortable with all of God's people, be kind to them, walk with them — especially those who walk with canes, those that others pass up.

I knew there would be good lessons here because I knew they would be from God.

I am burning with God's love, and I want to share it!

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TERRITORIAL #30 CLOSING

I heard God calling my name, wanting to take over my life - and I am letting him have me.

I was lost, on drugs all my life, had robbed a lot, was a klepto. I found true love, which was not possible for me previously due to so much anger. I am very grateful to Jesus for all he did, the dying, etc. I am now Jesus' "homey" and know that I have to spread the gospel.

There are people here who really care for me - part of the forest of [mutually supportive] redwood trees - that is, I need to support others and let them support me.

I came here as a baby Christian with a low battery, and I just got it recharged.

I found acceptance for me, just as I am.

This reminds me of lifting weights. As a new Christian, I worked my spiritual muscles, but then I slacked off, my spiritual muscles atrophied. I would get angry, caught up in this place, moving backwards. I found a big spiritual weight pile, and the encouragement to start working out again - which I have done.

I am a long-time Christian, but I don't socialize well. I don't like being around a lot of people. This weekend I found out that I could be comfortable with a group (not too comfortable). I am going away more sociable.

I arrived with a hole in my heart, seeking a remedy. I am leaving with a heart full of peace and joy, an extra ten pounds, an open heart to reach out for what I need.

I no longer regard gluttony as one of the 7 deadly sins.

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