

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

KELLY-DOG

Growing up as a boy in Florida near the river by the woods, I had a constant companion named Kelly-dog. She was not the prettiest Collie. Many would say she was ugly, but her beauty emanated from within that doggone soul of hers – that look on her face that says, “I love you; I love being with you; and I’ll never abandon you.” This warmed the heart of a lonely child. Each day I’d return from school to her unique welcome, an indescribable, happy-dog face and body-wagging tail. To me she was my secret. I knew in my heart she was the most wonderful dog that a boy could have. And I was glad she was hidden to others by her mangy brown coat.

The other day I was walking back to the cell-house from chow with my dear friend, Allen. I told him of my visit that day with my wife. “She loves me so much,” I told him. “I think I’ve never understood God’s love so well until now, through her. But, if only I could see myself through her eyes. I simply do not see what she sees in me.” Allen queried, “Isn’t this like the definition of intimacy – to be able to see ourselves through another’s eyes and for them to see themselves through ours?” This got me thinking. I began to see that Jesus saw in Himself the King that His Father saw in Him. His intimacy with His Father made this possible. Peter came to see himself as the feeder of lambs that Jesus saw in him. His intimacy with Jesus made this possible. John saw in Jesus the loving father and friend Jesus was and, in himself, knew he was loved as a child by God, so he could rest his head trustingly on his friend’s breast. He saw Jesus’ great love for him, and so they knew great spiritual intimacy together.

Yes, I thought, to reflect each other is real intimacy. Later, I shared this with my wife, Melissa, and she said, “Like a dog reflects God’s love to us; even the word dog reflected backwards is God.” Then I asked myself, “Do I reflect God’s love even as well as a dog? O, my. If Jesus looked at Himself through my eyes, would there be only love and adoration for Him, at least as much as a mere animal might give? At least as much as Kelly-dog gave to me?”

My thought returned then to my childhood Collie dog companion – Kelly. She loved me so much that she loved the things I love just as much as I did. Late one night, when my cat, Tiger, who I dearly loved, was run over by a car, she hobbled into the bushes to die alone. But my dog refused to let her die. Frantically, she woke me with her barking. I ran outside to find my dog at the front door. She ran back to my cat in the tall, thick bushes around the side of the house and barked her plea for me to come quickly. She ran again to me at the front door. Again she returned to my dying cat...and

Kelly-dog barked her loudest bark. At last I followed her into the dark. Because of Kelly-dog, my cat was barely saved on a veterinarian’s operating table and my love for Kelly grew to awe.

You see, though my cat didn’t like my dog much, Kelly-dog loved my cat...because I loved my cat. There are many in this world that you and I may naturally dislike but we love them because Jesus – who we love – loves them. “Love does not seek its own, but instead the good of others.” Like Kelly-dog. She had nothing to gain by saving my cat, only that I would be happy. Like my dog, I now want to love the ones that God loves because it makes the One I love, Jesus, very happy! Bless God – I first saw Jesus’ love in a dog!

I have discovered after 17 years with my wife that she loves me doggedly. She grieved my sadness. And she loves to see me happy! She waited through years of my immaturity, selfishness and foolishness. And she loves the ones I love, even if they’re not very likeable. Oh, on the outside, by some people’s Cosmopolitan standards, she might not be much to look at. But to me she’s my special secret. I know in my heart she’s the most wonderful woman in the world that a man could have. And I’m glad my secret is safely hidden in inner loveliness. Like my wife, I can never give up on someone God has given me to love. This makes the one I love, Jesus, very happy indeed! Bless God – I see Jesus’ love, now, in a woman – my wife.

You all remember that Jesus on His last night and day wanted to be with those He loved. Kelly-dog on her last day of life wanted to be with me who she loved so much. One day, you see, I was walking to my friend’s on a hot summer day. We were planning to spend a day at Busch Gardens. We both had season passes and we could go as often as we wanted. Busch Gardens was no place for a pet dog. But Kelly-dog insisted on following me in the hot July sun through the neighborhood. Looking back – I remember how she stubbornly defied my commands to go home. I was so frustrated and angry with her – she refused to listen to me and remained at my side. At last, after much yelling and a spanking, she reluctantly turned her body toward home. To make sure she didn’t turn again and follow me, I watched. She slowly walked away, her head turned toward me; her sad eyes followed me; her one good ear sometimes perking up and her head lifting at the possible sign I had changed my mind. Several times I walked on only to hear the sound of her faithful trot dogging my steps. She looked tired; her coat felt hot to touch under a blistering sun. She was old and pathetic.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

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

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

But I was mad. I scolded her loudly. I hated her for being such a nuisance. She turned slowly. No, I had to physically turn her away. I began to run away so her tired body couldn't catch me. I became worried I might be late and miss my trip to Busch Gardens. I turned back one last glance. Her body was turned toward home. But her sad eyes followed my as I ran down the street, around a corner and out of sight.

I went with my friend and had a ho-hum day at the park, ruined by a terrible rainstorm. When I returned home, there, waiting, was my Mom with friends and neighbors gathered somberly in anticipation of my arrival. They all knew and loved Kelly-dog.

You see, my Kelly-dog had died while I was away. My neighbor told me she was last seen standing in the street along toward my friend's house – just standing – staring into the distance as if waiting for someone to come home. She refused to come in out of the rain when Mom called to her. Neighbors stopped in their cars and tried to get her to go on home. But she remained... just standing while a driving rain drenched her old body, though she didn't seem to notice. She stood there looking, her one good ear perked high, and then she collapsed and was gone. My thoughts left my mother's distant voice as she told me what happened and I returned to that morning when my last words with Kelly-dog were angry, frustrated ones. I remember how strange it was how she insisted on disobeying me – how she refused to leave me and go home. It was her dying day and unlike my cat, who had once crept away to die alone in the bushes, Kelly-dog wanted to be with the one she most loved.

On Jesus' dying day, He wanted to be with those He most loved. But they preferred to sleep. Like me, they were focused on themselves – what they wanted – and were ignorant of and indifferent to the One who so readily gave His love. Like me, they took for granted that face of His which always said, "I love you, I love being with you, and I'll never abandon you," which so warmed their lonely hearts. Oh, He wasn't, by the world's standards, so much to look at – not impressive at all – even somewhat homely, says Isaiah. But, to the disciples, He was their own special secret. They knew in their hearts He was the most wonderful person in the world that anyone could ever have as their friend. And they were inwardly happy their secret was safely hidden in His inner holiness. Thru my 37 years of sin and doubt, Jesus has loved me and never left me.

My brothers, I've seen myself through a dog's eyes – and there is love. I've seen myself through my wife's eyes – and there is love. I see now myself through Jesus' eyes – and, Oh, what love there is!

We can learn a lot from a dog. The Love of Jesus.

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From a recent Monthly Reunion on "The Fullness of God's Love." Used by permission, and through the facility staff.

CORPORATE TRANSITION

The Colorado part of Kairos is currently undergoing a transformation — from "Kairos of Colorado, Inc" to the "Colorado Chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry, Inc."

In last Fall's newsletter we recalled that Kairos in Colorado began with CWCF#1 in November 1982. The management group behind the scenes became known as "The Secretariat," patterned after Cursillo. In June 1985 the leadership incorporated a board of directors as "Kairos of Colorado, Inc" with the purpose of raising and managing the funds for Kairos in Colorado. In October 1986 they merged the functions of the Secretariat into the Board of Directors. Ever since then, God has managed Kairos in this state through "Kairos of Colorado, Inc," a Colorado non-profit charitable corporation. All along we have been connected to National Kairos ("Kairos, Inc") by an annual affiliation agreement that gives us official access to the name, the program, the manuals, etc. It also requires us to send to National an affiliation fee, either so much per weekend graduate or ten percent of all our income (the "tithe"), whichever is greater. For us it has always worked out to be the tithe.

As the years went on, God added more and more parts to the Kairos body. Kairos is now in 31 states and four other countries. Last summer the National Board decided that it could improve overall management by merging all the states ("districts") into the Florida corporation, which eventually evolved into "Kairos Prison Ministry, Inc." Our Board prayerfully considered the implications of becoming a "chapter" of the Florida corporation, including the dissolving of the Colorado corporation. Board members examined the proposed legal documents carefully, noting wordings for which an adjustment would be helpful. Jack Burson and Wayne Park volunteered to accompany Joseph Mares, our National Representative, to the National Winter Conference in February, in order that Colorado viewpoints could be presented to various committees meeting simultaneously. The result was a draft "State Chapter Agreement" agreeable to the states as well as to National. The National Board then voted it into effect.

At this point, pending some formalities, we are becoming the Colorado Chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry, Inc. Our District Committee ("the Board") changes its name to the "State Committee." Our President becomes the "Chairman." Advisory Councils keep their name. Most of us won't notice the difference. God's ministry goes on. PTL!

Meanwhile, the State Committee has had its annual elections. You can see the election results and the new terminology in the large box on the next page.

Inmates: **"We are the**

Next State Committee meeting: 0900, Saturday, 17 May 2003, Bethel Christian Fellowship, Denver

COLORADO CHAPTER OF KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY, INC

STATE COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Chairman	Steve Gabriel	719-282-1924	jsgabriel@pcisys.net
Vice Chairman	Bruce Carlson	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
Secretary	Carolyn Richardson	719-390-5253	jcchrdsn6@aol.com
Treasurer	Jack Burson	303-499-3024	jack@ecommerce-cpa.com
National Representative	Joseph Mares	303-727-9243	jmares3409@aol.com
Ministry Operations	Joy Maly	303-988-7339	just4joy7@aol.com
Training	Dick Evans	719-597-3426	rdeco@pcisys.com
Spiritual Director	Alan Marquez	303-252-7655	mar4plus@aol.com
Spiritual Director	George Tewksbury	970-434-6920	gstewks@juno.com

APPOINTED MEMBERS (FACILITY COORDINATORS):

Cañon Women's	Ann Weida	719-548-9102	weidacr@aol.com
Delta	Allen Molendyk	970-243-6659	asmolen7@aol.com
Denver Women's	Gabriella Ramirez	303-455-4392	gabrez1@qwest.net
Fremont	Terry Kruse	303-646-3064	tkruse@natkin.com
Sterling(North & South) Wayne Park		970-577-1483	waynepark@aol.com
Territorial	Chuck Weida	719-548-9102	weidacr@aol.com

SUPPORT CREW

Agape	Wanda Sitler	719-380-7166	jewhsit@juno.com
Data Base	Bruce Carlson	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
Supplies	Steve Gabriel	719-282-1924	jsgabriel@pcisys.net
Newsletter	Jim and Peggy Strub	719-634-2821	pjstrub@juno.com
Recruiting	Kairos Community	all area codes	all Christians

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to the incarcerated, and to assist them in building up the body of Christ in each prison. We are volunteers. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. We encourage you to use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries.

"God's Special Time" is published quarterly. Printed by the Episcopal Church of St Michael the Archangel, Colo Spgs, CO.

2003 SPRING WEEKENDS

Fremont	#41	Jerry Stoneberger	Mar 13-16
Sterling South	#3	Randy Weldon	Apr 3-6
Cañon Women	#38	Jean Magnuson	Apr 24-27
Delta	#23	Luis Atencio	Apr 24-27
Sterling North	#5	Brian Beattie	May 1-4
Territorial	#35	Jim Carter	May 8-11
Denver Women	#2	Joy Maly	Jun 5-8
Limon	#1		Jul 17-20

ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING

The Colorado State Committee will host this National course in the Colorado Springs area over the weekend of 13-15 June 2003. It is open to all Kairos team members, with no registration fee for those on Colorado teams. Completion of the course is mandatory prior to serving as a Rector.

The Committee appeals to those in the Springs area to provide a bed or two for out-of-town attendees.

Attendees and hosts please contact Dick Evans.

ADVISORY COUNCILS

The Colorado Kairos community is blessed with six Advisory Councils that really do their job well. This includes the planning for all their events (Weekends, Retreats, Monthly Reunions), raising funds to cover the events, and recruiting their team members.

The Colorado Kairos community is also blessed with a State Committee (aka "the Board") that really does its job well. This includes vision, planning, new beginnings, funding, training, certifications, responsibilities to the national Kairos, and general oversight of the Kairos ministry in Colorado.

As we gradually grow into more facilities, it becomes more important for each body to be more aware of what the others are doing, how they are handling this and that situation, etc. So the State Committee will be inviting each Advisory Council to a SC meeting, one AC at a time, for mutual enlightenment and edification. First up will be the Fremont Advisory Council at the State Committee meeting on 17 May.



KAIROS OF COLORADO

P.O. Box 25004, Colorado Springs CO, 80936-5004

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Volume 21 #1 Spring 2003

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RECRUITING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We need a steady flow of new servants for our teams. Two reasons: (1) some of us are getting old, and (2) our ministry is growing. A good way to get new folks interested is to invite them to a Closing — and to arrange their transportation to and from.

Once they're interested, they need to have experienced God's love in a similar weekend, either outside or inside (the qualifying "8th" table). One can give way only what one has received. That's why attending a similar weekend is a pre-requisite for team service.

Most of our new team members come from one of the outside movements. You yourself can sponsor a prospect on an outside weekend. The list at the right shows the contacts for the six outside movements that are currently active in Colorado. Your sponsorship will lead to a special blessing for your friend — and then your friend can "pass it on" by serving on teams — outside and inside.

Walk to Emmaus — ecumenical

www.emmausrock.org (south)

www.northcoloemmaus.org (north)

Via de Cristo — Lutheran

www.coloradovdc

Cursillo — Roman Catholic

www.cursillo.org/colosprings

Denver — telephone Archdiocese

Cursillo — Episcopal

www.sttims.net/cocursillo

Cursillo — Presbyterian (Colo Spgs)

nmaffett@first-pres.org

Koinonia — ecumenical

www.coloradokononia.com

(links to north, Denver, & south)

**MAKE A FRIEND. BE A FRIEND.
INTRODUCE YOUR FRIEND TO TEAM MEMBERSHIP.**