

God's SPECIAL TIME

**KAIROS OF
COLORADO**
Volume 24 #1
Spring 2006

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

+++ ANOTHER "SYLVANIA MOMENT" FROM GOD +++

First, let me tell you what I consider a "God Sylvania Moment". If you think about it you've had these in your journey as a Christian. This is a moment when He turns on the light in your brain via a situation, event, something someone says, etc., and a change in you, your thought process, your actions, and you never are the same again.

Shortly following Christmas, I had picked up my mother to go to see her sister, and help them out during a difficult time. During that visit, my mother called me aside to ask me a couple of questions. Knowing I would be leaving my job after the first of the year, she first asked me how much I was making. My response was questioning "why?" She continued, saying if she would pay me, would I consider spending those extra hours taking care of her. I told her she did not have to pay me and that I would be available more for her. When I was no longer working, I did spend some more time with her, but I am ashamed to tell you it was not as much as it had been when I was working. You see, I had other things I also wanted to do. Those things took **MY** time, too. These things were important to **ME**. And, frankly, it was **MY** time after all. I just did what I had to, when I had to, and thought I was doing enough and it was okay.

Then, while I was away from home for a Kairos weekend, she fell very ill. Within a week she was in the hospital and she almost died. Suddenly, that "**light bulb**" went on, and reminded me, that this journey with Him was "not about **ME**", it is about what **HE** calls me to do. That was to spend what precious time I had left with my sweet mother, doing whatever it takes to make time for showing her the love and care that Jesus would give her, to the best of my ability.

Jesus tells us in Scripture to "take up My cross, and follow Me." It was very clear to me that if we were to actually take up a cross like Jesus carried, it would be a difficult job, and we would probably not want to do so, maybe even turn and say it was too tough.

Servanthood in Kairos is not about "**me**" (or you). It is about doing whatever is asked of us, especially when it is not easy, when it is inconvenient, or when we are called to do something in addition to what we are already doing. Kairos is a difficult call on our lives and not everyone can fulfill the commitment it requires, nor the additional demands which pop up from time to time.

God Bless you during this Easter season!
Love in Christ,
Mary Sogan, Chairperson, State Committee

KAIROS 101 AND SECURITY

The Colorado State Chapter hosted a KPMI Kairos 101 Basic Training session on March 24th at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Colorado Springs. Bill Rushing from KPMI Headquarters was the instructor, assisted by our State Chairperson, Mary Sogan, who is also a KPMI instructor. Kairos 101 is very informative, especially for those who have not taken the Advanced Kairos Training recently. Kairos 101 is being considered as a requirement for all team members. The subject matter includes an overview and history of the Kairos Ministry, roles of table leaders and clergy, and the functions of the talks on the Weekend.

After the Kairos 101, Jean Yancheck presented a briefing on security, focusing on adapting and applying the lessons learned at Fremont to each of our other facilities.

THE DOC VIEW

The Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) states that: "The Mission of the CDOC is to protect the public through efficient and effective management of offenders". This means safety and security come first. The DOC values the Kairos Ministry very much, but we must remember that when we step onto DOC property, we are part of the "DOC Team". The DOC Mission must come first in our minds, and our actions must reflect our recognition of their Mission. When we have the DOC Mission as our primary concern, we are helping to assure our own safety as well as the safety of the offenders, our families and loved ones, and the community.

(Excerpted from an article by Katherine Sanguinetti, Chief, DOC Office of Faith and Citizen Programs, in THE VOICE – Winter 2005 edition.)

KPMI WINTER CONFERENCE

The Kairos Winter Conference was held on January 27-28 in Orlando, Florida. The Winter Conference is primarily a meeting about the "business" of Kairos with a Board meeting and various committee meetings taking up most of the time. About 125 people attended, including the Kairos staff. Here are some highlights:

- ◆ The Kairos staff has nine members led by John Thompson, Executive Director. The staff also includes coordinators for the men's ministries, women's ministries, youth ministries, volunteer support, financial development, plus office staff.
- ◆ The Finance & Audit Committee developed new financial procedures that were approved by the Board. The biggest procedural change is to ensure that two people are involved in handling our money at each stage of the process from collection to depositing to spending the funds. At the state level, we now have a Treasurer who handles the money and a Financial Secretary who keeps the checkbook. In the next couple of years, the goal is to complete an audit which will include all the state chapters as well as KPMI Headquarters. New software called "KairosDonor" will be available soon to help with fundraising at the Advisory Council level. Councils that use it have been raising \$15-20,000 per Weekend. The 2006 Budget was approved at about \$1M. This does not include State Committee funds of about \$2-3M. Overall, the ministry is fiscally sound.
- ◆ The Organizational Committee proposed new Advisory Council operating procedures. They accepted many of the suggestions provided by Colorado and will probably update the document over time. The next task of this committee is to update the Kairos Organizational Manual.
- ◆ The Program Review Committee discussed the status of the various Kairos programs. They discussed the need for closer connections between the Executive Director and the State Committee chairpersons. A perennial problem was noted: approx 10% of the Weekend leaders send in their final reports. The Board also received a wonderful presentation on the Kairos Outside program. KO works with women whose family members are incarcerated. Currently, they operate in over 25 states. We might look into starting KO here in Colorado.
- ◆ The Board of Directors approved a Statement of Faith for the ministry. Colorado input was considered during the drafting process.

[Submitted by Steve Gabriel, Colorado Rep to KPMI]

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

BITS AND PIECES

- ◆ **FREMONT RESTART.** The Kairos team has completed three monthly Reunions since being allowed to resume activities at FCF. Everything has gone smoothly, and feedback from the DOC and Fremont Administration has been very positive. A 2-day Retreat is planned for June, to be followed by a 4-day Weekend in September, both pending DOC approval.
- ◆ **STATE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.** The following new members were elected to the State Committee at the SCmeeting on January 17th: Lorraine Huard, Peter Kufeke, and Jean Yanchek. Individual officer and committee assignments were subsequently done by email and are shown on page 3. Newly adopted KPMI financial procedures call for what formerly was the "Treasurer" position to be replaced by a "Financial Secretary" (policy, bookkeeping, reports, acknowledgements) and a "Treasurer" position (receiving funds, making deposits, writing the checks).
- ◆ **ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING.** The Colorado State Committee hosted a session of Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) on 24-26 March at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Colorado Springs. We will host another session of AKT on 21-23 July in Colorado Springs. Please note that this training is open to everyone and that it is a mandatory prerequisite for all Weekend Leaders (aka Rectors).
- ◆ **SUMMER CONFERENCE 2006.** Kairos of New Mexico is hosting the 2006 KPMI summer conference on 25-30 July at the Glorieta Retreat Center, near Santa Fe. The theme will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of Kairos! We have offered our help, and hopefully a large Colorado contingent will be able to attend. The Summer Conference has an expanded program of seminars and spiritual activities.
- ◆ **WAY TO GO, STEVE!** At the recent Kairos International Winter Conference, the Board of Directors elected our Colorado International Representative, Steve Gabriel, as one of its two Vice Presidents. Steve is also now a member of the KPMI Executive Com-

From God's Special Times Past

10 Years Ago: In July 1996 Kairos of Colorado hosted the National Kairos Annual Summer Conference at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch near Granby, CO. As part of our hosting we offered Kairos mugs, T-shirts, and lapel pins for sale — some of which we were still selling a few years later.

20 Years Ago: In 1986 we began Kairos at Territorial with Weekend #1 on 24-27 April. Phil Marsh was Rector. The "inside team" consisted of the one CTCF inmate who had already made his Kairos weekend at Fremont.

COLORADO CHAPTER OF KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL (KPMI) STATE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS:

Chairperson	Mary Sogan	303-937-7675	msogan@aol.com
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Vice Chairperson	Bruce Carlson	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
Secretary	Lorraine Huard	719-598-8329	ken_lorraine@direcway.com
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CLERGY:

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Chaplain	Jack Olafson	719-590-9639	jolafson7@msn.com

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

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Delta	Bob Storch	970-874-9485	rlstorch@aol.com
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Territorial	Jim Carter	719-594-9337	jimmegcarter@msn.com

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Agape	Wanda Sitler	719-380-7166	tubalady@msn.com
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Supplies	Joy Maly	303-988-7339	just4joy7@aol.com
Training	Peter Kufeke	970-587-5680	pkufeke@msn.com
Treasurer/POBox/DataBase	Jim Strub	719-634-2821	pjstrub@juno.com

2006 WEEKENDS & LEADERS

CAÑON WOMEN'S #44	20-23 Apr	Sara Igyarto
DELTA #29	27-30 Apr	Bob Larson
STERLING SOUTH #9	4-7 May	Jeff Holley
TERRITORIAL #41	18-21 May	Harold Lobato
DENVER WOMEN'S #6	1-4 Jun	Elaine Wise
RIFLE #3	3-6 Aug	Chuck Perkins
BRUSH #3	3-6 Aug*	Chris Bauer
LIMON #6	14-17 Sep	Glen Shelton
FREMONT #46	21-24 Sep*	TBD
DELTA #30	5-8 Oct	Coky Hartman
CANON WOMEN'S #45	19-22 Oct	Jonnie McConaghy
STERLING NORTH #11	2-5 Nov	Tracey Shields
TERRITORIAL #42	16-19 Nov	Jim Graven
DENVER WOMEN'S #7	30 Nov-3 Dec	Teddy DeBerry

* pending DOC approval

THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter, "God's Special Time," is part of our mission of bringing Christ's love and forgiveness to the incarcerated, and assisting them in building up the body of Christ in each prison. Our volunteer printer is First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, to which we are very grateful!



CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA!

TEAM MEMBERSHIP. To start serving on a Kairos team, just contact one of the persons listed on page 3. If you have not made an outside Weekend (Cursillo, Emmaus, Tres Dias, Via de Cristo, Koinonia, etc), you can become qualified for team membership by participating at a Qualifying Table on one of our Kairos Weekends.



KAIROS OF COLORADO

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

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THE PURPOSE OF KAIROS

Every now and then it is useful to reflect on the purpose of Kairos, which is to establish strong Christian communities among the populations of correctional institutions. This is done through the impact of small, 3-to-6 person share and prayer groups of leaders present in the institutions. The intent is for these groups to meet at least weekly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another, for other residents, and for staff in the institution.

These communities and groups are formed and sustained by means of the "4-day" Kairos Weekends, the Instructional Reunions, the Monthly Reunions, and the 2-day Retreats. In any given institution or unit, the normal routine calls for these events to occur in a six-month cycle -- a "4-day," then an Instructional, then the six Monthly Reunions, with a 2-day Retreat about 3 months after the 4-day.

We tend to put considerable emphasis on the 4-day

Kairos Weekends; this is the principal means for bringing residents into the Kairos community for the first time -- and for bringing another big dose of God's love into the institution. But the main sustainer of this refreshment and enforcement is the resident's Christian community itself, with a boost provided by gathering with the outside team at the Monthly Reunions.

At some times and places, for one reason or another, it is not possible to conduct a 4-day Weekend every six months. According to "Kairos 101," this is OK as long as we continue the Monthly Reunions and the 2-day Retreats. One alternate pattern is to have a 4-day once a year, with three 2-day Retreats in between, at three month intervals.

We need to remember that the purpose of Kairos is to establish and nourish Christian communities inside the institutions. The "4-day" Kairos Weekends are only one part of this process.

FORGIVENESS. Forgiving and being forgiven are a big part of Kairos community life. "He who cannot forgive another breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself" (George Hubert). "The weak never forgive; forgiveness is an attribute of the strong" (Mahatma Gandhi). So, let us be strong. We will abandon rightful resentment and revenge. We will abandon power in favor of love, condemnation in favor of acceptance, the security of fairness in favor of the vulnerability of forgiveness. We will accept forgiveness from God and others. We will forgive ourselves.