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State Committee

Colorado Web Site

Sterling Web Site

KPMI Web Site

Christianity is a religion of rescue, designed for the desperate.

Walter Henrichsen

FROM OUR CHAIR

Greetings to Everyone,

I hope this finds everyone in good health and celebrating in the joy God gives us. Let's talk about confidentiality. We can show God's love to the inmates without compromising ourselves. We do this by being good listeners and not giving out private info. When we introduce our selves, we should only use our first name, like "I'm Randy, a lay person," or for the clergy, "Father Seth" or "Pastor Paul." When we talk about where we worship, we are showing the ecumenical common ground of this ministry of all Christians coming together to share the good news of Jesus Christ, so we can say what church family we are from, like "Family in Christ," or "The United Methodist Church," but we need not say what the address is and they will still get the message. When we are giving talks, we can talk about our son or youngest, middle or oldest without ever saying their name and no one will pick up on it most of the time. When someone asks us why we serve inside the prisons and we feel the tug on our heart to share the story of an inmate that we know, we can tell that story without using the inmate's name and it will carry the same meaning to the person we are talking to on the outside. Likewise, we meet a lot of prayer warriors on the inside and we can be tempted to ask them to pray for someone or something in our lives, but that can be sharing too much info. We do not want to share any info that, when an inmate gets released, it would give them an advantage in knowing how to find someone. We need to remember that, in most cases, our purpose is serving God inside and not our children or families on the outside. It is wonderful that we have already had weekends at Fremont, Territorial, Rifle and Limon this year, with Sterling and Kairos Outside just around the corner. Let's keep up the good work and protect ourselves and families as we serve.

In His Service, Randy

The Colorado Chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry International publishes this newsletter bimonthly. Our USPS address is P.O.Box 25004, Colorado Springs CO 80936. Donations are appreciated and tax-deductible. Kairos is a 501(c)(3) ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
2010		
1st Sundays (6 pm)	LA VISTA WOMEN'S REUNIONS	Sara Igyarto
2nd Fridays, 7:00pm	DENVER STREET GATHERING CRRP A new beginning. See page 4.	Paul Benevides
3rd Fridays, 6:30pm	COLORDAO SPRINGS STREET GATHERINGS Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hancock & Boulder. Volunteers bring potluck dish.	Jean Magnuson
29 April - 2 May	STERLING EAST #7 Kevin Condon	Dwight Cook
21-23 May	KAIROS OUTSIDE #4 (page 6) Pilar Manzanares Id-Ra-Ha-Je Camp & Retreat Center, Bailey	Jean Mares
21-23 May	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (Kairos Inside) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Paul Benevides
3-6 June	DENVER WOMEN'S #13 Michelle Johnson	Glenda Condon
11-13 June	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (Kairos Outside) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Paul Benevides
12 June	RECRUITING & OUTREACH TRNG (see below) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Paul Benevides
27 July-1 August	KPMI SUMMER CONFERENCE Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas	Mary Sogan
5-8 August	RIFLE #11 Lloyd Strobeck	Tyne Bush
30 Sept -3 October	STERLING WEST #27 Rob Bradley	Dwight Cook
7-10 October	DELTA #38 Dick Bussing	Bill Bennett
7-10 October	TERRITORIAL #50 John Parker	Bill Durfee
14-17 October	LIMON #11 Mark Raymond	Dick Evans
5-7 November	KAIROS OUTSIDE #5 Catherine Flint Ponderosa Retreat Center, Larkspur/Monument	Jean Mares
2-5 December	DENVER WOMEN'S #14 Lillian Potter	Glenda Condon

TRAINING

There is still room for more trainees at all three of the training sessions –
AKT Kairos Inside on 21-23 May 2010, with KPMI trainers Angela Tasher and Mike Springer
AKT Kairos Outside on 11-13 June 2010, with KPMI trainer Jo Chapman
Recruiting and Outreach Training on 12 June (9:00 to 11:30 am), with KPMI trainer Mike Springer.

Advisory Councils (KI and KO) are urged to attend the **Recruiting and Outreach Training** en masse, but at the minimum, to send their Chair, Outreach Chair, Financial Secretary, upcoming weekend Leader, and upcoming Observer.

Registration and payment are through your Advisory Council.

All of these sessions are at the American Motel and Conference Center, Wheat Ridge.

For additional information, please contact Paul Benevides at 720-278-9157 or pbdenver@comcast.net

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Once upon a time there was a woman who was serving a small rural congregation. Even though she was an adult, a middle-aged one at that, she loved stories. She loved them for themselves but she knew as a preacher they often helped illustrate the great good news of The Gospel.

One year it seemed that everything she picked up was a story of hope, a story of light out of darkness, a story of resurrection. She wanted to share them with her congregation. She thought and thought and eventually into her head popped the idea of using the best of these stories as the Easter morning message. "What a great idea!" she thought.

Now being the Type A perfectionist that she was, she wasn't just going to read a string of stories. She worked to link them together with a sound theological beginning and ending. But she had learned that if she worked on a sermon too early, she'd waste reams of paper editing and re-editing. That she would leave until Saturday of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday was joyous as always. But life happens, especially when one thinks one has it all planned out. The Maundy Thursday service was moving although she spilled grape juice on her alb. Would it come out? What would she do for Easter if it didn't? Her Good Friday message took more time to prepare than she'd planned. An elderly parishioner without close family was hospitalized. Those visits exhausted her Easter sermon polishing time. Even dying eggs with her adult daughters and her grandchildren was a chore. Holy Week was always hard; she knew that! But this hard?

Easter morning dawned bright and sunny but she felt like Mary Magdalene early on that morning so long ago. She knew she knew the end of the story but she didn't feel the end of the story. The lines of a poem by Bobby Burns, the Scottish poet described it all.

"The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men,
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!"

She sat drinking a cup of tea wondering what on earth she was to do. Her idea was just plain stupid but how could she stand up in the pulpit and say, "I have no sermon. I have nothing to tell you. I know the story but I don't feel it." That was unthinkable. And then..... onto their deck flew a blue bird, bright blue with its bright red chest. She was overjoyed! There had never been a single bird on the three acres on which the parsonage sat except grackles and plenty of those. This was a glorious reminder from God that the story she knew to be true was true. There was hope after despair. There was light after darkness. There was new life. There was rebirth. There was resurrection. As she stood in the pulpit an hour later with sunlight streaming in through the beautiful old stained glass windows, all those stories of hope and light and resurrection were perfect reminders for her congregation as they had been for months for her.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Submitted by the Reverend Glenda Condon

HUDSON CF

The chaplains at Hudson met with Randy Borden and Pete Kufeke on 10 April after both underwent drug screening and a detailed four hour orientation.

Our hope is to start monthly reunions at Hudson as early as Saturday, 29 May 2010.

If this is something that would interest you, please contact Pete Kufeke at 970-587-5680, 970-217-5419(c) ; or Randy Borden at 303 469-7540, 303-489-7259(c). To attend, you are required to pass a drug test by 5 May to take part in the next orientation on 19 May.

Hudson is a privately managed facility which currently houses 872 male residents with a potential population of 5000. We were blessed to hear that about 200 of these are Kairos graduates. The residents have all been convicted in Alaska. The facility is managed by an unusual combination of Alaska, Colorado, and Cornell Industries regulations. Those details are well described in the orientation.

In that this is a bit more complicated than normal, we would prefer to have experienced Kairos volunteers. Our initial goal is to encourage those who have been inactive for some period to serve at Hudson. Interested active volunteers, please find your own replacement for the location which you currently serve or do double duty so that we don't deplete one facility to open another.

Please call Pete or Randy for further details.

DENVER STREET GATHERING CRRP

In early 2007 Mary Sogan, who was the Colorado Kairos State Chair at the time, conceived of a "street" meeting similar to the inside reunions. After getting clearance from KPMI and Colorado DOC, a start up grant from The Board of Church and Society of the Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church, and finding a place to meet at Grant Avenue United Methodist Church, we named the budding group "The Street Gathering." Eventually we moved to Warren United Methodist Church. This photo was taken at our last evening at Warren on 12 March 2010. We will now change locations every quarter. The second quarter (April, May & June) of 2010 we will be meeting at The Family in Christ Church at 11355 Sheridan Blvd, Westminster. The third quarter (July, August & September) of 2010



we will be meeting at Grace Church of Arvada at 6969 Sheridan Blvd. Arvada. The fourth quarter (October, November & December) of 2010 has yet to be determined.

Mary Sogan coordinated the meetings which were much like inside reunions for the first year. Glenda Condon accepted that responsibility the second year and Kris Briggs took over during the third year. Paul Benevides has now taken the reins. Under his leadership the name has been altered at the suggestion of one of the Sterling Kairos inside graduates to allow those residing in halfway houses and still having to abide by DOC rulings to get permission to attend events that require much travel time and last later than their curfews. We are now the **Street Gathering Community Re-Entry Recovery Program**. And here is our newly-developed mission statement: "Our mission is to gather as a Christian community providing the support needed for ex-offenders to make it through transition into society as we provide spiritual mentoring through prayer and sharing groups, offering fellowship and food; linking ex-offenders with resources to meet their needs successful for re-entry and recovery."

The purpose of the Street Gathering CRRP is to provide:

- 1) A place for ex-offenders to meet where they can feel safe and accepted and receive the Christian fellowship and resources needed for successful transition into society.
- 2) A place for Kairos volunteers to fellowship as a reunion group. (This allows for many Kairos volunteers to get together as a reunion other than just seeing one another on an inside team only.)
- 3) A place to invite new Kairos inside volunteer recruits to meet veteran Kairos volunteers and ex-offenders. (This makes it easier for new recruits to be less apprehensive about being around ex-offenders.)

As an informal group we did not keep any records. Volunteer attendance has been as high as 20 to 25 and as low as two. Kairos graduate attendance has been as high as five or six and as low as none. But those of us who have attended these Street Gatherings CRRP have been blessed by hearing stories of God at work in the lives of ex-offenders who have been released from prison. It has given volunteers a chance to socialize, often with those who serve at different facilities, which is an opportunity not often afforded. Beginning in March, attendance was recorded and we had 16 Kairos volunteers and 6 ex-offenders (3 men & 3 women). At the April, St. Gathering CRRP recently held we had 12 Kairos volunteers and 2 ex-offenders (men only).

May God continue to bless this ministry that shares a pot luck meal, singing, sharing, and prayer each month. We invite you to come and attend this Street Gathering CRRP, held the 2nd Friday of each month.

Submitted by Paul Benevides

UPCOMING STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Face-to-face Meetings: 10 July 2010 in Keystone at Kulbitski's, 8 January 2011 at place TBD.

Teleconferences: 10 October 2010, at 7:00 pm. Others as needed.

RIFLE # 10 CLOSING – 7 March

Rifle #10 was indeed a blessed weekend. The table families used the following expressions to describe the condition in which they arrived; confused, lost, searching, skeptical, nervous, curious, not expecting much, bad shape, and excited. They used these expressions to describe what they found; Jesus, brotherhood, hope, fellowship, spiritual support, insight, gratitude, motivation, and comfort. They were leaving with Jesus, knowledge, encouragement, new brothers, answered questions, weightless conscience, compassion for others, wisdom, resolve, and a brighter future. They said:

“It feels like Jesus is kicking in the door of my heart.”

“I was blinded, but the word of God opened my eyes.”

“It was the first weekend that has counted in many years.”

“I learned how to trust and open up. I learned to say what I had wanted and needed to say for a long time.”

“The weekend renewed my whole way of thinking.”

“I learned how to be a man.”

Submitted by Tyne Bush

TERRITORIAL #49 CLOSING – 11 April

From the Table Families:

We arrived broken, thirsty, undecided, confused, anxious, lost, nervous, mechanical Christians, non-believers, discouraged, afraid, searching, questioning and speculating – didn't know where our spirits were.

We found family, agape love, Jesus, fellowship, a spirit of not giving up on God, grace, peace, forgiveness, a sense of community, compassion, change, hope, motivation, new direction, and a new pathway to everlasting life.

We are taking away friendship, accountability, a renewed spirit, knowledge, a closer relationship with God, a loving relationship with brothers in Christ, harmony, love we did not deserve, seeds of change, and a new heart.

From Open Mike:

Such love, and a sense of community. We arrived bleak and learned that God loved us. Not often do we have a voice, but we did this weekend. We found out what God looks like this weekend! We learned that we were loved, prayed for, and sacrificed for.

I had a big change inside me – A New Me! I am a whole different me.

I didn't know what to expect from the Kairos team or even from ourselves. I have gone one more step to God.

Love from a total stranger – a real blessing to me.

I knew who God was, but not in my spirit. Wasn't sure I should attend. I was raised in a Celtic pagan background. I prayed with a clergy, Pastor Rick, and gave my life to Christ. I was asked if I could still say I was a pagan. The answer was NO! This weekend was really a life-changing experience.

I got my batteries renewed.

A truly humbling time. Being a child of God is hard. I haven't stepped outside of myself. My life has been so down lately. Now I have something to look up to – to look outward to.

God chose all of us to be part of Kairos 49. I found out that to love God, I first have to love my brothers and sisters.

About three years ago I gave up on God. Now I have found Him again!

This opened both of my eyes to my brothers, to step out of my comfort zone, to tell others about Jesus.

How beautiful is Christ, OK? I look at all the prisoners in this room. I am a new Christian – six months.. There is a brother here who showed me Christ. Now I realize I have just scratched the surface of the love that is there.

I was the “Resource Man.” Now all “resourcing” has been cancelled by Kairos.

All the Christians are bigger than all the gangs in the world. I questioned whether I was worthy to be a Christian and realized I just scratched the surface of knowing Christ.

Earlier this week I had some really bad phone contact with family members. Then Kairos – so much love, by strangers I didn't even know. After a life of crime and drugs, now I can love myself and other people – and my Lord!

We are not an island. I learned the sense of “Leave no man behind.” No one was left behind, including the man in our family who could not read or write.

This has been a blessing. I was always out for me, and in my religion I never felt so much love.

4th Day Speaker:

When I made my Kairos a year ago, I was a Christian but never knew what agape love is. As Kairos Community Leader, I have seen lots of changes in the men here. I am renewed in spirit. It is so encouraging to see the light in your eyes. Outside Team: you are true ambassadors of God.

Submitted by Glen Wiersch and Jim Strub

KAIROS OUTSIDE #4 — 21-23 May

DEMONSTRATING GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE
THROUGH CHRISTIAN SUPPORT FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE RELATIVES OR FRIENDS
WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED

Please come to show and share God's Love by attending one or both
at Camp Id*Ra*Ha*Je Retreat Center in Bailey, CO

Saturday, 22 May : **Walk in Love Candlelight Service** Please arrive between 8 and 8:15 PM
Sunday, 23 May: **Closing** Please arrive between 2 and 2:15

From Denver: US 285 to Conifer, Pine Junction, and Bailey.

From Colo Spgs: I-25 North to C-470, exit US 285 south to Conifer, Pine Junction, and Bailey.

Continuing in Bailey, turn right onto County Road 43 (traffic light for Loaf'N'Jug).
Camp entrance is about 1/2 mile from Hwy 285 on the left.
Go to Aspen View Lodge (1st building on right).

KAIROS OUTSIDE REUNIONS

PLEASE COME !!!!!

Mark your calendar for 2010 quarterly reunions.
All are on Saturdays, from 3:30 to 8:00 pm.

5 June

11 September

4 December

All are at Bethel Christian Fellowship
5405 West 1st Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80266

**COME JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!
CALL YOUR KAIROS OUTSIDE SISTERS FOR CARPOOLING!
IF YOU KNOW POTENTIAL GUESTS, PLEASE INVITE THEM TO COME
JOIN US. FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US!**

If you have ANY questions, contact:

Jean Mares: 303-518-0550 or e-mail jamares46@msn.com

Lorraine Huard: 719-648-9193 or e-mail ken_lorraine@yahoo.com

Linda Lauper: 303-709-8523 or e-mail ljlauper@hotmail.com

Please bring your nametag!

It's "POTLUCK" — main dish, dessert, salad or snack

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL (KPMI)

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led Christian ministry which conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions. The Kairos program starts with a weekend event which allows participants to receive Christ's love through the servitude of Christian Kairos volunteers. During this event participants are given the opportunity to experience a spiritual renewal, accepting God's call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution, and beyond. Participants are encouraged to establish small, two-to-five-person "Fourth Day" Prayer and Share groups within the institution. The groups meet regularly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another, other residents, and staff in the institution.

Kairos is currently in 31 states and eight other countries – Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. The course materials are available in English and Spanish. The ministry includes about 30,000 volunteers worldwide.

COLORADO CHAPTER – STATE COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Randy Borden	303-469-7540	rjborden@comcast.net
International Representative	Mary Sogan	303-937-7675	mlsogan@comcast.net
Vice Chairperson	Jean Mares	303-518-0550	jamares46@msn.com
Secretary	Jean Magnuson	719-686-9231	jeanmagnuson@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Lee Kulbitski	719-322-8408	lkulbitski@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jim Strub	719-634-2821	jimpegstrub@msn.com

At Large	Jeff Holley	303-469-7719	jeffreyholley@msn.com
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The Reverend	Tina Anderson	303-278-0023	revtina@msn.com
The Reverend	Glenda Condon	303-377-3580	ggcondon@gmail.com

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Delta	Tim Brady	970-241-6166	tkbradydc@aol.com
Denver Women's	Joan Borden	303-469-7540	rjborden@comcast.net
Kairos Outside	Lorraine Huard	719-598-8329	ken_lorraine@hughes.net
La Vista Women's	Jo Ann Auld	719-942-4828	harryandjoann@yahoo.com
Limon	Brian Beattie	970-454-2069	bdeyes@mywdo.com
Rifle	Paul Ha	970-778-5059	paul_ha00@hotmail.com
Sterling	Kevin Condon	303-906-4532	kcondon@myfinancialadvice.net
Territorial/Fremont	Glen Wiersch	719-282-8821	wiersch7@earthlink.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Agape	Wanda Sitler	719-380-7166	tubalady@msn.com
Newsletter	Jim Strub	719-634-2821	jimpegstrub@msn.com
Observer Program	Jean Mares	303-518-0550	jamares46@msn.com
Recruiting	Peter Kufeke	970-587-5680	pkufeke@msn.com
Security Coordinator	Jean Yanchek	719-599-8280	jmbyy@cs.com
Training	Paul Benevides	720-278-9157	pbdenver@comcast.net

EX OFFICIO

Chaplain	Jack Olafson	719-590-9639	jolafson7@msn.com
Webmaster	Ryan Cline	303-520-2995	ryanc0104@hotmail.com