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“Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.”

*N. T. Wright, in
“Surprised by Hope”*

FROM OUR CHAIR

Greetings Everyone,

I hope this message finds you blessed. Speaking of being blessed I hope everyone realizes what a privilege it is to be able to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the incarcerated folks in the darkness of their lives. The stories we hear and the changes we see on the 3-day weekends and the monthly reunions is nothing short of incredible. We should be saying to ourselves: who am I to be able to see these incredible changes in men and women that only God can do, why do I deserve the blessing He gives me to be a part of this community called Kairos.

I feel we get blessed because we made our selves available to be His hands and feet here on the face of this earth He created. We agreed to reach out to those who most people can not reach out to. For that I want to say it is gratefully appreciated that each and every one of you answered His call to serve in prison ministry. With each volunteer doing his part, we as a community are fulfilling God’s plan. Some day we will all hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant” from the book of Matthew 25:21.

In being a good Kairos volunteer you sacrifice time with your family, time away from home, time away from work, you donate financially, and you write beautiful letters of hope. For all of that I am also grateful for each and every one of you, and it is appreciated very much.

We all need to work very hard to bring a friend to the next team we serve on so they can become a part of the Kairos community. We all need to be telling God’s story of what we have seen happen in the facilities so our friends will want to join us. Tell your friends what brought you to Kairos and what keeps you coming back for monthly reunions and 3-day weekends. We are all part of the body of Christ and everyone can contribute something, even if they say “not right now” to an invitation to serve on a team. They can be part of your Prayer Vigil, they can color Placemats, create Agape, or write a check to financially support us.

Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? (1 Corinthians 12:15-17)

In closing, I just want to remind every one that we need to do God’s work inside and outside the prison walls -- always giving the Glory to God and not taking any credit ourselves. In Christ’s name I love each one of you and pray for you and the community.

In His Service, Randy Borden, your State Chair

CLERGY INSIGHTS

As I sit down to write, I see out my computer room window the light covering of very wet snow on my tulips and daffodils. I find myself journeying back to late Lent years ago when I was a child. Since we had a huge snow during Holy Week, our annual Easter picture shows my sisters and me standing beside our snow bunnies. And I began wandering through my Lenten memories.

A few years later as a teen-ager I thought I should attend the Good Friday afternoon service. The sanctuary of the little Christian Church was gloomy and cold. The service seemed to go on forever, causing me to wish I were home playing with my younger sisters. I remember with a smile years later when our younger daughter was in grade school and too young or fidgety to sit through the service. She and a friend were allowed to play in the fellowship hall which was directly below the sanctuary. During the reading of scripture there was a loud crash exactly as the liturgist was reading of the loud thunder as Jesus was dying on the cross. My friend and I knew our little girls had been playing on the grand piano below and dropped the lid. Embarrassing and yet strangely effective.

Then fast forward ten or twelve years and as a newly ordained clergy woman, I was asked to preach the Good Friday sermon for our community service on John 19:27 – “Here is your mother.” How I labored over it; I wanted to be profound; I wanted to be poetic; I wanted to hold my own with the other clergy who were much more seasoned than I. I hope I was probably adequate.

I wander back many years to the Good Friday service that was a Seder led by a Messianic Jewish Rabbi. What an epiphany! The Last Supper made such sense. Then I was on an archaeological dig in Jordan as a seminary student. The first thing I did when returning to our dorm after excursions into town was to wash my feet. I knew why foot washing was what a host was supposed to do in Jesus’ day.

Then it is Palm/Passion Sunday when I was a seminary student and the liturgist of the day. Our organist was a doctoral student at Peabody in Baltimore during the week, a cantor at his synagogue on Saturday, and the organist/choir director in our Methodist Church on Sundays. One Sunday as the senior pastor and I pitched the Holy Week services, David rose to say, “You really need to attend at least one of the services. It will make Easter make sense.” How right he was.

David was exceptionally precise in his timing during services; he was always right on cue. Palm Sunday we were hearing the passion antiphonally – I’d read a bit and we’d sing and I’d read and we’d sing. I finished reading and there was no organ chord. I waited and still no chord. How unlike David! I turned and glared at him. He mouthed, “Now?” to which I hissed, “Yes!” During the second service I realized the mistake was mine and not his. I stopped the reading several verses short of what I should have; no wonder he was “late.” I’d had enough of the torture; I wanted no more.

At the April reunion at DWCF, the resident leader chose “Promises” for the theme. The resident giving the testimony, the residents sharing at open mike, the residents in my small prayer and share group all eventually got to Jesus’ death on the cross. They talked of watching “The Passion of the Christ” again. They acknowledged that their complaints about their situations are unwarranted. One said that they had all done the things that brought them to prison; they had all likely done things that should have brought them additional time but hadn’t. Jesus, on the other hand, had done nothing to deserve the horrific treatment he received on the day we remember as Good Friday. There was such evident gratitude for Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. We were in the depths of this church season we call Lent.

During this Lenten season there has been a variety of movies on TV about Jesus – sort of in the manner of “The Jesus I Never Knew,” the video study series of a few years ago by Philip Yancey. Much as the Gospel writers told of Jesus four different ways, the producers and directors in Hollywood over the years have done the same. And each of us does, too. Each Lent is different for me and different from everyone else’s. Of course, there are common elements, and yet they are not the same.

We know the end of the story and yet the journey through Lent is often as if we don’t. It is one of those both/ands of our faith. We know and yet we don’t. We’ve read the last page and yet it is as if we haven’t, as we slough through the hard time of Lent. With each Lent our relationship with Jesus grows. We become more and more the people God created us to be. Our relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit is not static; it is growing and changing. Even in its hardness, Lent is a gift.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Submitted by the Reverend Glenda Condon

Our Lord calls to no special work. He calls to Himself.

Oswald Chambers

2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
3rd Sundays, 6:00 pm	LA VISTA WOMEN'S REUNIONS	Sara Igyarto
3rd Sundays, 12:30 pm	HUDSON ALASKAN CF REUNIONS	Peter Kufeke
5-8 May	STERLING EAST #8	Dwight Cook
13-15 May	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (KI) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Kevin Condon
2-5 June	DENVER #15	Pat Mills
26-31 July	KPMI SUMMER CONFERENCE Rivier College, Nashua New Hampshire (see KPMI website)	Glenda Condon
Summer or September	KAIROS OUTSIDE #5	Jeff Holley
3-6 November	RIFLE #13	Cindy Card
3-6 November	STERLING WEST #28	William Kehr
6-9 October	TERRITORIAL #52	Mark Cook
6-9 October	DELTA #40	Tom Guidera
1-4 December	DENVER #16	Bernie Schneider
		Bill Bennett
		Glenda Condon

TRANSITION AFTERCARE PROGRAM

The Kairos Transition Aftercare program was developed to focus on inmates (Kairos graduates) who are scheduled for release from prisons served by Kairos and sent back into the free world. It is a volunteer program that depends on Kairos team members and other volunteers to assist residents in prison *prior to their release* and to mentor them *after their return to society*.

Steve Gabriel, the recent President of KPMI International Council, provided clarification to the February 2011 newsletter article "Transition Aftercare Program." Steve shares, "Just want to clarify one statement on page 4 under the heading 'KPMI approves Transition Aftercare program.' In the second paragraph, it says 'In July 2010, KPMI approved the Transition Aftercare program as an official KPMI program, along with Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch.' I don't believe that is quite correct -- the pilot program is being offered in states outside Maryland, but KPMI has not made a decision on whether aftercare will be a formal program (like KI, KO and KT). In fact, the Board is currently deliberating that question."

Steve also shared, "My prayers are with the aftercare committee in Colorado -- what a marvelous opportunity God has brought to us!"

Upcoming Aftercare subcommittee activities:

- Saturday 30 April: The ad hoc Aftercare subcommittee will teleconference with leaders of the Maryland Kairos Transition Aftercare (KTA) team. For this first meeting, Maryland KTA team members will share about what's happening with KTA and answer questions subcommittee members might have.
- Saturday 7 May: Some of us will attend the Prison and Jail Ministry Network of Colorado conference in Colorado Springs. This conference is hosted by Daughters of Destiny in an effort to network prison ministry efforts (inside and outside) in Colorado. Tom Clements, CDOC Executive Director and Matt Winden, CDOC Faith & Citizens Program Director, will speak during the conference. You can register by 30 April at 719-632-0644.

If you would also like to serve on the Kairos Transitional Aftercare subcommittee, contact Kris Briggs by e-mail at chaplainkris@hotmail.com or by phone at 303-665-8476 (leave message).

Submitted by Chaplain Kris Briggs

TERRITORIAL #51 CLOSING — 10 April 2011

From the table families:

In what spiritual condition did you arrive?

"Not having a spiritual bone in my body."

We were coming from different directions,, felt different about where we are going, had the Holy Spirit in us but needed other people to help us focus; hungry for food, yes, but mostly for spiritual knowledge; unstable, half in and half out of God, seeking; spiritually frustrated.

What did you find here?

"The means to smash the walls between us."

That we're not in green, we're all brothers in Christ. Found love, understanding, tools, a closer walk, a need to forgive.

What are you taking with you?

"Tools for moving the huge and ugly stones from our walls."

Peace, kindness, ready to spread the joy of Christ to others. New friends, knowing a lot more about Christ, strengthened spirits, life-long lessons to live by, new perspectives, a new way, our need to forgive.

From Individuals at Open Mike:

"I got to see Jesus working."

- An awesome weekend for me. I hadn't expected a lot. I saw peace and joy in the outsiders' eyes. They opened up to us and let us open up to them. The letters had so much love. What God has in store for me nobody can take from me.
- No matter how much hatred there is, I love you, I forgive you, and I'll start over. I gave up a lot of hate and anger.
- Almost to the point of giving up, losing faith – but I really needed to show up, to let others help me. Found I needed to forgive, which I did. They looked at us as human beings, not prisoners.
- I spent a lot of time in the word for many years and felt that my coming here might take somebody else's spot. But in these 3 or 4 days I received a degree of love I couldn't have imagined. There is something here for everybody, no matter where we are. I got to see Jesus working.
- The "family" treated me as family. I had prejudged the program, I didn't want to go. I have suffered numerous inadequacies. People like this getting together to come in here like this is truly an amazing thing. If they can do this, why can't I let go of some of the petty issues I am holding on to.
- On Thursday I was watching my watch, hoping this would get over quick. Today I am watching my watch hoping this would last forever. I knew I had a lot of anger; now I know how to deal with it.
- I've been having this thirst to get reconnected to God – and now I have.
- I'm not a real spiritual person; if you are not, go to Kairos. You'll learn that there's a lot of people who still love you.
- I had a lot of doubt, confusion, questions about Kairos, but found in Kairos a love, friendship, community – so this has been quite an experience for me. I found I have to forgive others and myself in order to find peace, renewal, etc. I'm tired of busting my head up against the same old wall. I've had the same headache for 59 years.
- Kairos taught me a lot. The last thing I learned was God does not give up on us – and "Christ is counting on you."
- I got this from one of the letters: "We're all just a piece of clay. God is never through working us. So stay pliable."

From the 4th Day Speaker:

If you're serving God, you're serving authority – that is, the DOC staff. So let's be grateful to them – which can cause problems with other inmates. If you want to know what a servant looks like, watch [name not included here] – or rather, watch the Jesus in him.

Submitted by Jim Strub

JEAN MARES FETED

On Sunday, March 6, at 4:00 pm at Burns Memorial United Methodist Church, Jean Mares was honored by about forty other Kairos volunteers for her dedication to the ministry. Since she has retired from her position working with youth suffering from substance abuse, Jean is able to move to New York to be close to family.

Those present oohed and aahed over pictures of Jean's first grandchild, Matthew James. They shared stories of her introducing Kairos at DWCF, of her work to begin Kairos Outside here in Colorado, and her service on advisory councils, the state committee, and the KPMI Board. They remembered her wonderful cooking (children of one volunteer are certain her cocoa is the best in the world, and the grandchildren of another think her frozen berry dish should always be in their refrigerator). They enjoyed finger food, ice cream, cake, and punch, as those attending reminisced about serving with Jean. They shared written memories and well wishes in a lovely album for Jean to take with her.

Jean has been a vital part of Kairos Colorado for more than ten years and will be missed. We wish her God's blessings in her new home as we say a big thank you for all she has done.

Submitted by Glenda Condon

RIFLE #12 CLOSING — 20 March 2011

Matthew:

Arrived unsure, numb, in denial, confident, and ready for a boost.

Found fulfillment, fellowship, peace, contentment, and trust.

Left with assurance in Jesus, ability to forgive, courage, hope, new brothers, thankfulness, spiritual awakening, and joy.

Mark:

Arrived at war with God, hardened heart, happy, and wanting to experience God.

Found many more people who are spiritually involved with God.

Left with salvation, and knowing a lot more people to fellowship with.

Luke:

Arrived uncertain and unsure about the weekend.

Found encouragement, brothers and people who care.

Left with God, spirit of forgiveness, and everything the devil had taken away.

John:

Arrived with low expectations, dull spirit, open minded, and curious.

Found humility, unity, support, love, answers to prayer, fellowship, completion, forgiveness, honesty, and constant communication.

Left with understanding of unity, brotherly love, knowledge that God wants us as friends, a need for fellowship, and the ability to step-out in faith.

Peter:

Arrived seeking confirmation and a blessing, curious, searching, broken, lost, and shattered.

Found God's presence, understanding, brotherly love, fellowship and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Left with a full heart of running water, comfort in the fact that many people are searching for the body of Christ, a new walk with Jesus, as a new creature, a desire to be that shining light in a dark world.

Individual comments:

- I have been locked up for over 20 years and I never met anyone so inspirational.
- My mother died when I was young and I had problems with my father and I was spiritually dead. But this was a faith building weekend, it has opened the eyes of my heart to change my life.
- My prayer to be reunited with my family has been answered.
- I have learned to have faith, and I can't doubt because I know it is real.
- I'm getting to know God. I haven't listened to him in the past, but now I am ready to listen and hear.

Submitted by Tyne Bush

UPDATE ON HUDSON

The Kairos start-up at Hudson Correctional Facility continues to progress at a moderate pace. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." (Mt 9:37). And yet the Lord provides a faithful crew that has staffed every possible Reunion.

We experience a sense of blessing that we can provide a reminder to these Alaska men who were filled by Kairos when they were housed in Arizona. We are able to be that outside team which the Kairos men from Arizona could not.

Yet there is a bond for them that can best be described by the following story. Chaplain Bob served many of these men during their Arizona Kairos experience. He was recently in Israel. While there he encountered a nurse/clergy person from Kenya. They started sharing their stories and sure enough the nurse is the same person who served at Brush and at Denver Women's, our own Alene Burgert. She and her husband Steve are on a medical mission in Kenya and were on a sabbatical in Israel when she met Chaplain Bob.

You can well imagine the joy that some of the residents from Alaska experienced when they heard of this chance encounter. Perhaps this was a joy of knowing that they are not alone although they are thousands of miles from home. Perhaps like the children of Israel in Babylon?

We continue to ask for your prayers for a four-day and continuing influx of volunteers to permit this.

Submitted by Peter Kufeke

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.

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