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**Absorption of  
scripture is an  
essential  
counterbalance to  
the background  
noise of the  
world.**

*Walter Henrichsen*

## FROM OUR CHAIR

During a Kairos 4 day weekend, the inmates receive letters which are written personally to each of them by each of us as weekend volunteers. In a seven-table weekend, that amounts to forty-two letters from each of about thirty volunteers. It is referred to as an exercise in "personal agape" – expressions of God's love to the participants through the volunteers. Like many of the things that are part of being a volunteer, the purpose of the letters is not obvious at first. It is considered by many of us when we are new volunteers to be an opportunity to bless an incarcerated individual, without expecting anything in return: selfless love.

Writing these letters is hard at first. In the weeks of team formation before the weekend, they become part of the preparation tasks that must be completed before we even know the name of the attendees at the weekend. How do you write a letter that shows the love of God to anyone? How to a perfect stranger? Some of us struggle. Many find the key that makes it easier. They learn to allow the Holy Spirit to do the writing. Allow the Holy Spirit to address and deliver the letters you have written to the person for whom they were intended. Let God do it.

As an example (and there could be many), during "open mike" at closing when the participants get to stand and say something about the weekend, one man stood and described a letter he had received. It said, "Dear Son," and was signed, "Love, Your Father." He didn't describe what the letter said, instead he told us his story. He was left at an orphanage as a new born. He never knew his father or his mother. He had lived in seventeen different orphanages and foster homes as a child and never had known a father. He had guessed that we had written the letters blind, and that his receipt of the "one" letter addressed to "Dear Son" had been a miracle intended for him by His heavenly father. He was right.

As in other four day programs, letters from other Christians can be a profound blessing. They are personal and move the recipient deeply. We hear many stories from Kairos graduates that the personal agape letters were one of the memorable highlights, treasured long after the weekend is past. I have met a house painter who painted the house of my across-the-alley neighbor. He mentioned he had attended Kairos at Fremont seven years prior. He still had his letters and read them often.

As a Kairos volunteer, you will witness many miracles. You will see transformed lives, hearts melted, fierce-looking bad guys soften until they resemble little boys. Acts of mercy, grace and forgiveness will overwhelm you at the tables, in the community room, and in the chapel as Jesus sends his Holy Spirit to comfort and support the weekend participants right in front of your eyes. The letters (personal agape) are just one of the many

## FROM THE CHAIR (continued)

miracles you participate in directly, in either men's or women's prisons. Not surprisingly, you will realize that the blessings that you receive as a volunteer are far, far greater than you could ever have imagined.

If you are hearing God's call to visit your brothers and sisters in prison, don't turn away. He is calling you to come ever closer to Himself, the greatest blessing of all. We're short of volunteers at all Colorado facilities. The need is great. We need everyone's help in recruiting. We have been asked to provide more weekends at more facilities, and many dedicated volunteers are getting older. How about you baby boomers out there? Are you able to find it in your heart to help fill this need? To become a volunteer, you can start by filling out a DOC application and get it to a current volunteer. See the list of contacts for each prison in the list on the last page of this newsletter. For the DOC form, click on this link:

[http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/Volunteer\\_Application\\_2010.pdf](http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/Volunteer_Application_2010.pdf)

Kevin

## SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

**"Be still and know that I am God..."** Psalm 46:10

What does it mean to "be still"? I would like to suggest to you that one of the ways we are *still* is that we take time throughout the day to listen to God. God speaks to us throughout the day. He spoke to me just the other day.

I work two jobs —one as a chaplain, and one as a security officer for a call-center. As a security officer I walk around the outside of the call-center several times a day. On this particular day, I noticed that a baby bird had most likely flown into one of our windows. It was sitting on the sidewalk either injured or stunned. With proper protection, I picked it up and carried it to a shaded spot underneath a tree. As I continued to make my rounds I noticed that it continued to remain on the ground beneath the tree. I took some water out to it — it was such a small baby bird — and just as I poured the water into a small container, it flew away. I thanked God that the bird was still able to fly!

At that moment God spoke to me! "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."(Matthew 10:29-31)

Then He spoke to me some more: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" (Matthew 6:25-26)

He was reminding me that I was in His care, and that He would provide for the needs of my family! I praise God for His grace and compassion!

**God speaks to us every day. Are you listening?**

Love In Christ, Chaplain Jack

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Editor's note:

Chaplain Jack Olafson has served as a team member in Colorado Kairos for many, many years — mostly in the Fremont and Territorial facilities. He has recently begun service as the volunteer chaplain in the Youth Offender Services facility in Pueblo. He invites all of us to be prayer partners and financial partners with him in this "crucial ministry to young men and women." Sponsorship is through the charitable organization:

Christian Chaplain Services Inc, P.O.Box 3961, Englewood CO 80155-3961.

## RIFLE #14 CLOSING – 25 March

### St. Matthew

Arrived confused and losing hope  
Found patience, fellowship, study, encouragement to think it through  
Taking new brothers, open mind, more resources, larger families, and hope

### St. Mark

Arrived open minded, confused, excited, curious to see what it is about  
Found love, brotherhood, knowledge, willingness to change  
Taking knowledge about the word, assurance, trust in God

### St. Luke

Arrived confused, apprehensive, looking for spiritual relief  
Found love of the Father, fellowship, other broken vessels  
Taking love, joy, peace, new life and the presence of God

### St. John

Arrived in critical condition, seeking, and open minded  
Found knowledge of the Word, fellowship, understanding, and new family  
Taking lessons, love, the Holy Spirit, and God's grace

### St. Peter

Arrived nervous, fearful, and open minded  
Found spiritual awakening, loving relationship with each other and Jesus  
Taking responsibility and gratitude

### Individuals

- An important thing to do for my spirituality, and thankful I came
- I can see the light that God has shown on the faces of my fellow inmates
- One kind word can restore the hope in a broken soul
- I can now see that real people out there go through real problems but make good choices, they are our role models
- I thank God for the strength to keep coming to Kairos, this has been a cool experience
- I knew Jesus loved me but I didn't feel it, now I can feel it
- This has been a great experience and it will give us something worthwhile to talk about on the yard
- This has been an awakening. I was supposed to get a visit this weekend but I got visited by the Lord
- I was in a spiritual battle when I came to Rifle Correctional Center, and a Christian brother encouraged me to come to Kairos
- We can act hard but God likes it when we show weakness
- This has been such a blessing. I have been doing it my way a long time, now I am looking forward to getting out as a man of Christ

*Submitted by Tyne Bush*

## OUR NEW REP TO KPMI

At its 15 April meeting, the Colorado State Committee elected Wayne Park as its new representative to KPMI. For many years Wayne has been serving the Lord in the Kairos ministry in various venues, including the Territorial team and in the formation of the Kairos program at Sterling. In recent years his main focus has been the formation of Kairos programs in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. He is quite well-known and highly respected throughout the KPMI community.

The State Committee is very pleased to welcome him to this additional role.

## DELTA #41 — 12-15 April

Leader's comments:

As servant leader, I sat down two days later and relished the impact of God's works. Miracles....a front row seat to His works. I was simply bewildered to have witnessed, let alone join Him in His process.

Closing -- men who had spent half their life behind bars, men who had taken lives and started the road to forgiveness. Thanks be to God.

Inmate comments to the three questions at the Closing:

1) Arrived lost, drifting, battered, bruised, blinded, weak, fear, rejection, guarded, close-minded, open-minded, confused, lacking, way off track, angry, guilt ridden, very angry, bitter, broken, lost spirit, hardened, no feelings, torn, alone, isolated.

2) Found warmth, love, truth, honesty, caring, self awareness, value, worthy, forgiving, open arms, peace, brothers in Christ, revived, unity, dumped the baggage, safe, let go, fired up my heart, new direction, liberty, freedom, compassion, forgiveness, the joy of love, agape.

3) Taking away God's presence, His forgiveness, knowledge, speakability, forgiveness, guilt free, assurance, new love, new peace, revival, cleansed, truth, Jesus Christ, healed wounds, presence of The Holy Spirit.

Inmate comments at Open Mike at the Closing:

- I've never cried in front of so many people.
- This is a good nervous, because God is good....he created some beautiful people.
- I haven't felt this blessed in a long time....I'll never forget this.
- I have been inspired to receive God's love...and to give it.
- My life was gangs and darkness. Now I find myself singing in God's choir.
- I am going to demolish the walls in my life.
- I witnessed Jesus' pure love this weekend.
- Forgiveness was the hardest lesson of my life, but when I offered up my own forgiveness list, a weight came off my shoulders.
- I thought I was a tough guy....I asked Him into my heart..I experienced Jesus in all my brothers here.
- God told me that he would provide, if I harken to His voice. Here, I have heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you and may God bless you,  
Ron Smith, Leader, Delta #41

## BRAND NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The state committee would like to find a volunteer to help us examine the use of Social Network in this ministry. Social networking with Facebook, Twitter, and so forth may help us increase our web footprint and increase the number of volunteers and the richness of the community. This volunteer might be a young person who wants to build social networking skills into commercial resume material. For everyone's information, the University of Colorado has changed the name of its Journalism Program to Digital Media. That is the purview of social networking and blogging. Maybe it is not for us yet, but let's get a volunteer to help us figure it out.

All you have to do to get started is contact Kevin Condon at  
303-906-4532 or [kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com)

Editor's note: if the thought of this makes your heart beat too fast, try some Digitalis.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
<b>2012</b>		
3rd Sundays, 6:00 pm	LA VISTA WOMEN'S REUNIONS	Sara Igyarto
3-6 May	STERLING EAST #9	John Roehl
18-20 May*	<b>ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (KI) *</b> <b>American Motel &amp; Conference Center, Wheat Ridge</b>	Mark Cook Randy Borden
7-10 June	DENVER #17	Karen Rayer
24-28 July	<b>KPMI SUMMER CONFERENCE</b> <b>Marriott Airport Hotel, St Louis MO</b> ( <a href="http://www.mykairos.org/kalendar.html">www.mykairos.org/kalendar.html</a> )	Glenda Condon
11-14 October	TERRITORIAL #53	Don Ferguson
25-28 October	DELTA #42	Terry Hastings
1-4 November	RIFLE #15	TBD
1-4 November	STERLING WEST #29	Tyne Bush
29 Nov – 2 Dec	DENVER #18	George Holling Mark Cook Glenda Condon

\* As of late April there is still room for more trainees; just contact Randy Borden.

## UPCOMING STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Face-to-face Meeting:**

Saturday 21 July 2012, Kulbitski's at Keystone

**Teleconference:**

Sunday 21 October 2012, 7:00 pm

## KAIROS OUTSIDE ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

### PLEASE HELP US RAISE FUNDS

Donate your used items to this important Fund Raiser to help us provide a fabulous weekend for women whose lives have been impacted by incarceration of loved ones. Contact Steve 303-688-2442 for pick up of your donation or drop off location and/or if you can help us set up and/or work the event on Saturday 9 June, sunrise to sunset, Bethel Christian Fellowship, 5405 West 1st Ave, Lakewood CO.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

"We are called to live in such a perfect relationship with God  
that our lives produce in the lives of others a yearning for God,  
not an admiration for ourselves."

*Oswald Chambers*

## 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 36 states and nine other countries – Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, 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

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#### EX OFFICIO

Chaplain	Jack Olafson	719-590-9639	jolafson7@msn.com
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The Colorado Chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry International publishes this newsletter bimonthly. Kairos Prison Ministry International is a 501(c)(3) ministry. Donations are appreciated and tax-deductible – by check to P.O.Box 25004, Colorado Springs CO 80936, or electronically by [clicking here](#).