

God's

Special



Time

"I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME." Matthew 25:36

AUGUST 1987

KAIROS OF COLORADO, INC.

NEWSLETTER #18

NOTES ON THIRD INTERNATIONAL KAIROS CONFERENCE:

Add a star to your crown! Sandy, Ralph, Muriel, Vic, Louise, Sam, and everyone who gave of their time, talents and energy to make the conference a beautiful experience. It was just like a Kairos week-end, everything that could have gone wrong went wrong. The day before the conference all the key management people that Sandy had been working with were fired. When they arrived to set up, none of the new staff knew any of the plans. God showed us again that He is master of everything. He brought love, peace and harmony out of chaos.

13 states were represented, from the redwood forests to the gulf stream waters. It was uplifting and encouraging to realize the scope and depth of our ministry. To have had the opportunity to meet some of the 9 men who met together for 5 years praying to bring reality to their vision. The first Kairos was held in 1979, and they said we've only just begun.

The focus of the entire conference was on grouping. John Caldwell made a profound statement when he said, "There is no way on earth I can love you unless we become vulnerable to each other". He went on to say that dying to ourselves is the beginning of team formation. If we are not vulnerable to each other we will have a weak ministry. We must submit and surrender to each other. John reminded us that we do not go into the prisons to "Put On" a week-end, but to teach the concept of community via grouping. If our team meetings are focused on the mechanics of the week-end, we are doing it wrong. Team meetings must be spent ministering to each other, learning to trust each other, and dying to ourselves. We must group, group, and group some more, and when the group starts hurting we know it is working. When we go into a facility we are showing the candidates by our lives and actions a new way to relate to each other.

One of the special blessings of the conference was to hear different testimonies each night from ex-inmates who had made a Kairos. Seeing these transformed lives we can say, "Thank you, Lord Jesus, for allowing us to share You in this Kairos ministry".

Make your plans now for the Fourth International Kairos Conference to be held Aug. 11-13, 1988 in Seattle, Washington.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

All of us recognize the purpose of KAIROS is to proclaim the Gospel of God's love in prisons. That is our reason for being. But you know it goes way beyond that in terms of each ones influence. What are some other by-products of the KAIROS ministry. Here are just a few:

1. You begin to appreciate the Christian spirit which prevails throughout other denominational groups. Christ's words in John 17:21 "That they all maybe one;..." takes on real meaning and truth. We are one in God's purposes and love.
2. You begin to realize there is a ministry to others within the KAIROS community. Let me explain. Last fall I received a call from a friend in Atlanta with whom Muriel and I were active in both the Sonshine Cursillo and KAIROS in Miami. The call was a frantic one concerning another Christian who was active in KAIROS in Georgia. His name was Ron. Ron had left home suddenly, preceded by other erratic behavior. My friend from Atlanta asked if I could check hospitals because they thought Ron may have had a tumor or other such problem.

I called Ralph Browning in Colorado Springs to check area hospitals—civilian and military—negative results. I made calls to hospitals in Denver and finally found Ron at Fitzsimmons. I visited him and found he had a brain tumor that needed surgery. His wife, son, daughter, sister and brother-in-law were all at the hospital. Through God's grace I was able to minister to all of them. Subsequently Ron had the tumor removed and returned to Georgia. The prognosis was not the best.

Then in May, I received a call from Ron. He was back at Fitzsimmons due to severe headaches. After many tests, the diagnosis was as previously, a cancerous tumor. Once again it was my privilege to provide a ministry to Ron. My visits with Ron have all been of an up-beat kind, with Scripture and Prayer being main ingredients.

Ron is still in the hospital. I have not visited him as often since moving to Fort Collins, but he is in my daily prayers.

My ministry to Ron would not have been possible had we not been brought together through KAIROS.

3. You begin to thank God for a Prison Ministry that reaches out to fellow Christians. "As you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me." These words of Christ are real to me. God Bless and DeColores.

In Christ's Love
Vic Urban, Spiritual Director

I asked Bob Sears to write the following about the Special Mgmt. retreat.

This July I had the honor of serving on a special retreat week-end at CTCF that I know has made a lasting impression on my life. Now I have been asked to share some of it with all of you.

There were seven of us on the outside team and two inside team members. Actually, we were limited to two inside team members by the facility staff, there were many who volunteered. It was a team effort led by God, and I thank all those who served with me, and those who supported us.

The candidates on this week-end were the men in Special Management. These men have tested positive with the AIDS virus. They are kept in isolation from the other inmates, fed separately on styrofoam trays, literally cut off from the rest of the world.

On the weekend we had fourteen men participate, and right from the beginning they were highly cooperative and courteous. They were aware of their condition and hesitant to hold hands during prayer, or even reach for a cookie. In fact it took some prodding to get them to help themselves.

The most noticeable thing to me about these men was their hunger for contact of any kind. Hunger to know they are still part of the world and that people do care they are alive. Another noticeable thing about all of them was that none were in the depths of despair about their condition. Some were down, but all were able to share joy, smile and laugh.

One of the highlights of the entire weekend was the general comment from many of them that they had thought they were alone, but they discovered that they have a community among themselves. That whether homosexual or straight they can forget their differences and share together. Something that is still going on at this time. Another thing they learned is that they are not alone in the facility. This was made clear to them in the abundance of palanca from the other inmates that was still coming in through the fence on Sunday morning. Also the palanca from CWCF.

At this time, one month later, these men are still sharing together. The CTCF staff has made some changes in their yard so when the Kairos group meets to sing on the yard on Sundays, there is only a fence between the two groups so they can sing and share together.

I have the pleasure of seeing and talking with these men every week and they are always open, friendly, and smiling. They are a real inspiration to me. They have problems that out weigh any of ours, yet they keep smiling and even took the time to make palanca posters, bookmarks, write letters and poetry for the team and inmates at CTCF, to show their love and gratitude rather than dwell on their own problems.

I thank God I was able to do this weekend I know I shall never forget it.

The following poem is from a poster from the Special Mgmt. Unit.

CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!

No matter what others are doing, my friend,
Or what they are leaving undone.
Christ is Counting on you to keep on with the job
'till the very last battle is won.
He's counting on you to be faithful;
He's counting on you to be true.
Yes others may work or others may shirk,
But remember, Christ is counting on you!

ATTENTION

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Kairos of Colorado is in dire need of more people in the Kairos Community to step forward and qualify to be rectors and rectoras for future weekends in the state correctional facilities.

To qualify for rector or rectora you must have been involved in the following positions on a weekend; 1) table leader, 2) given at least two talks, 3) worked in the kitchen, 4) bell ringer, and 5) attended the rector/rectora training session.

This position is very important if Kairos is to keep going and doing the Lord's work in these facilities. We are at present in three facilities with two more asking Kairos to put on weekends in their facilities, this means ten weekends a year.

Kairos needs you! So I challenge you in the name of Jesus Christ to step forward to fill this gap and to give Kairos the help and lift its needs to do the Lord's work in the state facilities.

Your brother in Christ,
Phil Marsh, Team Building Director

ULTREYAS

Women's Ultreya is the first Sunday starting at 4:30 P.M.
Women's Fellowship is the third Sunday starting at 4:30 P.M.
Territorial Ultreya is the first Sunday starting at 6:00 P.M.
Fremont Ultreya is the first Sunday starting at 6:30 P.M.
Skyline Ultreya is the first Sunday starting at 3:00 P.M.
Reminder - these are the starting times inside the facilities.
Remember to arrive earlier to get from the parking areas to the meeting areas.

DENVER REUNION

Last Friday of the month at St. Pauls Episcopal Church, 10th & Garrison, Lakewood starting at 7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is Sept. 17, 1987 at 7:00 P.M. at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1450 South Holly, Denver.
Anyone who wishes may attend.

DATES TO PLAN FOR

Sept. 10-13 Fremont #10 Andrew Kaminski, rector.
Nov. 19-22 Territorial #4 Moses Archuleta, rector.
CWCI #10 had to be cancelled because of the asbestos work.

DATES TO PRAY FOR

Sept. 4-7 Denver men's Catholic Cursillo.
Oct. 9-12 Denver women's Catholic Cursillo.
Oct. 8-11 Episcopal Cursillo
Nov. 13-15 Northern Colorado Koinonia
Nov. 20-22 Denver area Koinonia

KAIROS OF COLORADO

APPLICATION FOR KAIROS TEAM

Thank you for your interest in the KAIROS MINISTRY. This application will allow us to do better selection of teams members. The section marked VOLUNTARY INFORMATION is very important in helping us have a denominationally balanced team. It is important that you be active in your FOURTH DAY. We appreciate your willingness to commit yourself to this special ministry.

NAME: _____ GENDER: F: _____ M: _____ HOME PHONE #: (303)-_____
ADDRESS: _____ BUSINESS PHONE #: (303)-_____

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION

WEEKEND ATTENDED: (CURSILLO, KOINONIA, ETC.): _____

PLACE: _____ DATE: _____

CHURCH ATTENDING: _____ DENOMINATION: _____

STREET TEAMS WORKED: _____ TEAM POSITION: _____
DATE: _____

KAIROS OR OTHER PRISON TEAMS WORKED: _____ TEAM POSITION: _____
DATE: _____

Please tell the level activity in your FOURTH DAY: _____

Are you prepared to make a one (1) year commitment to attend bi-monthly ULTREYAS at the correctional facility? YES: _____ NO: _____

Will you be able to attend eight (8) pre-weekend team meetings? YES: _____ NO: _____

We realize sickness and other emergencies can prevent attendance at some meetings.

Do you play a musical instrument? YES: _____ NO: _____ TYPE: _____

please return to:

Philip & Luetta Marsh
6929 Boysenberry Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

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Do you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter and would like to? - Tell us!

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The KAIROS mailing list is used exclusively by the KAIROS community. It is our policy not to sell or distribute said list for any other purpose whatsoever.

Duplicate copy? Please PASS IT ON!

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