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Colorado Web Site

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KPMI Web Site

"God maintains control as an expression of His grace."

Walter Henrichsen,

FROM OUR CHAIR

Greetings Everyone,

I hope this letter finds everyone blessed. The summer conference was a big success for Chaplin Jack as the Spiritual Advisor Course changed from a pilot program in Colorado to a national approved Training Program like A/C Training or Outreach and Recruiting Training. Thank you, Jack, for all your hard work over the past 4 years on this program, and also thank you, Jeff, for your help with the presentation and explanations at the summer conference.

We are so blessed here in Colorado having Steve Gabriel as the IC Chair, Mary Sogan as our International Rep, Jean Mares serving on the Kairos Inside committee, and Wayne Park heading up New Country Start ups and mentoring Daniel Garcia for the full time position in Florida. Kris Briggs attended the conference to find out more information on the pilot program in Maryland for Kairos After-Care and will be making a presentation at the January SC Meeting. Jeff Holley, in addition to his help with presenting the Spiritual Advisor Course, also participated in many other events. Thanks to all of you for your dedication and heart for Kairos.

It is the time of year when the State Committee is looking for a few good volunteers to serve. This year, due to term limitations, we will be replacing the International Representative, Financial Secretary, Data Coordinator/Web-Master, Outreach/Recruiting Chair, and a Clergy – preferably a male clergy this time. If anyone has any interest in serving or knows someone who would fit any one of the open positions, please contact one of the Nominations Committee Members by September 30th after praying and talking to your own family members about serving 3 to 6 years. The contacts are Lee Kulbitski (lkulbitski@comcast.net), Joan Borden (rjborden@comcast.net), or Jeff Holley (jeffreyholley@msn.com).

Jackie Cuneo and CDOC are working on the possibilities of a Care Givers Choice program for Children of the incarcerated. This program is mentoring of children to help break the chain of their following their parent's footsteps into prison. More info will follow as it becomes available. Please do not bother the CDOC with questions on this program until a decision is announced.

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>
<u>2010</u>		
1st Sundays, 1:00 pm	HUDSON ALASKAN CF REUNIONS (Note: this includes 5 September)	Peter Kufeke
3rd Sundays, 6:00 pm	LA VISTA WOMEN'S REUNIONS	Sara Igyarto
2nd Fridays, 7:00pm	DENVER STREET GATHERING CRRP	Paul Benevides
3rd Fridays, 6:30pm	COLORADO SPRINGS STREET GATHERINGS	Jean Magnuson
7-10 October	DELTA #38	Dick Bussing
7-10 October	TERRITORIAL #50	John Parker
14-17 October	LIMON #11	Mark Raymond
4-7 November	STERLING WEST #27	Rob Bradley
2-5 December	DENVER WOMEN'S #14	Carol Minner
<u>2011</u>		
February	FREMONT #49	Greg Connon
17-20 March	RIFLE #12	Ramon Huerta
7-10 April	TERRITORIAL #51	Jim Carter
14-17 April	DELTA #39	Rick Rieger
5-8 May *	STERLING EAST #8	Dwight Cook
13-15 May	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (KI and KO) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Randy Borden
2-5 June	DENVER #15	TBD
Summer or September	KAIROS OUTSIDE #5	Cindy Card
3-6 November	RIFLE #13	William Kehr
3-6 November *	STERLING WEST #28	TBD
6-9 October	TERRITORIAL #52	Tom Guidera
6-9 October	DELTA #40	Mark Kennedy
1-4 December	DENVER #16	TBD
* probable dates		

HUDSON

We have now had three monthly reunions at Hudson, with about fifty very enthusiastic Alaska Kairos graduates at each. There were also some interested new folks.

The current potential "harvest" at Hudson is 872 , and our workers number about five — a contemporary example of "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Are you a worker who has been called? If so, please contact Peter Kufeke for more detail.

The next Hudson orientation session is from 8:00 to 12:00 on 28 August.

The next Monthly Reunion is on Sunday 5 September (yes, Labor Day weekend), at 1:00 pm.

GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS

A report by Jeff Holley

We are told by scripture to be good financial stewards. Interestingly, the very verses that instruct us on this point immediately precede our ministry's founding verses. This proximity in the Bible should be a sign to us of the importance of this principle in our ministry. The parable of the talents implores us to take what the Lord gives us and not only make use of it, but go out and multiply its effects. I have two items that fit under this heading to discuss this month.



WYOMING

The Colorado State Committee was approached by KPMI to assist them in getting a Wyoming chapter started. The SC chose me to travel to Casper for the Wyoming Criminal Justice Conference with John Thompson. We hosted a booth at the conference and elicited support for Kairos in Wyoming prisons. John Thompson spoke with the head of Wyoming prisons and we received a positive response with a name and number of the programs director for the whole system and were encouraged to proceed with our plan. This is a very good result for our efforts. My research indicates that the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins is the most compatible facility (Kairos targets long-term stable populations of medium-to-high security) and easily supported by the large population centers of Cheyenne and Laramie. I have already presented to the NCEC Emmaus community last weekend in Laramie. I spoke with representatives from both Laramie and Cheyenne and plan to have them each send a group to the Sterling West Closing in November.

I humbly ask for prayerful consideration from a select few of you in the Kairos ministry to serve with me on the first weekend to mentor this new team ministry should we get to that point. It is my prayer that we will develop the necessary contacts and gather a Wyoming based population of volunteers for Kairos. They will need our prayers, our experience, and probably some financial infusion to get started. No other endeavor we can do is more Christian than using our abundance to create new ministries.



SUMMER CONFERENCE AND NEW BOARD STRUCTURE

The KPMI Summer Conference just finished up in San Antonio, Texas. I had the honor to go and present Chaplain Jack's Spiritual Advisor program to the Kairos-Inside Sub-Committee, and we achieved a unanimous vote to proceed. So, Jack will now be able to teach his course *Kairos-wide*. Congrats to Jack!

While I was at the conference, I had the opportunity to participate in the sub-committee meetings and the International Council meeting. The next couple of days, I focused my time to seminars on topics on the workings of the new governance structure of KPMI, including the Board of Directors, the International Council and the Foundation. I also had the added blessing of getting to know many of the integral players in these changes and hear first hand what their thoughts and reasoning were for making the changes.

What I can report is that the new system works and will be a great advancement for all of Kairos. Even a topic as controversial as significant manual changes was passed unanimously! This says a lot about a ministry that is unified and strong.

I can't possibly relate all that I learned, but just a quick overview with some simple word associations, and I believe that I can impart the critical changes.

- The new structure had to have an industry standard **Board of Directors** in the 10-20 range, and 15 was chosen. Their job is **governance** or the business of running the ministry, which includes **goals** and **policy**. They deal with IRS, government regulations, legal issues and the hiring/firing of the staff. They are elected by the International Council.
- The **International Council** is much like the previous board, with a representative number of members, 1 per state or 1 per 15 programs, plus a few at-large to ensure balance of KI, KO, and KT. They also added up to 8 ex-officio (non-voting) positions for folks like other 4th-day groups like Emmaus, Cursillo, other prison ministries, etc. Their job is **ministry** and **procedure** details like the manuals and Ezra.
- The **Staff**, John Thompson and his crew, Bill, Jo... etc. They are paid employees that work for the BOD. Their job is **implementation**. They "get it done".
- The last bit is the **Foundation**. Once you have a ministry of considerable size, then you have a lot of cash and a lot of liability. In this day and age of the litigious society, we **protect our assets** by having them in a separate organization.

(more ->)

GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS (concluded)

The reasons for the changes are complex, but the nutshell is that it 'had to happen'. Recent history is full of examples of non-profits abusing their tax-free position. From Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker to the USOC in Salt Lake, the impetus came to clean house. Other financial reporting and transparency laws for regular corporations, particular the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, shepherded a new era of financial accountability. KPMI hired some top shelf business consultants, whose cost was covered by a generous donor who helped the board identify the direction that they had to go to be considered a respectable ministry, one able to attract big corporate donors and possibly become accredited by Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and/or Charity Navigator.

. Imagine if the "nine grumpy old men" who founded Kairos thought it was enough to just raise enough money for just their one prison in Florida. What if they had accepted that one small group as "big enough"? No, they knew that a good thing like the love of Jesus had to be shared, even if it meant sacrifice on their parts. What a great example they set for us with their actions.

I would love to personally talk to each one of you and pass on my contagious joy about how exciting this new era for KPMI will be. Feel free to call or email me if you have questions.

M. Jeffrey Holley, Advising Chair, State Committee

LEADERSHIP IN KAIROS

In May I was delighted to attend a niece's graduation from Adams State College but was not looking forward to the commencement address because they are seldom memorable. So after the emotional entry to Pomp and Circumstance, the seating of the graduates to be, and the various introductions, I settled in for a few minutes of wool-gathering. Almost immediately I realized this was not that sort of address. Dr. Susan Belanger, an ethicist at the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University Medical Center who was the speaker has given me permission to use her questions in whatever way might be beneficial to Kairos.

Dr. Belanger defined a professional as "one who publicly promises to provide proficient and dedicated service to those who need it by putting the concerns of others above their own." Does that sound like a Kairos volunteer? It does to me. It echoes Jesus' message to his disciples. "But Jesus summoned them, and said, 'You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you, but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever desires to be first among you shall be your bondservant, even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'" (Matthew 20:25-28)

Following are the questions she asked the graduates, changed slightly to fit us as Kairos volunteers and ones we should ask ourselves individually and collectively.

- What can our community expect of us as leaders?
- What can our community expect of us as experts?
- What can our community expect of us as teachers?
- What can our community expect of us as advocates?
- What can our community expect of us as change agents?
- What should we expect of ourselves?
- What are my values? Can I be relied upon to act ethically and virtuously? Do I keep my moral and spiritual compasses calibrated? Am I fair, firm, and consistent?
- Is Kairos better off because I am a part of it?

Another Kairos volunteer shared this on leadership from *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders. "Do you readily gain the cooperation of others and win their respect and confidence? Genuine leadership doesn't have to manipulate or pressure others."

The Bible is full of examples of leaders – Moses, David, Deborah, Paul, and of course, Jesus – to name just a few.

Finally, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6) May it be so for us in Kairos of Colorado.

Submitted by the Reverend Glenda Condon

TRAINING

AKT Kairos Inside was a success this May 21st - 23rd, with participants traveling in from Arizona, California, Idaho, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. We had participants from seven out of our nine facilities here in Colorado as well. There was a lot of food, beverage and nourishment. The nourishment came in both a physical and spiritual nature. There were moments of tears and others of great laughter, as well as it being a constant learning experience. We all had a great time of fellowship from Friday evening to noon on Sunday. What a beautiful job of training and serving that Mike Springer and Angela Tasker did for all who attended!

The AKT Kairos Outside training on June 11th - 13th went very well for the first one ever held in Colorado. We had participants from six States (Arizona, Indiana, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas and Washington) as well as from Colorado. The ladies had a great time and learned a lot under the tutelage of Sandi Eng and Marilyn Himmelberg. Jean Mares headed up the kitchen team and the Advisory Council members helped prepare the meals. I personally learned a lot about KO that I previously misunderstood. What a beautiful program for any Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister or Daughter, as long as they are over 20 years old. In many cases they are doing time on the outside just as their incarcerated family member is doing on the inside. Praise God for His Faithfulness in giving people the call to serve these women.

We held training for Advisory Councils across the state to learn more about Recruiting and Outreach for our communities we serve in. The training was lead by Mike Springer on June 12th at the American Motel and Conference Center 9:00AM to 11:30AM in the Liberty Room. We had representatives from all AC's except one from the western slope. Some AC's sent as many as five people, and some had just their recruiting person attend. It was a wonderful morning and time of fellowship together. We have two AC members from two different communities show interest in replacing Pete Kufeke as the State Committee Recruiting and Outreach person from what they learned and how excited they got on Saturday. Pete is currently heading up the expansion of Colorado Kairos into the Hudson Correctional Facility (HCF), and we are term limited on the State Committee just as volunteers are term limited on the Advisory Councils. Also, the training was so special that donations have been made for the start of planning one for next year!

Submitted by Randy Borden

FROM OUR REP TO KPMI

The 2010 Kairos Prison Ministry International Summer Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas from July 27 to Aug 1, 2010 at Trinity University.

The most significant issue affecting the entire ministry was the draft of the new "Kairos Inside" manual, which was approved by an overwhelming majority. KPMI, Inc. now has the equipment, in house, to print these manuals and other printed materials. That means we do not have to wait for over five years again to make corrections and/or changes, as we do not have to print 10,000 copies to keep the cost down.

KPMI, Inc. has contracted to buy a building which will replace the insufficient space where the offices are presently based in Winter Park, FL. The Christian lady who owns the building wanted it to be used to further the spreading of the Gospel and was very generous when KPMI, Inc. showed interest in purchasing the property. They have already received a number of large donations from generous benefactors, and trust the Lord to provide the balance of the down payment. Please pray that the "Lord's Will be done" in this matter.

The motions, approved Kairos documents, a number of helpful tools, and a lot of information can be accessed on the KPMI website: www.kairosprisonministry.org

**Please keep KPMI, Inc., in your prayers for God's Wisdom and Will
to be done in all its decision making.**

Love in Christ,

Mary L. Sogan, Colorado Representative to the International Council

UPCOMING STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Face-to-face Meeting: 8 January 2011 at place TBD.

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

RIFLE #11 CLOSING COMMENTS — 8 August 2010

The table families at Rifle #11 used the following words and phrases to describe their Kairos experience;

Matthew – Came with open minds and hearts, found inner self, brotherly love, caring people, and are taking hope, joy, and faith.

Mark – Came with low spirits, lots of questions, and curiosity, found that God can change people and the ability to open up, and are taking comfort, more of Jesus, and more love for family.

Luke – Came with curiosity, hungry, and needing to be spiritual rebooted, found family, compassion, and the words of Jesus, and are taking knowledge, a memorable experience, and the key to a fresh start.

John – Came with yearning, poor spirit, and searching, found Jesus, opening up was easy, and others on the same spiritual journey, and are taking experience with Christ, Christian brothers, and opened eyes to see God everywhere.

Individual comments included:

I prayed for God to remove the wall I had built up and now I encourage others to let down their walls.

In the past the only consistency in my life was coming back to prison, but now I am headed in a new direction.

I have learned to forgive and let go of resentment.

On the street there was too much bad stuff going on, but here with Kairos I have time to work on spiritual things.

An individual related this experience:

I had stumbled into a church where they took the time to try and teach me about the Bible. I had been in a Bible study for a while and finally got up the courage to walk down the aisle. The preacher prayed and prayed and I wanted to receive the Holy Spirit but nothing happened. Then the preacher said this man is not believing. I became very negative toward religion and the church and wanted nothing to do with it. I depended on myself, not on others. This weekend I learned I don't have to depend on myself, God is for me.

Submitted by Tyne Bush

KAIROS OUTSIDE REUNIONS

PLEASE COME !!!!!

Mark your calendar for the remaining 2010 quarterly reunions.

Both are on Saturdays, from 3:30 to 8:00 pm.

11 September

4 December

Both 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

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

Please bring your nametag!

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

SEE YOU THERE!

KAIROS - God's Special Time

(The following witness is used with permission from the author.)

As a boy growing up in Carmel, New York, I had gone to church on a regular basis. Somewhere along the line, I grew away from religion. Jesus was not in my life, though I still called myself a Christian.

A short time after high school graduation in 1963, I joined the Marine Corps. Like most new Marines, I could drink and swear with the best of them. Nineteen months in Vietnam did not help me to find Jesus, although, looking back, he was beside me everywhere.

After the Marine Corps, I found myself working as a Sheriff's deputy in Santa Barbara, CA. This was another "hard outer skin" type of job. One has to keep up the professional image at all times lest others think of you as "too soft hearted" to be effective.

Ten years of working in a county jail and also as a street cop made me tired of the revolving door justice we have in America. I moved to Alaska, got into retail sales, and tried to enjoy the good life. God was still not there, however. I moved back to California and worked my way up the managerial ladder of a retail drug chain. I had always wanted to live in Colorado for its hunting and fishing opportunities. When a transfer opened up, I was ready. The job went well for a few years. I went up the success ladder but something was missing.

In Nov. of 1989, I parted company with retail business, but had no other job lined up. In late Nov., early Dec, a friend mentioned the Colo. Dept. of Corrections was going to be hiring new officers. I had never wanted to work in a prison, but I did need a job. My thinking was only to have money coming in until I found a permanent job I liked. Little did I know then that God was already working for me. Although the DOC personnel department has deadlines, I seemed to make them all with a minimum of prior notice. It was as if God had personally taken me by the hand through each phase of the hiring process.

On Jan 1, 1990, I began my career with the Dept. of Corrections, assigned to Centennial Correctional Facility in Canon City, a maximum security prison which also houses death row. The most hardened of the hard core convicts are sent to Centennial. I thrived with God's helping hand.

On Apr. 1, 1993, I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to the Colorado Womens Correctional Facility. I had been warned by other staff of the type of convicts there. If a male staff member did not watch his step, the women would set him up to have him fired. Claims would be made he had sex with a convict if he found himself in a room with an inmate. She could claim he raped her and begin screaming. A few such incidents and he would be fired. His career with DOC would be over. It was with great apprehension that I started my first day at CWCF. I was assigned a labor crew on grounds maintenance. Some of the inmates were exceptional workers. Others were exceptional by their laziness. On my third day, I was called into the Security Manager's office and informed that one of the inmates on my crew made allegations that I had grabbed her breasts and buttocks. Luckily for me, I had not had contact with the inmate that day other than to lock her into a yard area to work. I had spent the rest of the day working with other inmates.

CWCF has a long hallway with administration at one end and housing units at the other. The housing and programs supervisor, a man who was my supervisor at Centennial, had his office at the housing end of the hallway. I was discouraged as I walked the hallway to seek his advice. It was a low spot of my life.

Just outside his office, one of my better workers approached me. She said she had to talk to me about something important but did not know where to start. She almost had tears in her eyes. I was afraid of another "set up" so I tried to maneuver her outside of the supervisor's office where he could see both of us. When I asked what was wrong, she said there had been allegations against me, that I had touched one of the inmates. She was worried I would be fired. She also said I could not have done anything wrong because I had been with her and other convicts all day. She agreed to tell the housing supervisor and I was cleared. This was new to me. At Centennial, if an officer got himself into trouble, the consensus from the inmates was that it was his problem. If they could clear him, they would not. It was against the "code" of the convict population.

From my first day at CWCF, I was told I and a female sergeant would be assisting the Chaplain with the KAIROS weekend, April 15-18, 1993.

From the first day, I was skeptical of the KAIROS program. I thought it was a waste of manpower to give convicts four days to eat food and have it easy. I felt the volunteers, though having good intentions, were wasting their time.

While the other Sergeant was there -- we overlapped shifts -- I usually stayed outside with her. I had to keep up my hardened exterior. When she went home, I gravitated inside. I wanted to try to pick out who was there to eat and who was there to seek the power of Jesus Christ. I spotted two right off the bat. I know in my heart these two women could care less about religion. I kept it to myself. Prison staff are there only to keep order. They have nothing to do with the weekend. Remember, KAIROS is strictly for the inmate population.

The first time I entered the prison chapel, I looked at the pictures on the walls as I entered the building. When I turned around to go back outside, a beautiful picture of Jesus, painted by one of the convicts, was right in front of me. I quickly turned away from it. Yet, I could not keep my eyes from looking at it again and again. It was so beautiful. I finally left the chapel with tears in my eyes. I realized that I was angry with God for taking both my father and my 16 year old daughter within two weeks in 1990. I was furious with God for taking my daughter. I thought I hid my feelings well but the Chaplain and a few of the volunteers noticed something in me and asked how I was doing, did I go to church regularly? I was honest with them and told them how mad I was at God and why. They said they would pray for me.

I was becoming more and more engrossed in the weekend. I did not sleep more than two hours on any night. Something kept churning over and over in my head. I was angry at God but the transformation I was starting to see in the women was amazing. They had begun to pray openly with volunteers. There were no petty arguments or name calling as I usually saw

God's Special Time -- continued --

within the prison population. Profanity had all but stopped. What was happening to these women? What was happening to me? The inmates were asking me to sit at their table and share meals with them. I was not used to this. My "set up" time was still to come and this was part of the process. By their actions, they were saying, "trust me".

On the third night of KAIROS, inmates are given a chance at an open microphone. Tears are the order of the day as one woman after another gets up in front of the group and tries to tell of her inner feelings. One of the women handed me a handful of her Kleenex as she noticed I seemed to have something in my eyes. A murderess got up and began crying as she said she has always found it hard to trust people. Now, this was a woman I had thought was as hard skinned as I was. But, she wasn't hard skinned at all. Other women came over to me and said they were glad I was with them for the weekend. This was not supposed to be happening. These were convicts, wearing green uniforms. I was a Sergeant, wearing blue. Green shirts and blue shirts were supposed to be against one another. There was to be no union of the two.

Also, on the third night, each participant is given two bags of cookies. One is for them and the other is to be given to any person with whom they have had a problem (in the prison). They must give it and either ask forgiveness of that person or give forgiveness to that person. As I went to work on the fourth day I wondered how the given bags had been received. As each woman got up and told her story, it was to be another day with dirt in my eye. All the bags were received with gratitude. The giver and the recipient were on a new footing of friendship and a hug sealed the bargain.

The last night of KAIROS is special to everyone of the volunteers and to the participants. From the chapel, everyone moves to the larger auditorium. There, all of the volunteers including those behind the scenes have gathered for a final ceremony to hopefully send these women back to the prison with Jesus Christ as their savior to spread His word.

It was to be a double handful of Kleenex night. Each workshop table was to get up before the audience and explain what they had gotten out of the four days. After that, there was open mike time. One by one each of the girls got up and accepted the Lord as her savior. The two girls I thought were there just for the food; both had accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord. One wanted to be baptized as soon as possible. It is nice to be wrong once in a while.

The leader called one of the volunteers up to give a short speech. While she was talking, I suddenly realized why I had not slept the past few nights. What I had been churning over and over in my head were things I wanted to tell these ladies; one was that I, too, had accepted Jesus into my heart again. I was no longer angry with God. But I couldn't tell them. This was their weekend with the Lord. This was not my time, it was theirs. I was engrossed in my own thoughts when I looked up and realized the leader was holding the microphone out to me. I started to decline but then realized it was useless for

two reasons. Every one of the inmates who made KAIROS that weekend was cheering and clapping for me to come up. I also realized at that moment that this was the reason God had brought me to CWCF. It had nothing to do with the labor crew or my promotion to Sergeant. It had everything to do with my life as a Christian and with those women who had allowed me into their private lives. I owed my life as a Christian to those convicts. I would not let them down.

I told them of my father's death. How he was old and sick for many years. God taking him was a blessing. He was in a better place. I could not tell them of my daughter. It would have been too emotional. She was an honor student, she was a potential world class ice hockey player. She had also suffered a breakdown after the suicides of three of her friends. She had been hospitalized as potentially suicidal herself. Just when she was putting all of that behind her and was due to come home for good, she died of an apparent allergic reaction to medicine prescribed for her. The support I received while talking that night both from God and from the KAIROS participants was overwhelming.

After the ceremony, I was thronged by everyone. Hugging was the order of the day. One woman told me she had been a con for 17 years and had never hugged an officer, but she did that night. A Catholic priest took a KAIROS cross on a rainbow of woven yarn from his neck and placed it around mine. Volunteers said many times they had never seen an officer getting such a warm welcome or being asked to speak. It was a beautiful night for everyone.

Watching these ladies break away all barriers to let Jesus Christ into their hearts was painful for each of them. I have never seen a group of people put forth so much emotional work and they did. I am honored these lovely ladies allowed me to touch their lives. I am proud they have touched mine.

Editor's footnote --

Six months later, at the next Kairos Closing, this officer pulled his Kairos cross out from under his shirt and witnessed further: "Since the last KAIROS weekend, this cross I wear is one of the proudest possessions I have, and I carry a lot of Kleenex, too. Not just because it's a cross -- I can buy a cross -- but because you guys gave it to me. One day my wife said, 'Grown men don't wear little pieces of rainbow yarn.' -- she wanted to get me a nice chain. But I said, 'Honey, this man wears a little piece of yarn.' (To inmates): He's carried me for years. He'll carry you, too. And I challenge you that if I hear you cussing and swearing in the halls, I'm going to call you on it, and I want you to call me on it, too. By the way, (laughing) I'm going to have to write up all this hugging and kissing going on here."

"God's Special Time"



Prison Ministry

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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