

NON PROFIT ORGN
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLO SPGS, CO
PERMIT #878

KAIROS of COLORADO, Inc.
P. O. Box 25004
Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5004

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"

Volume 12 #5

Christmas 1994

"I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:36

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING: "SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE"

The world around us is changing faster than most of us can keep up with. Some of our religious organizations are drifting toward the liberal side. The Congress is shifting toward the conservative side. Interest rates are going up. The size of large companies is constantly going down -- that is, lots of people are being fired.

Many of our Christian brothers and sisters are caught up in these changes -- changes that can be very disturbing, changes that can lead to a deterioration of our individual spirituality. But remember, **we are in the world, not of it. WE are the church.** We are to keep separate what's going on inside of our own spirit from what's going on in the state of the world. For a memory jogger, think of it as "**separation of church and state**".

Our spiritual strength begins to be drained when we stop lifting our eyes to Jesus. He Himself said, "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." (John 12:32)

We sing, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus." Jesus first. Our individual relationship with Him first. Jesus, quoting the Law of Moses, reminds us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30) What was essential to human spirituality then is still essential to our spirituality now. All peoples have organizational problems and governments to deal with; but Jesus reminds us to focus first on our own personal relationship with God. We are to treat organizations and individual spirituality separately -- just as in "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." (Mark 12:17)

Do we ignore the organizations? Of course not. We pray for them. We get involved if we can make a positive contribution. But let's give first priority to our relationship with God -- regardless of what "the world" does in its organizations.

MAKE A FRIEND -- BE A FRIEND -- BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

PRESIDENT: Rev. Dave Buckingham 303-777-5715
VICE PRES: Joe Mares 303-935-9327
NATL REP: Mary Sogan 303-937-7675
SECRETARY: Dave Tillack 303-753-1529
TREASURER: Peggy Strub 719-634-2821
SPIR DIR: Rev. Dee Pomerinke 303-646-3155

FACILITY COORDINATORS:
WOMEN: Gerry Lam 719-390-8732
FREMONT: Jim Waters 719-632-5759
TERRITORIAL: Gene Wilkowski 303-939-8171
DELTA:
LIMON:

Printing courtesy of St. Michael the Archangel Church (Episcopal), Colorado Springs Editors: Peggy and Jim Strub

SPRING 1995 CALENDAR

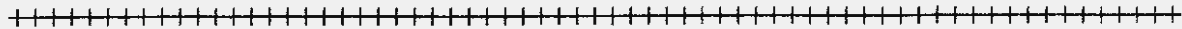
Fremont 25 **March 16-19**
Women's 24 **April 20-23**
Delta 7 **April 27-30**
Territorial 19 **May 25-28**

LAST FRIDAY REUNIONS

- * Open to ALL
- * Denver area
- * Potluck at 6:30
- * Fellowship
- * Witnessing
- * Speakers

Please **mark your calendar now** with any of the above dates for which you need to plan ahead, either as a **team member** or as a **Closing guest**, and definitely as a **prayer partner**. Each and every one of you is a vital part of this ministry. Please contact any Board member for more information.

The Reunion will be held in various churches around the metro area, so please **call Joe Mares** for the current location and directions and **bring friends!** *See you there!*



LET'S HELP JACKIE'S DREAMS COME TRUE

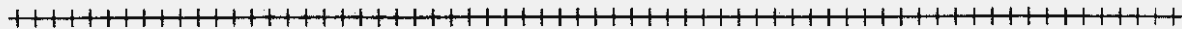
Jackie Martinez is a very special young lady who has been active in the Kairos Prison Ministry for many years. Her deep love for God and for the inmates of the Colorado Women's Correctional Facility have drawn many closer to Christ, both inside and outside the prison.

Jackie has been diagnosed with a terminal disease called Primary Pulmonary Hypertension. She is now on the list for a lung transplant, and we ask your prayers that God will open that door of hope. Her trust in God's loving care for her is an inspiration to all who come into contact with her. This was especially true for those she served and served with during the last Women's Kairos weekend -- #23 in October 1994.

One special DREAM of Jackie's is to take her family to Disney Land when she is medically allowed to travel. Donations are now being accepted for her DREAM fund. If you would like to make a donation, please send your check or money order to:

Jackie Martinez Fund c/o Diana Drieling
Norwest Bank
2222 South Buckley Road
Aurora, CO 80013

Please share JACKIE'S DREAMS with others who may want to help.



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

The Colorado District Board of Directors elected two new members at its meeting on December 1, and looks forward to seating them at the January 5, 1995 meeting. The new members are Tony Castillo, who is active in our ministry at Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility, and the Reverend Bill Potter, who isn't really new at all. Bill was a primary "mover and shaker" in starting the Kairos prison ministry in Colorado in 1982 and was on the original Board. **Welcome aboard, Tony and Bill!**

FROM INSIDE -- AN INMATE'S RESPONSE TO KAIROS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One and a half years ago I was blessed to be a candidate in a Kairos Weekend in a Colorado prison. It had been a couple of years since Close Security inmates had been allowed to attend, and God had answered the prayers of many by allowing us to go.

Before I share with you how blessed my Kairos experience was, let me give you a little background about myself and my condition prior to attending.

Four years ago I had given my life to Christ in the county jail, and although my faith and trust in God had grown since then, my trust in people had not.

Two and a half years ago I was convicted of 1st Degree Murder and Conspiracy to commit 1st Degree Murder, which means a Life sentence and no parole. My case was highly publicized and due to this, I was very apprehensive about coming out of the safe confines of the prison to meet with Christians from the outside. As an inmate, my name is boldly displayed on the back pocket of my pants and on the breast pocket of my shirt; and, although they may not have seemed huge to anyone else, they seemed like neon signs to me. I was paranoid and scared. I truly believed that Christians, above all others, were more prone to judge and hate me. Inside the prison walls I had found acceptance and friendship among some of my fellow inmates. I felt safe with them and I was grateful that some of them would be attending the Kairos with me or would be working on the inside team.

The first night of Kairos was very difficult for me -- as I suppose it is for pert near everyone! I found myself whisked away from the friends I felt safe amongst and nestled among all these strange faces. Yet, God knew what I needed and had blessed me with a very kind, soft-spoken sponsor whose eyes showed the love of Jesus. Still unsure, I felt heavily burdened with an overwhelming desire to hide my true self, to edit everything I said and with a need to appear happy. The love I saw and felt around me I didn't trust, and to stand up and say who I was, where I was from, etc., was very painful. I wanted to run back into the safety of the prison as quickly as I could!

As the next few days passed, the love and expression of Christ's grace increased and the wall I had thrown up so high began to come down. I wanted so much to be a part of this amazing group I had met and to relax and be me, but I couldn't. Oh yes, I put on the air of confidence and surety, but it was just that. Inside, my heart was beating 1000 miles a minute any time anyone asked me anything or even looked my way!

By Saturday, I had spoken with, and been ministered to, by more of the outside team members -- one of whom came to me and confessed about having judged me very

harshly and asked for my forgiveness. I didn't know quite what to say... ME forgive THEM!?! With all the shame I felt inside I couldn't believe that someone wanted ME to FORGIVE them for something I couldn't come to terms with myself.

Little by little, I did relax and began to actually believe that I could be forgiven and accepted just the way I was -- that I could open up and show my pain, fear, smiles and tears with this huge Christian group.

After receiving the Palanca bags, and being overwhelmed with the outpouring of love that was in all the letters in that tiny bag, I found myself fighting to stay as shallow as possible while the Spirit was urging me to just let down that wall, to be vulnerable and not be so afraid. When "open mike" time came that night, determined not to say anything, I sat there and was moved by the amount of feeling and honesty that was being shared by my fellow candidates; and finally, heart pounding right out of my chest, the Lord gently pushed me up to speak. Trembling, yet trying to keep that cool, and those blasted tears from coming out of my eyes, I confessed my fear to the crowd and told how in judgment's place I had found love in unmeasurable amounts. The tears flowed, my voice squeaked, and I thanked them for accepting me as I was.

I was able to bask in the love of Christ for the last day of my Kairos. I found a place among the new family I had found -- that was a wonderful mixture of people from both in and outside the prison walls.

Since then, I have been an inside team member during the next three Kairos Weekends, and each time those wonderful feelings of acceptance and love overwhelm me. My desire to share and give has also grown with it. Through my Kairos experience, I have a more enriched walk in the prison. I am a part of a prayer and share group that meets every Thursday afternoon, and the people the Lord has blessed me with from the past four Kairos weekends have helped me to heal, grow and be content in the life the Lord now wants me to live. I have learned that I cannot make it alone, that I am important, unique and loved. And I can feel free to give that love -- God's love -- to any and everyone without fear of rejection or judgment.

I now know that no matter where the storms of life put me, I do have a purpose in the vast body of Christ! Praise God!

**MAKE A FRIEND
BE A FRIEND
BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST**

FROM WOMEN'S #23 CLOSING —

Some thought there must be a catch to this, but there isn't. We found love, forgiveness, Jesus Christ. You took down the bricks of our walls with God's love.

We found a way to share and be accepted. We found we alone can do it, but we can't do it alone.

I'm like one of those little dried up sponge animals you give your grandchildren. You poured the water on me that filled me up.

I came unsure of God -- how He would accept me. What I found was unreal. I feel really loved. I'm taking love, forgiveness, and the Lord with me, and I feel wonderful!

I thought I was all alone, that God didn't hear me. But He answered my questions with Kairos. I'm learning to forgive and that's very hard for me. I was afraid I'd become vulnerable, but I learned God will carry me through.

I had no spiritual condition when I came. I'd read the Bible and it didn't make sense. I found people at peace with self and I want that. Now I can read my Bible and pray and really understand it.

I found that the Lord forgives me, so I can forgive myself now, too. I have a new beginning. I know what I need to do now, and I know Christ won't leave me.

I found a sense of peace right at the door. I found family, peace, love. I'm taking the Holy Spirit. I'm going to miss you, but I'll see all of you in heaven.

I found a room full of women on fire for Jesus. I'm taking away a goal, to be on fire like they are.

I felt unloved. I found I could let down my walls, no one would judge me. I found I can rebuild my self-worth -- even though I'm in prison, I'm not a bad person. When I get out, I can be different.

I didn't think I could ever be happy. I finally found peace with God. At Kairos God answered every single question I ever had. I'm ready to take that first step to attain what you have now.

FROM TERRITORIAL #18 CLOSING —

We came to Kairos scared, didn't believe in the Lord, and afraid of what we'd find out. Most outside people labelled us, but these didn't -- they brought us love. We understand now that someone gave up His life that we might have freedom.

We're taking hope with us, and a little piece of each of the team members. We've learned how to love and to handle problems here -- like you do outside.

I arrived with no spirituality. This weekend gave me enough spirituality for two people!

I found God's love and I'm going to carry it with me so I can tell others God loves them, too.

This was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I feel something new in my life: God's love, hope to continue, and to come out of the dark I've been hiding in.

Sometimes we inmates feel you people outside don't care, but we found out that you do care and you brought the Spirit of the Lord to us. I found it doesn't cost anything to love -- we can even do it back inside there. I'm going to stay in the brotherhood now, and we can do it because "we are the church".

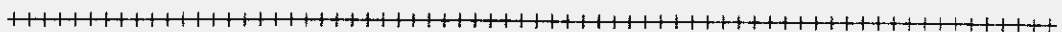
You have lifted us up spiritually. I've been locked up here five years. Some days I wouldn't even say hello to anyone. Now you've got me huggin' folks I never would have before. I left my spiritual upbringing behind. I let Satan steal that from me, but now I'm through with Satan. I'm going to turn my world upside now. You're goin' to hear about it out there.

I've had other opportunities to go to Kairos, but this was "God's time" for me. When I came here from another prison, I saw a difference in how the brothers treated each other here and I wanted to know why. I found out it was because of Kairos, and I'm so thankful God brought me here for this.

From the Territorial Chaplain:

Kairos is the most effective Christian ministry in this prison. In my years here I've seen that Kairos has made a real difference here in the inmates and staff.

(To the inmates): Remember the sign you see as you leave the chapel -- "You are now entering the mission field." Well, you've seen it -- now share it.



CHRISTMAS — GOD'S GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

"For God so loved the world that *He gave His one and only Son*, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) "Thanks be to God for *His indescribable gift!*" (2 Corinthians 9:15) As we celebrate God's great gift, Jesus' birth into the world and into our hearts, please remember all that Kairos gives to our incarcerated brothers and sisters. The gift of Kairos is made possible by its volunteers' gifts of love and time and by the financial gifts of our generous supporters. Notice that our new return envelope has an information form on the flap which can be used for several purposes.

Thank you for your prayers and support!