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"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"

Volume 13 #4

Christmas 1995

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

"GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART,

GIVE THANKS TO THE HOLY ONE"..... By now most Christians are familiar with this popular song of thanksgiving. This article is being written the day after Thanksgiving while still basking in the spirit of that focus, of worship with fellow thankful brothers and sisters, of a day off from usual routines, of special prayers and reflections on all we have to be thankful to "the Holy One" for, of friends and families, of challenges in our lives, of opportunities to serve God in a ministry like Kairos..... Even though we give thanks every day for all of this, it is spiritually and emotionally healthy for us to set aside a day to emphasize our thanks and the One to whom we give our thanks.

In keeping with that emphasis, all actively involved in the ongoing work of Kairos want to express our thanks to our fellow workers, to the many hearts and hands that form the teams to go into the prisons to be Christ's body for the inmates with and to whom we minister. Our teams prayerfully set aside personal problems or agendas, and submit themselves to one another in love to serve this unique high calling.

Those active on teams give thanks to the many who support in background ways. That includes those who pray regularly for the ministry, and who bake the thousands of dozens of cookies needed to help the inmates learn to freely share what God gives them so freely through us. And always, always this includes those who donate money in support of this ministry. "God pays for what He orders" -- so we believe that His having "ordered" this ministry is borne witness to by the many donors without whom we couldn't operate.

So, on behalf of all the Kairos community, for donations past, present, and future, we sing:

"GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART, GIVE THANKS TO THE HOLY ONE"

KAIROS of COLORADO

..... is a Christian prison ministry reaching out to inmates in several Colorado prisons with the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and new life which is available to all who repent of their sin, and submit to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Our ministry is carried out by dedicated volunteers and has no paid staff. We depend entirely on tax-deductible donations from our volunteers, churches, and YOU, our generous supporters.

You may use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries, or write to the address on this newsletter.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

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KAIROS KALENDAR

NATIONAL CONFERENCE, COLORADO, JULY 1996

| | Spring 1996 | Fall 1996 |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fremont | #27 --- Mar 21-24 | #28 --- Sep 19-22 |
| Women's | #26 --- Apr 18-21 | #27 --- Oct 17-20 |
| Delta | #9 --- Apr/May | #10 --- Sep/Oct |
| Territorial | #21 --- May 16-19 | #22 --- Nov 21-24 |

Please keep all of these in your prayers and note the dates for your calendar. We always need Pray-ers, Closing guests, and team members. *"Christ is counting on you!"*

KAIROS TEAM FORMATION

Some of you, even those who have already been on a team, may wonder just how each Kairos team is selected and formed into a unique community of God's design. So we'll try to explain some of that here.

It all starts with prayer and hearing Jesus' call in Matthew 25:36 -- "I was in prison and you came to me." Our first Kairos was in 1982 in Colorado Women's Correctional Facility (Women's or CWCF), followed by 3 men's prisons: Fremont Correctional Facility (Fremont / FCF), Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility (Territorial / CTCF), and Delta Correctional Center (Delta / DCC) out west.

Kairos teams need to be composed of people who have experienced the unique encounter with God's love provided by a Cursillo-type weekend. That's because, as described by one of the "9 old men" founders, in his beautiful southern drawl, *"Ya cain't teach wha'chya don't know eny more'n you kin cum back from where ya ain't bin!"*

Recruiting occurs primarily by word of mouth through friends in church, Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, and Koinonia communities. Each team needs some experienced members and some new ones, for freshness in the blend God designs.

Attending a Cursillo, etc., or serving on a previous Kairos team, does not guarantee a place on a particular team. Kairos serves a unique community in a harsh environment, and each team is prayerfully selected to serve the needs of the inmates, not the "outmates". So, when we old-timers "sit one out", we rejoice in and pray for the new ones God calls on.

DISTRICT BOARD of DIRECTORS

| | | |
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| TERRITORIAL: | Art Vigil | 303-429-5388 |
| DELTA: | Darrell Corlett | 970-244-6985 |

Editors: Peggy and Jim Strub

A big thank you to Gene Wilkowski for his many years of devoted service as Territorial Facility Coordinator! We welcome Art Vigil as our new Territorial Facility Coordinator.

ATTENTION !! IMPORTANT NOTICE !!

Starting now, all team members and Closing guests must complete the 10/95 application form. Facility Coordinators will handle this process.

--- TEAM FORMATION --- continued ---

Part of the fresh blend is that each team has a new lay leader. That Rector/a, his/her assistants, and the Advisory Council for that group, under the authority and guidance of the District Board, pray a lot and trust in the Holy Spirit to assemble and form each team. Someone who is just right for one team at one time may not be needed another time, due to the blending of gifts needed or changes in life circumstances.

The team formation process is an invitation to spiritual growth, cleansing, and healing. We all get wounded in this broken world and need outward experiences of God's reconciling love. Someone says or does one thing, but the other "hears" or "sees" something else... and that leads to a misunderstanding -- or rumor... Fatigue sharpens a tone of voice and feelings get hurt... Then Satan pounces in to take advantage whenever and wherever he can.

But Jesus is the Victor when we come together and share God's reconciling love. Team formation includes processes for gently revealing whatever blocks us from God and each other. Anyone who persists in resentment or condemning judgment needs to seek spiritual counseling before serving on a team. As we surrender those things and seek repentance and reconciliation, God forms us into a Body of Christ which can truly take the "light of Christ" into a dark prison.

So, when you feel called to be available, please tell the appropriate Facility Coordinator. He/she will pass that on, so your name can be included in the team selection prayers. Then trust the results to the Holy Spirit. You are always needed and welcome as a Pray-er and Closing guest.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW !!!
NATIONAL SUMMER CONFERENCE in COLORADO, JULY 17-21, 1996

National Kairos holds a SUMMER CONFERENCE annually in various parts of the country, with the assistance of the local Kairos District. As you can see by the headlines above, the 1996 Conference will be right here in "Cool, Colorful, Colorado". Reservations have already been made for July 17-21 at the YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch near Granby.

The National office takes care of Kairos-wide publicity, program arrangements, collecting fees, and paying conference center bills. **Our Colorado District is responsible for on-site helpful hosts, registrars, name tags, local transportation arrangements, closing banquet entertainment, and ???**

The last Kairos Summer Conference held in Colorado was in 1987 at a motel near Monument. Kairos has grown in numbers a great deal since then. That fact, along with having the Conference in such a popular vacation destination as Colorado, leads us to believe that we can expect an excellent turnout from all over the country. As our current National Representative, Mary Sogan has done everything so far, but we certainly do not intend to burden her with all the rest. So, please go to your "prayer closet" and ask the Lord just what He would have you offer to help with. Contact Mary, or any other Board member, soon with your "YES!"

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8

FROM KAIROS NATIONAL OFFICE -- "There are now 6,500 active volunteers who, quietly and without fanfare, walk into 120 different maximum and super maximum security prisons across this country and Australia and listen to those in pain. They come to love them, to share their own struggles, and, in that listening and sharing, find Christ in each other. This year, over 8,500 men and women will make a Kairos weekend in prison, and about 200 women, wives and mothers of the incarcerated, will attend a Kairos Outside weekend." The Kairos national office is receiving many requests for expansion, including directly from prison authorities. **Your gifts are needed to aid this expansion, and can be sent to:**

Kairos, Inc., 140 N. Orlando Ave., Suite 275, Winter Park, FL 32789.

EX-OFFENDER CREDITS KAIROS FOR TURNAROUND

"John" (not his real name) had been out of prison for five days after being locked up for 25 years. At one time a violent and dangerous criminal, here he was a free man, healthy, intelligent, 50 years old, talking to a KAIROS volunteer who befriended him at a weekend event six years ago. As he shared his struggles to find a job, he talked about his KAIROS experience.

"KAIROS was the best thing that ever happened to me," John began. "I had been to lots of religious programs over the years, and all they did was scold us and tell us what rotten people we were. Then they'd harangue us with endless preaching and scriptures. I was sure KAIROS would be more of the same stuff!"

"I heard that KAIROS provided great food, singing and endless cookies. I figured I could put up with that for a few days. But by the end of the weekend all that mattered was that I found Jesus. I also found acceptance and love. I am out of prison today because of the changes KAIROS made in me six years ago."

The above testimony was in the November-December

1995 Colorado Episcopalian. We give all the glory to God for His work through KAIROS in changing the lives of men and women like John.

A critical follow-up to such change is the time when inmates first come out of prison. If they find no Christian support system outside, their likelihood of returning to prison greatly increases. While KAIROS is not directly involved in aftercare programs, we strongly commend the ministries that do just that.

One such is Colorado DISMAS which offers a home to offenders who cannot be paroled because they have no place to go. Through volunteers and a limited staff, DISMAS provides friendship, community, guidance, and a profound understanding of the hell and confusion that offenders go through when they first come out of prison.

DISMAS residents have a high success rate for staying free. They become employed, productive citizens, paying taxes and restitution, in addition to being nurtured in their Christian growth while at the Denver DISMAS house. For more information, contact Bob St. Clair, 303-423-2055.

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

— AND IN CLOSING —

DELTA #8 -- Rector's comments --

We had a good Closing with about 26 out of 30 residents going all the way through. They gave excellent testimony. Two of them accepted Christ on the weekend and many more rededicated their lives.

At the Instructional Reunion a week later three different ones were baptized by the Chaplain. The beautiful part of that was that each one was from a different ethnic group.

Ted Van Horn

FREMONT #26 Closing --

We came weak spiritually, unsure, wondering, thinking "What will happen?" We found friends, brothers, hope, answers, laughter, joy. Our spiritual brothers fed us. Our plates are full and overflowing with God's love. We need to feed ourselves and each other with the spirituality we found here.

I'm taking a bit more love in my heart. I used to be mean to this guy, but I was really angry at myself. So, in front of everybody here, I want to apologize. I'm taking compassion in my heart.

I didn't want to come -- I can find God anywhere. God was cleaning me out, but I was in a mud hole. A friend said don't judge before you go. God told me to shine my boots and go. I was obedient and went. He released me from sin and unforgiveness. I'm leaving with a stronger relationship with Christ. God showed me a lot here. It's touched my heart to see God touch a brother here I was praying for. I'm saving my picture and letters to make a poster board when I get out to remind me of this all over again. Now I can shine a little brighter in the darkness in here. Hate and drugs were my God on the street. Now I want to live forever with Jesus.

I lived a very selfish life, thought myself better than others as I didn't drink, smoke, do drugs. I've ignored my family, wanted to do everything my way, didn't care about others. God showed me that money, etc., wasn't real life. I thought I was following God, but I wasn't. A Pastor showed me what it is to submit myself, lay down my life for others. I withdrew into my cell, but 'No, that's not the way'. Now these Kairos people showed me how to share God's love. I will be deported to Russia soon, but I'll go as a Christian. Thanks for sharing God's love with me. Now I'll share it with others.

It's a cloudy day, but I see sun shining here, and the earth was shaking this afternoon. I remember my daughter falling off a table to me, trusting me to catch her. I decided to jump that way, trusting God. You all got a jewel in your crowns today. I love you all.

God set my heart on fire last night. My heart burned and I knew Jesus at that moment. He told me He loves and forgives me. Now if I could only get that through my thick head.

TERRITORIAL #20 Closing --

We were in critical condition, brokenhearted, needing surgery. We had no knowledge of God. We found peace of mind. We're taking a desire to know God and a new way to change our lives.

I ran from Christ all my life -- no more! I thought I was tough before, but I'm soft now.

I came with mixed emotions. I wasn't going to come, but God told me to come. I was fighting spiritual war inside. I got set free inside and found love, companionship. I found out what agape love is all about. Jesus is the true key to freedom!

I was a solo Christian. I found peace of mind. I'm more at ease with myself. Now I can pass the Lord's love on to those having a hard time.

I had trouble believing different Christians could come together. I give all praise to Christ, because without Him none of this could happen.

I think I've made a good start getting right with God. Those letters really touched me, and so did a Bible I can understand.

I always knew about God, but I was skeptical. Now I've got my foot in the door. It must be a powerful force that can change hearts of cold-hearted criminals like us. It doesn't matter what kind you are -- Black, White, Jew, Mexican, Indian... God'll "reach out and touch" you like AT & T.

I want to ask your prayers for all of us who want God at the center of our lives. We really need that, with all those wild people in here. I praise God for all of you.

I've never committed to anything all my life. Now I'll do my best to stick with this commitment. I've never had a family. I don't know what love is or how to love. All I've know is just. But you've shown me so much. I thank God for that!

I've been carrying a big burden, a big chip on my shoulder. But these last 3 days -- that chip is gone and I'm gonna make it this time. As long as I've got the Lord with me, I'll be OK.

WOMEN'S #25 Closing --

Satan had me, and he does not have me anymore.

I came with a big hole in my heart, hurt and bitter, an infection in my soul. Now I have the love of Jesus, no bitterness, and the love of Jesus has taken that infection away.

I'm taking a deep burning desire to stay close to God. I know now I have something to look forward to. Jesus loves me.