

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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GIVING AND RECEIVING

Here we are between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In both celebrations we acknowledge that we have received something, and we give thanks to God for having given it. By faith we know that we will receive something even better in the future, and we are especially thankful ahead of time for that! We sing:

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

GIVING

In Kairos we give — to the inmates, to fellow teammates, to others in the ministry. From childhood it is pounded into our heads that it is more blessed to give than to receive. So we give “time, talent, and treasure” to Kairos, AND to our families, our churches, our community, and so on.

Consider for a moment what it is that we are “giving” — whose it is, where it came from. We say we go into the prisons in God's love, letting Him use **our** time, **our** talents, **our** treasure for His purposes there; we are giving of **ourselves**. But where does the “**our**” come from? It is really God who is doing the giving, isn't it. We are merely the channels, the hands and feet of the Spirit of Christ in these times. The **ours** is really **His!** We can only pass on what He has given us — and what we have been willing to receive. We can only give of “ourselves” this way “because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.”

At this time of year the Scripture readings tell us of the coming of Jesus — the first time AND the second time! We give thanks to God for both times, one by experience, the other by faith. And we give thanks for His making us able to receive!

RECEIVING

In Kairos we receive — from the inmates, from fellow teammates, from others in the ministry. Kairos people say they get more out of this ministry than they put in. That is indeed a blessing and says a lot about their hearts, because it is hard to receive without feeling obligated to give something back.

Why is it hard to receive? Pride gets in the way. We will give and give and give, but to accept a gift is another thing. We think we have to “earn” everything that comes our way. That may be true for earthly things, but not for the things of God. The Scripture tells us that we cannot earn anything from God through our own efforts. We either receive His love and grace and blessings as gifts or do without them. This sounds easy, but pride can make it difficult.

To receive the things of God we have to be “weak” in terms of our perceived self-contained strength, “poor” in terms of our portion of pride. Until we get there, our Lord cannot use us as his gift.

And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us!

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

FROM WOMEN'S #29

I did drugs for 25 years, but never felt intoxicated like this. I had to come to prison to find what I really needed. I'm born again at 40 and am truly new!

My Father died a long time ago. Yesterday I got a vision and was able to tell him that I love and forgive him for my Mom's abuse.

I'm in here for murder. I've had a hard time dealing with guilt and nightmares. My kids being without a Mom -- that's another guilt to deal with. Now I've learned I don't have to handle it alone. For the first time in two years, I slept with no nightmares.

I thought going to prison was like dying -- people forget all about you. But you didn't forget us. You came and loved us without strings, without judging. I'm full to the top of my head.

We're taking peace, knowing we've been saved, with greater love than we've ever known. We're taking a new walk, on the right path, how to walk it. We're walking out with heaven in our souls.

We came bankrupt, in foreclosure, in layaway, in a war, searching for the real Jesus. We found Jesus and that others outside can be "in prison", too. We're taking Jesus, more Jesus. Our job is to be disciples and go out and spread the Gospel.

I had a Christian family, but I was a hardhearted child. My Mom gave up and put me in God's hands. Now I can call her and tell her 'I got it!'

I look out at your faces, you break my heart with love. I pray for you sisters every night. I had to come to prison to learn to love and accept myself.

Everything I've always wanted to go in and out of me, I got in these few little days. We had a Holy Ghost party. We are so blessed in here!

FROM DELTA #14

I was always in Church, but I never took Christianity or God seriously. I remember the story in Church about Jesus searching for the lost sheep, and now I have to take it seriously because it is about me. Jesus searched for me and found me right here in prison.

What we've been given here we've got to take out there -- to anybody, anywhere, anytime.

They say you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. I'm a mule. But don't quit leading those mules to water; this one accepted Jesus because of your leading.

I've been like a beat up old '54 truck with fuel tank on E. Now I'm still the same old truck, but my fuel tank is on F. Jesus filled it up, Jesus is all we need.

I've always been radical. In Kairos the Lord's compassion came all over me. I cried and cried and cried. Now I'm more radical than before.

I'm from Alabama. We have a reputation there for southern hospitality. I've learned at Kairos that we in Alabama have some serious competition in the hospitality department. One of the biggest impacts on me this weekend was to learn how many people are praying for us. I went back to my living unit on Friday for some aspirin and found a letter that had just been delivered from a County Commissioner in Alabama who I hadn't spoken to in 10 years. He was offering me a job, a church, a new start when I get home. This wasn't a coincidence. It takes 5-7 days for a letter to get here from Alabama.

I played pro ball for a short time. As I was coming here Thursday night, I was thinking about the World Series. I never got to play in the World Series but often wondered what it felt like. But it can't be any better than this and I get to win a World Series for Christ every day from now on.

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

KAIROS of COLORADO

We are Christians reaching out to inmates in Colorado prisons with the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and new life, which are available to all who repent of their sin and submit to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

We are volunteers, with no paid staff, who depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. Please use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries, or write to the address on this newsletter.

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1999 KAIROS KALENDAR

Fremont	#33	Mar 18-21	#34	Sep 16-19
Women	#30	Apr 15-18	#31	Oct 14-17
Delta	#15	Apr 22-25	#16	Oct 21-24
Territorial	#27	May 13-16	#28	Nov 18-21

TEAM CANDIDATE TABLE

Do you know anyone interested in working on a team? If so, please contact one of our Facility Coordinators — soon! It is no longer necessary for your nominee to have first made a "street weekend" (Cursillo, Emmaus, Koinonia, etc). National Kairos now encourages us to have a "team candidate table" at a Kairos Weekend (for example, an "eighth table") at which there will be up to three existing outside members AND up to six **prospective** outsiders making their "street weekend" inside the prison. After the Weekend they will be qualified to function as regular outside team members, although as soon thereafter as possible they are expected to make one of the traditional "street weekends."

So put on your thinking caps and prayer shawls and get some names to the Coordinators — whether they've made a "street weekend" or not!

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

President:	Dave Tillack	303-753-1529
Vice Pres:	Jack Burson	303-499-3024
Secretary:	Donna Wood	970-686-1158
Treasurer:	Jim Strub	719-634-2821
National Rep:	Art Wise	303-526-9038
Spiritual Dir:	Bsp Bill Davidson	970-667-7274
Spiritual Dir:	Rev Bill Cooper	970-407-1520
Supplies:	Paul Garcia	303-433-3115
Training:	Ken Grosse	719-598-3508
Facility Coordinators:		
Women-Co:	Gerri Quintana	303-469-9667
Women-Co:	Jean Yanchek	719-599-8280
Fremont:	Dick Evans	719-597-6726
Territorial:	Norm Fritzler	719-597-7205
Delta:	Bill Bennett	970-626-3855

Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub

NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT BOARD

At the 3 December meeting of the Colorado Kairos District Committee ("the Board"), President Dave Tillack appointed a Nominating Committee to find nominees to fill three elected voting positions being vacated in January 1999. We encourage members of the Colorado Kairos community to make their recommendations known to the Committee by 2 January. Committee members are Jack Burson, Bill Cooper, and Jim Strub (phone numbers above). The Board will elect new members on 7 January.

OUTSIDE WEEKEND INFORMATION

Walk to Emmaus, E: Jim Lollar, 303-659-6108
Walk to Emmaus, W: Janet Keenan, 970-963-1030
Cath Crsl, Den: Francisco Mondragon, 303-429-3464
Cath Cursillo, Colo Spgs: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404
Epis Crsl, east: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448
Episcopal Cursillo, west: Jan Smith, 970-325-4409
Via de Cristo, Luth: Mark Carnes, 303-924-7192
Koinonia, Denver: Tom Starnes, 303-421-9305
Koinonia, North: Julie Wilson, 970-226-5925

**Make a friend. Be a friend.
Bring your friend to Christ.**

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



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INMATE FOURTH DAY SPEAKER

I'm in here for murder. I was looking for love in all the wrong places. I praise God for my redemption. We see God in all these faces. We feel God in their love. We're to tell [our sisters in here] about that. We're free today in here. Look for other sisters to be encouraging and uplifting each other, one day at a time. You need that to be Christ to others in here.

We've got to have a new attitude when we're around all the other stuff. If your heart is changed, God will not leave you the same. Today He added you to that number being saved! (Acts 2:42-47)

Being Christian is not always happy, happy. We have hard times, too. We need to be there for each other, to pray and pray and support each other.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Lee Abeyta, Moses Archuleta, Bill Blakely (CTCF), Norm Fritzler, Duane Medina, Marj Rust, Bob Schmidt, Bill Tipton, Ted Van Horn, CWCF (a new Chaplain), and the Board (discernment and wherewithal for starting programs in additional prisons).

A SPECIAL THANKS

God gives some of us the wherewithal to serve on Kairos teams. We thank Him for that. We also thank Him specially for the abundance of blessings provided by the rest of our community — prayer, agape, extra work when family member is on team, administrative services, and funding. "God pays for what He orders" — and so He does for Kairos, in many forms. Thank you, Lord, and thank you ALL!

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