

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 17 #4

Christmas 1999

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

WATCH — AND BE READY!

In a few days the Gregorian calendar will have us in a year labeled "2000." Fascinating, yes — like watching your car odometer turn to all zeros, as ours just did. But significant?

To some, yes. They link this man-made calendar event to the future God-made "millennium" — that period of a "thousand years" during which Satan will be bound and Jesus will reign triumphant (Revelation 20:2-7). They base this linkage on the scripture passage "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8), coupled with the seven days of Creation and the Biblical number of years since Adam — 4000 years before the birth of Christ and 2000 years after. They assert that each Creation day represents one thousand years, the first six days are now accounted for, and the remaining day represents the "thousand years" described in Revelation. Thus they say that the beginning of the next calendar millennium equates with the beginning of The Biblical Millennium. So watch out! All kinds of awful things will happen as we enter Y2K, only a few of which will be due to computer programmers. Beware! It's gloom and doom for some, the Millennial Reign of Jesus for others.

There are a few practical problems with this. Historians have determined that the birth of Christ was probably four years earlier than originally calculated by the founders of our calendar. It was in the year 4 BC. This means that we are already about two years into the seventh Biblical millennium. Nothing apocalyptic happened when we crossed into it — i.e., on 1 January 1998. Also, even if the starting year of the Gregorian calendar were an-

chored to the correct year of Christ's birth, the beginning of 2000 AD would still not be significant, because the new millennium in that calendar won't really begin until 1 January 2001.

Jesus told the Pharisees, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20,21).

What Jesus was saying is that it is not for us to figure out the time of the Second Advent. "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matthew 24:36). In other words, we shouldn't spend our efforts on figuring out the "when." What we should be doing is making sure we are ready — as Jesus then told them: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour" (Matthew 25:13, Acts 1:7). To make His point, He told them the parable of the ten bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13) which says, in effect, make sure you have oil in your lamp! Be ready, "Continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming" (1 John 2:28). Be confident! "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2,3).

The prisons will still be there in January 2000. The electrically operated gates will still be working. The lights will still be on. The Light of Jesus will still be there, and in us — in the hearts of all of those who love Him. Be confident! God will not forsake us: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you!" (Deuteronomy 31:6 and Hebrews 13:5).

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

CLOSING COMMENTS

DELTA #16:

We experienced the healing of Jesus, except for my eyes — they're still leaking.

We saw what Jesus looks like in green. (From the Team Candidate Table)

WOMEN'S #31:

I'm not as angry or evil as before. The devil is a liar!

I was a gang banger. If I could bang for my gang, I figure now I can bang for God.

I used to not talk with any of these women. Now we say to each other, "I love you."

I have been depressed, stressed out. For years I haven't slept. But now I'm gonna sleep. I'm not gonna let nobody stress me out no more.

For a long time I've been punishing myself, not knowing how to forgive myself. It took me 42 years and this weekend to realize how much God loves me, that God always forgives, no matter what we've done.

We need to hold on to the things we discover, so be sure to make choices while all this is fresh.

Each day it took a lot to come in here — until this afternoon. I was mad at God. Now I'm not. Now I know I can trust God.

I always knew God and His angels were watching over me, but now I know Him.

(4th day speaker) Most of us go on emotions, but we have to let the Lord and His ways in. Be obedient, not just to DOC rules, but to the Lord's Spirit. Don't beat yourself up. Remember: "Therefore, there is no condemnation!" (Romans 8:1)

TERRITORIAL #28:

I came confused, didn't know if I wanted God. Now I know I've got to have God and He's with me now.

You kept telling me, "The best is yet to come." Now I know the best is yet to come.

I know God doesn't call me "son" because I shine, but because I'm His.

I was so full of bitterness and hatred I went out of my way to belittle and criticize Christians, Kairos, too. Finally I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I gave my life to Christ five weeks ago. This Kairos has shown me how to live. God has done in me here what 35 years of psychiatry couldn't.

I thought I was a Christian when I came here, but found I was carrying pockets full of hate. Now my pockets are full of love and forgiveness.

We've found a lot of spiritual insight here. I'm not a prisoner anymore. The Lord will carry me across those troubled waters now.

We are the family of St. Paul now. I thought I was an outcast, but now I have brothers in this family.

We were running low on fuel. God filled our tanks with love, joy, and a new family. We're taking a better relationship with God, and support with us.

This Kairos opened up my heart to forgive my wife and all those out in the compound. I can open up and do that now.

I came a nobody, a backslider. I found I can be forgiven. I was lost but now I know I can get back on the right track.

"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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KAIROS KALENDAR — 2000

Fremont	#35	Mar 16-19	#36	Sep 14-17
Women	#32	Apr 6-9	#33	Oct 19-22
Delta	#17	Mr 30-Apr 2	#18	Oct 19-22
Territorial	#29	May 18-21	#30	Nov 16-19

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Moses Archuleta, Lorraine Harding, Duaine Medina, Jane Merritt, Matt Mueller, Gerri Quintana, A.J. Luckey, Bill Potter, and Bill Tipton. Some are recovering nicely, others are waiting. Please pray for God's will and comforting presence.

OUTSIDE WEEKEND INFORMATION

Walk to Emmaus, E: Randy Detter, 719-632-2740
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
Episcopal Crsl, E: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448
Episcopal Cursillo, W: 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.**

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub "Spiritually" Speaking by Jim Strub

WE ARE GROWING

Your Colorado Board now has two ad hoc committees working on getting Kairos started in two more prisons — Denver Women's and the Buena Vista men's prison. If you are interested in serving and are not currently serving in another facility, please contact a committee member:

For DWCF:	Mary Sogan	303-937-7675
	Jean Yanchek	719-599-8280
For Men's:	Joseph Mares	303-975-0586
	Wayne Park	970-577-1483

The committees are working on getting a "Facility Agreement" established between each prison and Kairos. After that, Monthly Reunions can start.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD

On 6 January 2000 the Board will need to fill six open positions — 3 three-year terms, 1 two-year term, and 2 one-year terms. The Nominating Committee is Dick Evans (evanscom@frii.com), Joseph Mares (jmares3409@aol.com), and Jim Strub (jemas@gateway.net). If interested and willing to serve, please contact one of them by e-mail or by phone (numbers above). If recommending someone else, please make sure the person is willing to serve.

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



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GOD'S SPECIAL TIME
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ANOTHER YEAR TO GOD'S GLORY!

Our first Colorado Kairos Weekend was in the Fall of 1982 — CWCF #1. We have now completed seventeen years of this invigorating ministry — all of it by the grace and power of God working through so many of His sons and daughters. We know from the Closings that we are to thank only God. We also know from the Closings that it is impossible to not also thank people — people with titles like “Warden” or “Shift Commander” or “Program Director” or “Chaplain,” people on the teams, people who come to the Closings, people who provide the incredible amount of support it takes to do all this, including prayer and financial support. In all of this there is such a wondrous outpouring of time, talent, and treasure — gifts originating with God who intends for them to be used for His purposes. As the song says, we “Pass It On!”

During the year we are constantly saying “Thank you!” — verbally and by letter. As we enter our eighteenth year, we want to say “Thank you” again — to our Lord Jesus Christ and to all of you who have made it part of your life to make yourselves available to Him. Kairos of Colorado is very blessed. Kairos of Colorado is growing. Kairos of Colorado is producing fruit that lasts (John 15:16). Give God the Glory!

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