

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 19 #4

Christmas 2001

STERLING

God is richly blessing our new program at the Sterling Correctional Facility. Sterling consists of four separate prisons called Quadrants. Our program started in the North Quadrant with Kairos #1 this past May.

In November we completed Sterling North #2 — a powerful event as witnessed by the team and over 80 that attended the closing on November 4. A special acknowledgment is due to the Kairos graduates of Sterling #1 and Kairos at other institutions who recruited, prayed, and worked diligently to pass on the good news of Kairos throughout the North Quadrant. Result: a full contingent of candidates on Kairos #2!

Now, with the support of the Colorado District Committee and the Sterling DOC authorities, the Sterling Kairos Council has decided to expand Kairos into the South Quadrant, with South Kairos #1 scheduled for 6-9 June 2002. This means we need to double the number of Sterling volunteers in the next four months. Besides the commitment of all of our existing volunteers in recruitment, we need help from all of Colorado Kairos for finding these new volunteers, focusing particularly on those who live to the north and east of Denver. Please forward any suggestions for contacts to the Coordinator, Wayne Park, at 395 Ponderosa Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517, 970-577-1483, waynepark@aol.com. Also, Sterling Kairos needs financial help in this special time of growth.

EPIPHANY

Colorado Epiphany #1 is set for 18-20 January 2002 at Youth Offender Services in Pueblo. Epiphany Ministry is an ecumenical Christian ministry for incarcerated youth. The weekend models on which it is based are: Kairos, Cursillo, Happening, Via de Cristo, Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, etc.

"Epiphany", a Greek word meaning "appearance," is associated with the manifestation of God on earth to the entire world through the life of Jesus, the Christ. The purpose of Epiphany Ministry is to manifest God's love to incarcerated youth, who are known as "Stars" throughout a 3-day weekend and an on-going follow-up program.

As Kairos does for adults, Epiphany puts the message of Matthew 25:36 into action for youth. These are the Lord's children who got caught up in things that are wrong — who went astray looking for something they thought was better than what they had. They have hearts, minds, souls, and spirits that are alive, curious, and hungry for the Lord. Epiphany offers them a new way, a new life in Christ.

Already active in 12 states, Epiphany's expansion into Colorado needs the Christian community's support. You can help by praying for it, by being a team member, and/or with your financial support. Inquiries and tax-deductible donations may be sent to Epiphany of Colorado, PO Box 710, Arvada CO 80001.

A LETTER FROM AN UNKNOWN MAN

One of the men attending Territorial Kairos #32 left the following unsigned letter on the Rector's table:

We all received a bag today of letters they called "agape love letters." A collection of about 20 letters individually addressed to me. Most were handwritten, but all were basically the same. They all expressed love — love from people I had just met, who knew nothing yet everything about me. They knew I was a liar, a thief, an addict, a deceiver, a sinner — just like them. Although they only met me and knew what I was about they were only concerned with showing me a kind of love I did not know existed. I've come to understand that these are my brothers and my friends. The love that they showed me touched my heart along with the men around me. 30 men suddenly broke into tears that washed their souls with the love of Jesus Christ through the tears of the Holy Spirit and our souls. Our lives will never be the same.

Thank you for living for the Lord.

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

FROM DELTA #20

Spiritual condition upon arrival: empty, torn apart, unfulfilled, unsure, undecided, skeptical, nervous, spent, weak, trapped, broken, curious, excited, tired, lukewarm, indifferent, oppressed, lacking confidence, open heart, lost, low, needing recharge, high but needing direction, know it all, wreck, drained of hope.

What we found: fulfillment, guidance, hope, Christ's love, blessing, honesty, God's fellowship, faith restored, peace, miracles, courage, strength, taking down walls, a lot of people who care, new brothers in Christ, renewed hope, promise for new life, friendship, fellowship, spirit of loving others, love, guidance, support, openness, forgot I was in prison, unity, family, special people, God's unconditional love, new happiness, brothers, inspiration, 100% full of God.

What we are taking with us: power to share, gratitude, a plan (goals), memories, knowledge, growth, spiritual strength, renewal, inner filling, true peace, new appreciation of the word "church," forgiveness, trust, letters from new brothers, strength to witness, power for the new life, God's blessing, friends, duty to serve, testimonies, a new start, release from troubles,

unexplainable blessings, new outlook, renewed spirit, joy, inspiration.

I hate to say this, but I came for the food, but something different happened to me — a spiritual awakening in here, I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

Before this, I wanted to get out and seek revenge, but after this Kairos I'm giving this up.

God has been dealing with me. I was drifting off but Kairos is pulling me back.

I had been hibernating in my own cubbyhole but after the weekend the walls are coming down for many of us. It was an amazing experience.

I did a lot of searching. I was empty-headed. Now I have brothers, encouragement, and we're coming together.

I came having bad feelings. When asked to make a forgiveness list, I put 20 on my list — only one was not a family member.

FROM CAÑON WOMEN'S #35

We came scared, excited, open minded, willing to learn, very broken. We found a spiritual walk with God, love, loyalty, servitude. God showed himself in a special way. We're learning how to forgive more.

I was a pagan priestess from the age of 13, so I was in bad spiritual condition, couldn't find God. I found that God can fill those holes the enemy put in my heart. I will take that awareness with me and keep it.

I was having a rough time with my best friend. I learned how to forgive her. So much joy!

I was a devil worshipper for many years - even drank blood and enjoyed it, though I was dying inside. So I thought I was too bad for God. I want to let others in darkness know that God can set you free, too.

I found it's OK to forgive myself. I found God here. My Mom died before I could ask for her forgiveness. I think she's happy for me now. I'm a new Christian!

I came to learn how to forgive myself - and I did!

So much was lifted from my heart. There were so many I needed to forgive. You washed that away last night. Thank you for showing me how to forgive!

I came with this big old ego pride thing. I don't have to prove myself to y'all 'cause I'm big with Him. I learned to do God's will and also to forgive others.

I became close to God in jail. Then my mom died and I gave up on God. I had nothing to live for. I felt alone with 300 women here. Every night I prayed, "God, I want to feel you again. Nothing - then this happened, and He answered my prayers. God gave me exactly what I needed through youall.

I felt alone the first night. Then I found the love of God in all of you. Thank you for being part of our world. You are sent by God. Thank you for being true to yourselves before us.

Watch for Sterling and Territorial comments in our next issue.

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

KAIROS of COLORADO

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.

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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Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub "Check Your Oil" by Jim Strub

KAIROS KALENDAR - 2002

RECTOR

Fremont	#39	Jim Richardson	Mar 14-17 *	#40	Sep 19-22 *
Cañon Women	#36	Wanda Sitler	Apr 18-21 *	#37	Oct 17-20 *
Delta	#21	Fred Somerlot	Apr 18-21	#22	Oct 24-27
Sterling North	#3	Andrew Sisneros	May 2-5	#4	Oct 31-Nov 3
Territorial	#33	John Benge	May 16-19	#34	Nov 14-17
Sterling South	#1	Ron Fullmer	Jun 6-9	#2	Dec 5-8

To volunteer, please call the Coordinator (phone numbers are listed above).

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Our Kairos database now includes email addresses. This often facilitates communication without Long Distance charges. Please email your email address to: pjstrub@juno.com

THANK YOU!!

Those active on teams thank God for the many who support this ministry in so many ways, such as prayer, sacrifice of loved ones being away, and donation of funds. With respect to the funds, we know that God pays for what He orders, so we believe that the constant in-flow of generous gifts from many donors bears witness to His having "ordered" this ministry. Please note that we are especially grateful for the many gifts of five or ten dollars, knowing that often these are a "widow's mite." God's blessing!

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks!"

And by the way, our thanks to the Delta team for a way to hug without hugging: just shake hands and say "cee, wye, aitch" i.e., CYH (consider yourself hugged).

CAÑON INN

Once again we thank the Lord for making room for us in the inn — the Cañon Inn, that is, in 2002. For many years Mr. Jerry Robinson, owner and manager, has been quietly supporting our ministry by offering us rooms at very reduced rates. ~~Thank you~~ Mr. Robinson. And thank you, Cañon Inn staff. Over the years your hotel has become a second home for us -- a place where we can always depend on rest and refreshment when we are tired and short on time.

ADVANCED TRAINING

The next Advanced Training course in this area is scheduled for the weekend of 21-23 June 2002. This is conducted by a trainer from National and is a prerequisite for serving as rector. Contact Steve Gabriel.

"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

CHECK YOUR OIL

It is Advent. We are celebrating the coming of Jesus – the first coming and the second coming. We know where and when he came the first time. We don't know where or when he's coming the second time. He told us over and over again to be ready.

In the parable of the ten bridesmaids he tells us to have enough oil, so that when he comes we will be ready to join him in the wedding feast. (Matt 25:1-13)

When did we last check our oil?

We get so focused on helping others with their spirituality, but what about our own?

"The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and [all the bridesmaids] became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'"

We sing the 16th century Advent hymn: "Sleepers, wake!...The time has come, O maidens wise! Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight...Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding

feast may share..."

Do we have enough oil for our lamps? Will we make it to the wedding feast?

The hymn continues: "Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia! We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall."

And then we sing: "O come, O come Emmanuel."

Are we ready for him to come?

Externally we appear to be believers. On the Kairos Weekend we give lots of talks on how to live a Christian life – believe, pray, study the word, confess, forgive, worship regularly at church, share our spirituality with other believers, offer our hands and feet to Jesus for his use, generally surrender to our Lord.

Internally, do we really believe, really walk our talks?

Advent is a time to check our oil.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

Are we ready, or will we be "Left Behind" – hmm?

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