

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Kairos Community in Colorado,

The season is Advent -- a time of waiting expectantly for the coming of Jesus. But not just waiting; also doing! God has richly blessed our Kairos program in Colorado this year. In 2004, our 23rd year of Kairos in Colorado, we put on 16 weekends ("short courses") at seven prisons; the lives of 509 residents were touched -- and many hearts transformed by the working of the Holy Spirit and the dedication our 200+ volunteers.

This year, we adopted a strategic plan, with recruiting as our top goal. Each weekend, we average 12% new volunteers -- a good record, but please pray for more volunteers. This year we added twelve volunteers from our first-ever Qualifying Weekend, established the position of Recruiting and Outreach Coordinator, drafted guidelines for the use of Qualifying Tables on weekends, and established state policies on use of non-4th day volunteers and clergy appointment.

Our second goal was to improve "governance" encompassing leadership and administration. To that end, we drafted by-laws, approved State Committee job descriptions, and adopted a number of significant policies that addressed pressing issues. We have worked hard to ensure that our finances are sound and that all fiscal responsibilities have been met. Finally, we spent a great deal of time building a rapport with the Advisory Councils by sending a state representative to speak at each Closing and by meeting with each council to discuss their programs.

So God has truly been good to us! But as with everything from God, even greater things are in store. In 2005, we plan to start the Kairos program at Brush Women's Correctional Facility (thanks to Jan Loesch, ad hoc chairman) and expand the wonderful program at Sterling Correctional Facility to a third quadrant. We look for continued success in recruiting and also will be working to improve relations with the Kairos International office.

In the prisons of Colorado may Advent and Christmas truly be times of doing for Immanuel -- "God with us."

Steve Gabriel

Chairman, Kairos-Colorado State Committee

FROM THE PRISON

- ◆ The Kairos had a wonderful impact on me. When I walked out of the building on Sunday afternoon I was emotionally exhausted and spiritually stuffed. So much to contemplate and digest and to be thankful for! I walked the path toward my cellhouse that I've taken I reckon a thousand times in the past year. This time the air tasted perfect.
- ◆ I got a lot out of the weekend. There is much more I can say but I feel the love -- your love, God's love. But I do know this: I'll never be the same after the Kairos weekend. Thank you!
- ◆ I close my eyes a lot when I play worship songs in an attempt to create a spiritual living sacrifice -- and sometimes to avoid the glare of the "haters" who can't stand all that Jesus joy. I play loud anyway. After a few minutes of the above I look to my left and only a few feet away is a heavily tattooed and muscular inmate. He looks at me and smiles. Not what I was expecting. I ask, "Are you a Christian?" He looks around cautiously and says, "Please keep playing. I am going to pray." Thank you, Jesus! Fifteen minutes later there were ten or so inmates standing close, singing and worshipping God. "What a friend we have in Jesus" was booming through the yard. The energy of the Weekend was continuing unabated, and there were more smiles in the yard than I've ever seen. The joy which you all brought to this dark world cannot be measured in words.

FROM THE D.O.C.

Those of you who are "CDOC Volunteers" (team members and others who are officially cleared for volunteer work in the Colorado state prisons) should be regularly receiving "The Voice" from CDOC. The Fall/Winter 2004 issue contains the CDOC 2004/2005 Volunteer Training Schedule, including a new "Update Volunteer Training" (UVT) "required annually for all CDOC volunteers to remain active." Kairos Volunteers are to contact their team coordinator prior to attending any training; the coordinator then arranges for the volunteer to be on the access roster for that particular session of the training. This applies to the UVT as well as to the initial 8-hour Basic Volunteer Training (BVT). Bottom line: **be sure to work this thru your team**

KAIROS/HoE BANQUET

What: Recruitment and Fund Raiser Banquet

When: Saturday 29 January 2005, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Where: Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast
3200 South Parker Road (at I-225)

Contacts: Joseph Mares (see page 3) and
Rachel Regier (303.742.5443 – rachregier@aol.com)

Kairos of Colorado and the **House of Emmanuel** jointly invite you to partake of this opportunity for further support of our ministries. Come, see and hear for yourself – and enjoy an evening with brothers and sisters who share your concerns.

THE GREEN INSERT HAS THE DETAILS.

STATE COMMITTEE NOMS

Each January some of the nine elected positions on the State Committee become vacant, due to term limits or other reasons. This time there will be at least four openings – three lay and one clergy. The procedure will be for the SC to consider the nominees and do the voting at the 5 January meeting. Once seated, the new SC will elect its officers to the positions you see on page 3. Some of the positions that will probably be changing hands are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, National Representative, Training, and one Spiritual Director.

Please consider offering your self for service in this very vital function of our ministry. The SC meets six times per year, usually in the early part of January, March, May, July, September, and November. All you have to do is make yourself known to one of the nominating Committee members – Joseph Mares or Carolyn Richardson (contact info on page 3).

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Surely each of us is continually aware of how faithfully God blesses us, protects us, nurtures us – loves each of us in all the power of His grace and mercy. Collectively, we are also aware of how faithfully He does the same for Kairos. Each year at this time we formally acknowledge this continual blessing.

We receive this blessing through the open and generous hearts of so many of you – your prayers, your attending the closings, your time and talents on teams, your time and talents in the many other tasks that go together to make the human part of this ministry work, and finally, your continuing financial support. In every way, Kairos of Colorado is so very blessed. PTL!!

**Include a Qualifying Table (“8th Table”) in your next Kairos Weekend.
Result: new team members!**

CLOSING NUGGETS

CAÑON WOMEN’S #41:

- ♦ I was busy at bitterness, distant from God.
- ♦ We arrived hateful, resentful, felt unwanted.
- ♦ We arrived suspicious, bitter, unsociable.
- ♦ It’s amazing what you find in Kairos when you come with an open mind.
- ♦ I have been very depressed here. On Kairos I learned to care about others, to love others, and that others love me. I asked my cellie to forgive me.
- ♦ We found the truth, are now more apt to speak out.

DELTA #26:

- ♦ I arrived a short distance from the morgue.
- ♦ I found the ability to take down my walls.
- ♦ I found love, like a kid in a candy store
- ♦ We are taking Jesus Christ with us in our hearts, love beyond understanding, and spiritual healing.
- ♦ With a new knowledge of agape love, I now understand why one of the inside team says "I love you man".
- ♦ I am thankful for tissue; I've cried for the first time in a long time. In fact, I've become a cry baby. I've seen that hard hearts really can be softened.
- ♦ It felt really good to release all my hate.
- ♦ I used to poke fun at the men who loved God. Kairos made me stronger and I became friends with men I thought I'd never be friends with. I thank the Lord for what has happened here. I've really been touched by all of the guests here.
- ♦ **FOURTH DAY SPEAKER:** What a gift to be able to serve. Men, use your gifts of love and the ability to serve. Be patient with your family and be consistent. Relationships take time.

TERRITORIAL #38:

- ♦ Arrived backsliding, not trusting; excited, but guarded.
- ♦ The barriers came down, there was trust – and humor. We could be like kids.
- ♦ We found we have to forgive – and we forgave.
- ♦ God got my attention.
- ♦ You can only eat so much food; we became saturated; what was then left was spiritual nourishment – human beings opening up, crying, baring their souls. The walls came down. God came in.
- ♦ Now we have to go out there and spread the word.
- ♦ To the outsiders: if it wasn't for your love, the hearts of these men wouldn't have been broken.

**Readers: be blessed by attending a Closing!
Teams: invite your friends to a Closing!
See page 3 for dates and times.**

COLORADO CHAPTER OF KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL, INC

STATE COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Chair	Steve Gabriel	719-282-1924	jsgabriel@pcisys.net
Vice Ch, Recruiting, Outreach	Bob Reilman	719-265-9156	scenic_bye@yahoo.com
Secretary	Carolyn Richardson	719-390-5253	j_c_richardson@netzero.net
Treasurer	Jack Burson	303-499-4865	jack@ecommerce-cpa.com
National Representative	Joseph Mares	303-727-9243	jmares3409@aol.com
Ministry Operations	Joy Maly	303-988-7339	just4joy7@aol.com
Training & Limon ad hoc Chair	Dick Evans	719-597-3426	rdeco@pcisys.com
Spiritual Director	Rev Alan Marquez	303-252-7655	mar4plus@msn.com
Spiritual Director	Dcn Ernie Romero	719-548-9082	epromero@codenet.net

APPOINTED MEMBERS (ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES):

Brush Women's (ad hoc Chair)	Jan Loesch	970-842-4497	carepreg@aginformatio.com
Cañon Women's	Ann Weida	719-548-9102	weidacr@aol.com
Delta	Bill Bennett	970-626-3855	billbennett@sisna.com
Denver Women's	Gabriella Ramirez	303-455-4392	
Fremont	Jim Strub	719-634-2821	pjstrub@juno.com
Sterling (all units)	Wayne Park	970-577-1483	waynepark@aol.com
Territorial	Gary Kulbitski	719-598-8311	leek@amerion.com

SUPPORT CREW

Agape	Wanda Sitler	719-380-7166	tubalady@msn.com
Supplies	Joy Maly	303-988-7339	just4joy7@aol.com
Data Base and Newsletter	Jim and Peggy Strub	719-634-2821	pjstrub@juno.com
Recruiting Crew	Kairos Community	all area codes	all Christians

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to the incarcerated, and to assist them in building up the body of Christ in each prison. We are volunteers. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. We encourage you to use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries. Please make checks payable to "Kairos Prison Ministry, Inc" or "Kairos."

"God's Special Time" is published quarterly, at the time of the equinoxes and the solstices – a heaven-based schedule. Our volunteer printer is First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs. Thank you, FUMC!

2005 SPRING WEEKENDS & RECTORS

STERLING T-NORTH#1	3 - 6 March	Mike Braden
FREMONT #45	17-20 March	Henry Gutierrez
STERLING SOUTH #7	31 Mar - 3 Apr	Mike Pickett
CAÑON WOMEN'S#42	14-17 April	Lee Kulbitski
DELTA #27	14-17 April	Dan Love
LIMON #4	14-17 April	Jim FitzPatrick
STERLING NORTH #9	5 - 8 May	Doug Nelson
TERRITORIAL #39	19-22 May	David White
BRUSH WOMEN'S #1	2 - 5 June	Mary Lou Hernandez
DENVER WOMEN'S #6	2 - 5 June	Liz Castillo

CLOSING CONTACTS

Andrew Sisneros*	by 18 Feb	6 Mar, 4:00 pm
Jim Strub,	by 20 Feb.	20 Mar, 1:15 pm
Andrew Sisneros*	by 18 Mar	3 Apr, 4:00 pm
Ann Weida,	by 1 Apr	17 Apr, 1:15 pm
Bill Bennett,	by 20 Mar	17 Apr, 2:15 pm
Dick Evans,	by 17 Mar	17 Apr, 1:30 pm
Andrew Sisneros*	by 22 Apr	8 May, 4:00 pm
Gary Kulbitski,	by 1 May	22 May, 1:20 pm
Jan Loesch,	by 13 May	5 Jun, 4:15 pm
Gabriella Ramirez,	by 6 May	5 Jun, 4:00 pm

ARRIVE BY

BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THE CLOSING!

* 970-304-0891; email: andres73048@aol.com
(for other contact info, see SC roster above)



KAIROS OF COLORADO

P.O. Box 25004, Colorado Springs CO, 80936-5004

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Volume 22 #4 Christmas 2004

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NEW START AT BRUSH

Kairos is now a reality at the Brush Women's Correctional Facility – a private facility at the town of Brush. We are all grateful to God for gifting and inspiring Jan Loesch to be the organizer and leader of this new start.

The new outside team together with inside residents held their first Monthly Reunion on 17 October. The team was surprised by the attendance and the outpouring of emotions shared by the residents. They are excited to be able to support those residents who have already made their Kairos, as well as encouraging the sharing with future weekend participants. The Reunions continue on the third Sunday of each month.

The first 4-day weekend is scheduled for 2-5 June 2005, with Mary Lou Hernandez (970.587.4903) as Rector. Contact her (or Jan) if you are thinking of supporting Brush Kairos #1 in any way. At the very least, please keep the team members and residents in prayer, that the Holy Spirit continue to till the soil of all of their hearts.

Please put the June 5th closing on your calendar. The

NEW START AT STERLING

Startup in yet another unit at Sterling is just around the corner. This time it is into one of the "east" units, where the buildings are T-shaped and located north and south of each other. This startup will be in the unit known as "T-North."

Sterling T-North #1 is set for 3-6 March 2005. Team formation is already under way. The Rector is Mike Braden (mbradensr@aol.com, cell phone 303.877.4971). If you would like to participate or support in any way, please contact Mike.

As for the Closing, there will be room for at least a hundred visitors. See page 3 for contact info and times.

**Sterling North and Sterling South
welcome Sterling T-North
into the Kairos fold.
God's blessing on all!**

**Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring
your friend to a Closing!**