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**"It is heroism
to believe
in God."**

Oswald Chambers

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FROM OUR CHAIR

Greetings to all,

I hope this finds everyone in good health. The State Committee held its election on the 9th of January and I would like to take a moment to thank those that have served faithfully and are now replaced by the currently seated. Thanks to the former Chair (Jeff Holley), Vice Chair (Glenda Condon) and Clergy (Elwyn Tedford). The newly elected are: Randy Borden, Chair; Jean Mares, Vice Chair; Rev. Tina Anderson and Rev. Glenda Condon, Clergy. Also among the "newly elected" at the KPMI Winter Board Meeting are Steve Gabriel as President of the International Council and Jean Mares as an At-Large Member of the IC, joining Mary Sogan who continues as our Colorado Representative on the IC.

The State Committee worked on a new Strategic and Vision Plan and finalized it during the January meeting. Some of the goals we are working towards are to be more supportive to the A/C's in offering information from CDOC and our International office as policies and practices change from time to time. To offer more education and information on what works and what does not in the areas of recruiting and outreach. It is the plan of the committee to be seen as part of the family, not a dictatorship. While we do still have to govern the community using the rules set forth by Kairos Prison Ministry International, we on the committee recognize God is the Head and the rest of us are the body. We also know it takes all parts of the body working together to properly serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We need to remember that we are all part of the same family, the same body, God's family- made in His image.

In His Service, Randy

**"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
pray therefore the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into his harvest."
Jesus, in Matthew 9:37-38 (RSV)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
<u>2010</u>		
1st & 3rd Thursdays	LA VISTA WOMEN'S REUNIONS	Sara Igyarto
2nd Fridays, 7:00pm	DENVER STREET GATHERINGS Warren United Methodist Church, 14th and Gilpin. Bring spouse, friend, grouping card, musical instrument. Volunteers also bring potluck dish.	Glenda Condon
3rd Fridays, 6:30pm	COLORDAO SPRINGS STREET GATHERINGS Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hancock & Boulder. Volunteers bring potluck dish.	Jean Magnuson
4-7 March	RIFLE #10	Ken Ooley
8-11 April	TERRITORIAL #49	Chuck Weida
15-18 April	DELTA #37	Ken DeForest
15-18 April	LIMON #10	TBA
29 April - 2 May	STERLING EAST #7	Kevin Condon
21-23 May	KAIROS OUTSIDE #4 Id-Ra-Ha-Je Camp & Retreat Center, Bailey	Pilar Manzanares
21-23 May	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (Kairos Inside) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Paul Benevides
3-6 June	DENVER WOMEN'S #13	Michelle Johnson
11-13 June	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (Kairos Outside) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Glenda Condon
27 July-1 August	KPMI SUMMER CONFERENCE Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas	Paul Benevides
5-8 August	RIFLE #11	Mary Sogan
7-10 October	DELTA #38	Tyne Bush
7-10 October	TERRITORIAL #50	Bill Bennett
4-7 November	STERLING WEST #27	Bill Durfee
5-7 November	KAIROS OUTSIDE #5 Ponderosa Retreat Center, Larkspur/Monument	Randy Weldon
2-5 December	DENVER WOMEN'S #14	Jean Mares
	TBD	Glenda Condon

UPCOMING STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Face-to-face Meetings: 10 July 2010 in Keystone at Kulbitski's, 8 January 2011 at place TBD.

Teleconferences: 11 April and 10 October 2010, at 7:00 pm. Others as needed.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

When I first became active in Kairos, I evaluated the growth of the residents by what they said during open mike, at closing, and at subsequent reunions. And it was clear to me that there was growth. Then I served on a week-end where there were women who professed during the Thursday night introductions to be pagans – Satan worshippers. I noticed that they looked different – very much so – than the other guests. One especially had very dull skin and wild eyes. I was astonished to watch her change physically over the next three days. Her skin and eyes began to clear. She was a different woman by Sunday afternoon. And that woman changed and grew even more over the months as she came faithfully to reunions. She glowed as if there were a strong light inside her.

During one of our Sunday afternoon reunions, I remarked how different the women were than when I first met them. I assured them that IF we could video-tape them on Thursday evening, they would be surprised to see the changes by Sunday afternoon and truly astonished to compare it with images of themselves months later. Kairos makes a huge difference in the residents' lives. We are told at DWCF that it changes the entire place the two weeks before and the two weeks after a retreat -- both the two-day and the four-day.

Recently Sterling East #7 had its first team formation meeting. As part of the introductions, a new-to-Kairos clergy said he'd come to find out more about this program after seeing how a young woman in the congregation had blossomed with her involvement with Kairos in a women's facility. And I began to ponder the changes in us volunteers. I know without a doubt that we may not change physically as drastically as this woman did but we change in all sorts of ways. .

The Apostle Paul got it oh so right when he said that spiritual growth is an ongoing process. "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14). Even the Apostle Paul had not arrived, yet he continually pressed toward the prize. May we do the same.

Submitted by the Reverend Glenda Condon

8 August 1937 – GEORGE MARTINEZ – 21 December 2009

The Delta Kairos community has lost a long-time team member – Genard George Martinez. Many said farewell at the funeral mass in Grand Junction on 30 December. And many said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

George did indeed have a big heart, a servant's heart. We knew him as a faithful, loving member of the Delta Kairos team, beginning with helping Bill Potter get Kairos into and organized in Delta, and then serving as a team member on Kairos #1 in January 1992. An informal poll among a few Delta team members indicates that George served at least thru Delta #28 – fourteen years of loving service, during which he was Rector for #10. He attended almost all of the team meetings, 3-day weekends, monthly reunions, and 2-day retreats – willingly serving in any capacity needed. He always seemed to have quite a following of residents at these events, particularly Hispanic men, who seemed to really identify with his gentle spirit, quiet demeanor, and dedication to Kairos. He left the ministry only because of health issues that robbed him of the energy needed for the 3-day weekends. We have missed him.

Outside the prison he and his wife, Annie, consistently opened up their home to host the Grand Junction Kairos prayer-and-share group – a ministry that encouraged many others. He served in his home church's fish-fry dinner nights. He was employed by the VA Medical Center for 35 years, having also served in the Army (active duty, Guard, and Reserves) for a total of 26 years. He was always giving of himself, volunteering for other organizations, such as the Disabled American Veterans and the Knights of Columbus.

One fellow team member sums it up: "I thank our loving Lord for allowing me the pleasure of knowing George."

SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy.

"It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil - he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good - he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you - and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

The above legend is painted with two wolves on the wall in the visitor's entrance of the Sterling Correctional Facility as part of their murals-painted-by-prisoners program. It elicited a gruff retort from a veteran Kairos volunteer, "Well there's a nice little pagan story for you" -- which led to a lively discussion about its meaning.

My own history includes having been a Shinto Buddhist, the religion of my former wife. I'm also a 2nd degree black belt in Shotokan Karate. Both are of Japanese origin, which led me to see this Cherokee legend as being identical to the Eastern religious and philosophical concept of yin-yang. Most of you would know the yin-yang symbol as the red/blue symbol on the Korean flag or the black and white tear drops in a circle -- a symbol common in Asian art. This concept permeates throughout many Asian cultures and traditions, but generally holds the same complex meaning of balance and dichotomy. It can stand for moon and sun, light and dark, dry and wet, male and female, good and evil, soul and body.

Some mistakenly believe that the origin of the symbol comes from Chinese Taoism. However, it can be traced back to 1000 BC in the Book of Songs, *Shijing*, some 600 years before the book *Tao Te Ching* of Taoism. In any case, this Taoist definition of yin-yang fits perfectly for our Two Wolves story. They believe the yin-yang can be defined as the following: **Yin** is the physical body with physical desires. **Yang** is the soul or the ethereal body. In Taoist religion, the ultimate goal is "liberation" of Yang from Yin as the soul overcomes the physical body. As you can see, the evil wolf is the Yin, and the good wolf is the Yang. The goal of the Cherokee Grandfather is the same, to encourage the soul to overcome the weakness of the flesh.

Certainly this is Biblical. The list of Yang/Good Wolf attributes sure read like the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. In fact the whole wolf story echoes Galatians 5:16-26, section labeled in some Bibles as *Life by the Spirit*. I'm not going to debate the origins of the supposed legend, but we can learn from it, by seeking commonality with our own faith traditions.

Our own Kairos talk instructs us on evangelism, and implores us to, "Make a friend, be a friend, introduce a friend to Christ." Note here, that the most important step of introducing someone to Christ Jesus, is AFTER we have gained trust and friendship. By carefully listening (4Ls) to folks of different backgrounds and cultures, and embracing that which is common to our faith, we gain this trust and friendship that is a necessary first step to successfully bringing a soul to Christ.

Submitted by Jeff Holley

NUGGETS

It takes God a long time to get us to stop thinking that unless everyone sees things exactly as we do, they must be wrong. That is never God's view. Jesus said, "Go....and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19), not, "Make converts to your own thoughts and opinions."

Oswald Chambers

Christianity is a religion of rescue, designed for the desperate. Just as an awareness of one's depravity is essential for holiness, so too a feeling of desperation, manifested in perpetual brokenness and dependence, is the heart of the believer's life in Christ.

Walter Henrichsen

FREMONT #48 CLOSING – 14 February

From the Table Families:

We arrived tired and frustrated. Found we are definitely not alone. Found Jesus in our hearts, no matter what we'd done in the past. We're leaving all our garbage here. Now there's nothing holding us back, we're going to get it done! We arrived scared and sinking, but excited. Found agape love, acceptance, and the unity of people coming together from all over the world. Taking with us a new way of life.

There was chaos and confusion; we had lots of guilt and shame – but looking for improvement. Found encouragement, love, a holy time (Kairos time) for doing Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth (BIBLE). We leave as a family of love, with some new wisdom and determined to walk forward in our spiritual lives.

There was sadness, doing the same thing over and over. We were restless and disturbed. Found a place of loving, caring tolerance. Taking away a new understanding and awareness of Jesus' love.

From Open Mike:

May I speak in English? Kairos eez amaaaa-zing!

I came with an open mind, expecting a fun experience. It was fun, but much more – an experience I can share with my son later when I get back to New Hampshire.7

Going through a lot of emotional turmoil, not knowing how to deal with it. My Dad was a pastor but left us when I was eleven, which started my road to unforgiveness. Did retreats, Bible studies, Promise Keepers – none could compare with this, which is overwhelming. I can now see over my wall. I did a lot of forgiving, but couldn't write my own name on the list -- painful that I couldn't. But love has taken care of it. I pray that everyone who wants to experience Kairos will have the opportunity.

I came in by myself. I am leaving with a family. Kairos has given me a foundation that never crumbles. Will take this to my sons.

I was judging those who call themselves Christians going to Kairos only for the food. – just as the elder brother judged the Prodigal. I have been the elder brother. I judged us at first because of some of our denominations that I didn't like. Yes, I did prejudge and almost didn't come back on Saturday. But I did – and, after Saturday evening, I know I am forgiven. I feel a lot lighter.

I received a spiritual meal. I uncovered the rich treasure of the Word. My family is far away, in Mexico; but I have found a family here – and so much love. I can feel it all the way from my feet to the tips of my hair. I want to return all that love to you.

Such blessings, here in this dark place – away from rejection, negative situations. I took life for granted, am being punished for it. Here I discovered God's peace and joy. Last night my pod-mates saw a smile on my face that they had never seen. This is a community effort, guys.

Had mixed feelings. Have shied away from God for a long time. There was something lacking in my heart. Pain, anger – I had to let it go. I appreciate all those who are showing me God's love, including the other guys on this Kairos.

Before Kairos, my life was as a lost soul. I didn't build walls; I built a grave – and lived in it, and lived recklessly – lots of high mountains, lots of extreme snowboarding on them. None of that can compare with this.

This is my first "seminar" that involved so many denominations. I am a preacher's kid. I am amazed that I survived the lottery [24 candidates drawn out of 136 names]. Especially touched by "Footprints in the Sand." He's carried me for a long time. Now I want to get up and walk on my own.

I have done research on Catholicism, but learned more this weekend than all of that. Was a gang member. My new gang is Christianity. Was lost 40 years, am found now. I have support.

Was touched to be chosen for Kairos. My cellie had encouraged me to apply. I've been in and out of the system a lot. I know now I need to find new direction. I'm in a spiritual war. I've been in prison for most of my kids' lives, now have met one grandson. I don't want them to follow me. Never had a family. Now I do, and I can see a new direction – a hand stretched out to pick me up. I will be praying for all of you.

I am the seeker, always asking questions. I still don't have the answers I want. Nothing interested me, but I applied for Kairos. There were two highlights – "Choices" and opportunities to tell my story, to get it all out. I was always taking credit for everything – but underneath it all was a lot of dirt. Now I can bring it all out – and I know I won't be judged.

4th Day Speaker:

You guys are special to me. When you came in I saw God's glory and presence in you. What really got me [*on my Kairos, #47*] was the agape love – regardless of my mistakes. Since then I have found a little saying: "Your life is never defined by your failures, because your failures are never fine." I'm working on patience, longsuffering.

Let others see the light of God and His glory in you. God has His secret weapon right here in Fremont – patience with each other. Pray with your brothers. Yes, there is stress, but reach out to your brothers.

KAIROS OUTSIDE REUNIONS



Kairos Outside of Colorado Reunions

PLEASE COME !!!!!

WHEN: Saturday, March 6, 2009, 3:30 – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Bethel Christian Fellowship
5405 W 1st Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80266
From 6th Ave go south to 1st street turn right (west) down about 2 blocks
on left is Bethel Christian Fellowship.

Please mark your calendar for 2010 quarterly reunions:

WHEN: Saturday, June 5, 2010 3:30 to 8:00 pm (quarterly reunion)
Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010 3:30 to 8:00 pm (quarterly reunion)
Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 3:30 to 8:00 pm (quarterly reunion)

WHERE: Bethel Christian Fellowship
5405 W 1st Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80266

**COME JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!
CALL YOUR KAIROS OUTSIDE SISTERS FOR CARPOOLING!
IF YOU KNOW POTENTIAL GUESTS, PLEASE INVITE THEM TO COME JOIN
US. FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US!**

If you have ANY questions, contact:

Jean Mares: 303-518-0550 or e-mail jamares46@msn.com

Lorraine Huard: 719-648-9193 or e-mail ken_lorraine@yahoo.com

Linda Lauper: 303-709-8523 or e-mail ljlauper@hotmail.com

**Please bring your nametag!!!
It's "POTLUCK": main dish, dessert, salad or snack
SEE YOU THERE!**

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL (KPMI)

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led Christian ministry which conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions. The Kairos program starts with a weekend event which allows participants to receive Christ's love through the servitude of Christian Kairos volunteers. During this event participants are given the opportunity to experience a spiritual renewal, accepting God's call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution, and beyond. Participants are encouraged to establish small, two-to-five-person "Fourth Day" Prayer and Share groups within the institution. The groups meet regularly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another, other residents, and staff in the institution.

Kairos is currently in 31 states and eight other countries – Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. The course materials are available in English and Spanish. The ministry includes about 30,000 volunteers worldwide.

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