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**"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"**

Volume 15 #2

Summer 1997

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

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

***THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS***

It is summer. We spend more time outside, "in God's world" -- away from shelters, plumbing, and most of our gadgets -- things that can lead us into a false security of not needing God. Out there we see birds, fish, animals, and growing things all living gloriously without benefit of man or his things. Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns.... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin" (Matthew 6:26, 28). Life goes on, man or no man.

How? Look at Matthew again: "Your heavenly Father feeds them.... God so clothes the grass of the field..." God does it. God takes care of them. He is connected to each one of them -- His Spirit with each of them, somehow connected so they automatically trust His provision. It's as if each life has a radio receiver always tuned in to God's Spirit and responding to His direction. He tells them when to come up out of the ground, when to migrate and how to get there, when to be aggressive, when to hide, when to spawn, and so on. They are His. He created them. He wants to sustain them, and they let Him. It is their nature to let Him.

So what about us? He created us, too, so why don't we let Him sustain us? The difference is the brain. In each of us He included an intellect and the option of ignoring Him or saying "no" to His direction. We can either tune our radio receivers into God's Spirit or not. We can be connected to God and His direction for us, or unconnected. We can go our own way or we can go God's way.

Next time you have to "decide" whether or not to accept an invitation to serve on a Kairos team, or attend a monthly reunion, or commit to a weekly group, or witness Jesus to someone -- next time first make sure your receiver is turned on and tuned in to God, spirit with Spirit "Are you not of more value than the birds?...If God so clothes the grass of the field...will He not much more clothe you?" Will He not put into your life what He wants you to have?. "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

ALL QUOTES FROM NRSV    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    BY JIM STRUB

## 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 entirely volunteer. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations by 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.

*Thank you for your prayers and support!*

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## COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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## KAIROS KALENDAR ---

	Fall 1997	Spring 1998
Fremont	#30 --- Sep 18-21	#31 --- March
Women's	#28 --- Oct 16-19	#29 --- April
Delta	#12 --- Oct 23-26	#13 --- April
Territorial	#24 --- Nov 20-23	#25 --- May

Please keep the Kairos weekends in your prayers and on your calendars. We always need pray-ers, Closing guests, and team members. *"Christ is counting on you!"*

### Outside weekend information:

Walk to Emmaus, east: Jim Lollar, 303-659-6108  
Walk to Emmaus, west: Janet Keenan, 970-963-1030  
Catholic Cursillo, Den.: Fransisco Mondragon, 303-429-3464  
Catholic Cursillo, Colo. Spgs.: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404  
Episcopal Cursillo: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448  
Please pray about sponsoring a Kairos team prospect.

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## THANK YOU, THANK YOU ---

Let's all thank Art Wise for the beautiful new mountain logo he designed for us (see cover page). This same logo is on the navy polo shirts and mugs we had made for fund-raising last year. Anyone interested in purchasing shirts and/or mugs, please call Art at 303-526-9038.

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## PRAYER NEEDS ---

In the context of all of us supporting each other in prayer all the time, there are some currently who need our special prayers. Among those right now are: Moses Archuleta, Dave Jones, Sue Martinez, and Ted Van Horn. We ask for God's perfect will in their lives and those close to them.

## FLASH --- We're on "the net"!

KAIROS of Colorado has a World Wide Web Site!!!  
The address is: <http://www.olac.com/kairos/>

## RECRUITING ---

We need your help. We have established a KAIROS speakers bureau, available to come to your church, men's group, women's group, etc., to tell about KAIROS. We hope that through this means, the Holy Spirit will touch more workers for KAIROS. Please contact Jack Burson to schedule a speaker for your group at:

Telephone: 303-499-3024 / 800-528-8859  
Fax: 303-499-9823  
Email: [jack.burson@olac.com](mailto:jack.burson@olac.com)  
Snail mail: Jack Burson  
111 Cherokee Way  
Boulder, CO 80303

We also need members of the KAIROS community to be available to serve as sponsors for volunteers who have not attended a street weekend. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Jack Burson (above) and indicate which group you are connected with (Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Koinonia, etc.) and your location.

If you would be interested in being a member of the KAIROS speakers bureau, let Jack know.

If you have not served on a team recently, we want and need you back. As you well know, the demands on our time are great, so we need to recruit more volunteers -- especially clergy -- so that the work (and blessings) can be spread among many. We need to avoid working our current volunteers so hard that they can't remain active in the ministry.

Please pray about giving your time and yourself to our brothers and sisters in green. Also be alert for opportunities for us to bring the message of KAIROS to your church, men's or women's group.

## **A NEW PLACE FOR CWCF KAIROS —**

**Place #1:** From 1982 to 1987, the Women's Kairos was conducted in a multipurpose room inside the CWCF main building, with meals and closings in the dining hall nearby. In the Spring of 1987, after Kairos #9, this meeting space became unavailable due to the prison's need for expansion, remodeling, and asbestos control. Only small meetings, such as Bible studies and Kairos ultreyas, could continue because there was no space available for large-scale meetings.

**Place #2:** No place, from Spring 1987 until late July 1988.

**Place #3:** From July/August 1988 (Kairos #10) until now, Women's Kairos has been conducted in "The Chapel" -- a modular building situated in the CWCF front yard. Placing this building at CWCF was the result of the grace of God leading the Chaplain and concerned volunteers into a miraculous sequence of events. Donations came from Christians all over Colorado to prepare the site, then buy, move, and reassemble the building, and provide utilities. CWCF inmates gladly provided labor for the foundations and finishing touches. The electricity was connected the very afternoon Kairos #10 started and we joyously dedicated the Chapel during that Kairos. This "place" worked out well until early 1996 when, due to overcrowding, most of the minimum-security inmates at CWCF were moved to other facilities. After that, because the Chapel is outside the secure area, access to it became more difficult for most of the inmates, due to their security classifications.

**Place #4:** Sometime soon, due to the access problem, CWCF Chapel functions will be relocated to a building inside the main secure area, to a space currently being used for vocational programs. Concerned officials, especially the CWCF Programs Manager, Dr. Raymond Mulay, initiated this action and sought the concurrence of Kairos, since Kairos now represents the donors who provided funds for the current Chapel. The new "place" will be just south of the main prison building, centrally located, easily accessible, and very visible to inmates moving between the outer housing units and the main building. The main (existing) room is approximately the same size as in the current Chapel, thus adequate for regular Chapel services and large programs such as Kairos and Prison Fellowship. An addition to the building will provide space for a Chaplain's office and religious library, a small meeting room and a storage/workroom. Our captive architect, Art Wise, provided the floor plans for the addition. The materials are already on site, and construction may be underway as you read this. Please pray for successful completion in time for Kairos #28 in October to be held in the new Chapel. We anticipate dedicating the new Chapel during that weekend -- God willing -- just as we dedicated the current Chapel during Kairos #10. Thank you, Dr. Mulay and Mr. Wise. And above all, thank you, Lord, that this is working out to the benefit of the inmates' spiritual lives!

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

## **FROM TERRITORIAL #23 CLOSING —**

Some came as believers in Christ, but were idle, not showing love. Some didn't believe in God or a savior, were bitter. We found complete, unconditional love, peace, joy, community, that God is with us always and forever. We're taking fellowship, the fruit of the Spirit. We learned discipline to follow Christ. We're taking love and want to show that to others.

I didn't know if there was a difference -- Christian or Catholic. Now I know we're all one, brothers in Christ.

I came seeking to find out who Jesus is. I saw lots of love here and how to share with each other. I had made a wall out of my (short) size. Jesus showed me it's not the outside but what's in my heart that counts. Our family grew together.

I came with a bad attitude -- wondering what did different beliefs have to do with each other. I found Jesus, joy, love, the Father's presence in our lives. I'm taking more understanding, a deeper relationship with Jesus and each other. I learned to listen to the Holy Spirit and to anticipate God's understanding.

I admit I was a little bit bored Thursday. Friday I found people I didn't know sharing love. By Saturday, the Holy Spirit was welling up in me from all the love being shown, and that overflowed in my tears. I'm gonna miss this, but now I know we can come together and show this. If at least one in here who didn't come to Kairos can see this love through us, it'll be worth our efforts.

I could say a lot, but I'll make it short: I came looking for God; I found Him; and I'm leaving with Him!

Spiritually, I was dead. I had Jesus with me in another camp, but I packed Him in my bags when I left there, and left Him in there. It's hard to walk alone. Now I found that we need to share with each other to carry this love. I'm taking the courage to do that.

I never looked for Jesus on the street. I never received letters from my family in Cuba. But that bag of letters yesterday made up for that.

We're like scattered embers all by ourselves. We need to come together to make that fire flame up.

I came with a lack of faith, doubt that God would be with us. We found courage to open up to one another, to share the Lord with each other and others. We're taking love from everybody here and from God. We're going to be closer to each other because of this.

I was walking with Jesus a long time ago, but took a wrong turn and got lost. Kairos brought me back to the right road.

I charge everyone of my brothers here to take Christ with us after this Kairos and continue this walk with Jesus.

## **AN OFFICER AT WOMEN'S #27 CLOSING ---**

The Lord woke me up at 4:30 in the morning and told me to get up and write this down to say to you. I wanted to sleep and tried to argue with Him, but that never works, so....

Thank you for allowing me to speak at this closing of Kairos 27. I have spoken at many closings and it is always an honor for me. This closing is very special to me as it was four years ago at the closing of Kairos #20, my Kairos, that I stood right here and gave my life to Jesus Christ.

First, I would like to congratulate all of the candidates who are here tonight. I know personally that this weekend can be hard on many people. I would bet a token that a few tears were shed. A Kairos weekend brings out emotions that many of us wish were still safely locked away. It is not all cookies and good times. Usually, there is a lot of sadness and pain that comes out. It is not all fun and games for most of us. Let me tell you about my Kairos weekend.

In 1990, my father passed away. He wasn't really old but he had abused his body with tobacco and alcohol for years. The family had really expected him to die much sooner. Though I loved my father, it wasn't a great tragedy for me. However, two weeks later, my 16 year old daughter died. I was devastated. Rather than turn to God, I turned away from Him. I didn't do it consciously. I never said to myself, 'I hate God'. But I did. I could never forgive him for taking my daughter from me.

Then, a miraculous thing happened to me. Maybe, it was a miracle for everyone involved that weekend. I had been assigned to work security for the weekend of Kairos 20. In order to do that, I had to go into the chapel. Now, walking into a chapel is a simple thing for most people. Not for me. I felt uneasy inside the building and uneasy within myself. Many of the Kairos volunteers came to me that weekend and said they could tell I was in pain. They offered to help. I told them about my daughter but also told them I was fine. Of course, I was lying to them and to myself.

I suffered through the entire weekend but found myself listening to what they were telling the inmates. At times, my uneasiness would start to go away. But then, I would catch myself weakening and I would build my resolve to stay strong. I would have no part of this God who took my young daughter from me. God was not to be trusted with my love again.

Well, God worked on me all weekend long through these wonderful volunteers in the audience. I doubt it was easy for Him. I know it was tough on them. They could feel my pain and they suffered with me. These ladies and gentlemen didn't know me at all and yet, they were there for me just as they have been here for you this weekend. That weekend, because of them, I gave my life to Jesus Christ.

This month, I have been at this facility four years. That means four years I have been walking with the Lord. Now, does that mean things have been perfect for me during that time? Have I won the Lotto? Am I the Warden? Does everything work out for me? Unfortunately not. During that four years of being here, I have suffered the loss of my 24 year old son. My wife and I have also lost a baby, the only child she would ever have.

So, why am I a Christian when everything doesn't go my way? Why am I still a Christian when I seem to have these terrible tragedies in my life? I am a Christian because these problems, any problems, hit all of us at some time or another. So, what is the difference between those of us who are Christians and those who aren't? God is the deciding difference. Only He can give me the strength to overcome these problems and see light at the other end of the tunnel. As Christians, we don't have to keep problems to ourselves. We don't have to suffer alone. I have an entire room full of friends right now who I know will come help me if I need it.

My wife tells me sometimes that I tend to ramble on. This is a pretty good time to start to end this. I would like to do one more thing, if I may.

These volunteers have been coming here for years, bringing the basic food groups, cookies, brownies and fudge. But the important gift they bring is the love of God, and they give it to all of us, inmates and staff alike. These people leave their homes and their loved ones so they can spend four days with you. In four years, I have never seen these volunteers get the thanks they deserve. I think we need to thank them.

At this time, could I ask the members of Kairos 27 and the angels to please stand up now and applaud those volunteers in the audience who have brought their love of God to share with you.

Thank you again for letting me be a part of this glorious occasion.

## **OTHER CLOSING COMMENTS ---**

Six months before my trial, the Lord told me I'd be going to prison, but I didn't understand why. Now He's shown me. I needed to learn to be part of this royal family, to come out of my shell and share God's love.

I'm so grateful that I was able to put those names on that piece of paper and forgive. That lifted such a burden.

I'm leaving soon, but I'm taking a piece of heaven back to Florida with me. Those unbelievers better look out 'cause I'm bringing the Holy Spirit with me!

An Officer: Kairos brings an oasis to this desert. We've had a long Winter here, but Spring is coming for this community and Kairos is a big part of that.