

God's

Special



Time

"I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME." *Matthew 25:36*

JUNE 1987

KAIROS OF COLORADO, INC.

NEWSLETTER #17

SPECIAL recognition was given to us on May 29, at a special awards ceremony for all volunteers at Fremont. Certificates were given to individual volunteers with those over 100 hours in the past year in a handmade frame. Bob Sears and Bill Potter also received a special recognition plaque for over 500 and 800 hours. Kairos of Colorado received a recognition plaque for over 5000 hours.

THANKS to everybody who helped with cookies, palanca, meals, prayers, those who attended the closing and those who helped in any other way to make Kairos #3 at Territorial a successful weekend. Special thanks to those who not only prepared meals for us, but also drove down to Cañon City to deliver the meals during the weekend. And above all God's special blessing on all the kids who decorated placemats and wrote letters for us. Those placemats and letters always have a special impact on the weekend. Inside you can read about what the weekend meant to a Chaplain, a first time visitor and what the candidates had to say about the weekend.

DON'T forget about the Third International Kairos Conference taking place in Monument, Colorado, August 6, 7 & 8. This is not just another gathering of Kairos Krazys. This is a chance to meet and share and have a good time with people from all over our country and Canada and who knows where. If you think that we drive a long distance to go to Ultrayas, come and talk to some of the folks from Canada. Remember if you are planning to attend or if you want someone else to attend the conference you need to get your registration turned in **IMMEDIATELY**. There is a form enclosed in this newsletter to return to Kairos of Colorado, PO Box 25004, Colorado Springs, CO 80936. There is a registration fee for the conference of \$45.00. You can stay at the Falcon Inn with all meals for just \$45.00 per person per day (double) or if you want to commute each day, meals will be just \$15.00 per day. Those who plan to commute still need to fill out a registration so that we will know how many meals to plan for. We are planning a special Colorado banquet for Saturday night complete with mariachi music. Come along and join in the fun! If you also want to help host this event contact Sandy Browning, I'm sure that she can use your help. Friday and Saturday usually have several workshops about different aspects of prison and prison ministry or ex-inmates telling about their life after prison. There is also time for sharing in groups with all the other people there.

The following letter was sent to us by Chaplain Sheilah Rollins, part time Chaplain at CTCF, sharing with us her experience during the Kairos #3 weekend.

Dear friends of the Kairos family,

As I write it is one week since the closing of Kairos #3 at Colo. Territorial Correctional (or Christian) Facility as called by Mark McGoff, superintendent. You all so graciously permitted me to share that weekend with you and the inmates whom I've come to know in the seven months that I have worked there as a part time Chaplain. Thank you for inviting me to share some of my feelings with you about that special time.

There are many reasons for me to rejoice as I think of Kairos. First of all I'd heard of Kairos for several years when I was visiting women at CWCF and teaching there as a volunteer. I had wanted to know about Kairos for quite a while now, so it was a special honor for me to be "one of the candidates" for the weekend.

Also I did come in with some hesitation; feeling some of the usual paranoia about being an intruder as a woman in a man's territory. The team and inmates were very warm and accepting so I got over that fast. It seems that people made an effort to help me just relax and receive God's love, just as though I was one of the candidates.

From my perspective as Chaplain, I was deeply blessed to watch inmates respond to God's love as shown so openly by members of the Kairos team. I hope each team member realizes how vital they are in the overall picture of God's love that they presented to the inmates. I could see this image of the team as a group of ~~individuals with differing personalities, differing backgrounds and abilities,~~ but one as the Body of Jesus, present there with us, and each displaying the same truth; that He loves us as we are. I was touched by the team's openness and vulnerability - their unashamed tears and lack of pretense. I believe this is how Jesus wants us to relate to one another and that unless the world sees me as more fully human, as well as more fully God-like, no one will be able to believe Jesus could really love him. I was so thankful that the team shared themselves in this way.

Another observation about the Kairos "approach" was that throughout the weekend there was no particular "altar call" or call for the "sinner's prayer". Instead the method was simply as I understand it to "love that person into the Kingdom" or as the team presented to the inmates "Be a friend, make a friend, and introduce that friend to Jesus". I loved it, and have shared the same approach to evangelism myself for a long time. But it isn't often that one gets the opportunity to watch it in action with such a large group. It was precious - almost like everyone caught the measles! They "caught" Jesus the Living One! Wonderful! I couldn't help remembering a Scandinavian saying I heard once "Speak to the King in each man, and Lo, He appears." If only our world could learn, as Kairos has, to speak to and love Jesus the King within each man!

Thanks so much for the experience, the love, the food, the palanca (what a fantastic surprise) and the joy of sharing mass and the wonderful team members too. It was a privilege to be there, and I hope to share your work again in the future.

God keep you all,
Sheilah Rollins

Have you ever wondered what impression people have when they come to a closing for the first time? The following was sent to us by a member of Resurrection Fellowship in Loveland who attended her first closing at CTCF #3.

Kairos was an exciting and inspirational experience. We went there not to minister, but to be ministered to. When we arrived at the prison, there were already over 100 people waiting in line from various churches. We gathered in a recreation room which was like any Sunday School classroom with posters around the walls, made by the inmates during their Kairos weekend. We began to sing "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place" as the inmates filed in singing this chorus. They did not know that we were there. It was a surprise to them and quite a joy to know that they had a family on the outside who supported them. There were between 75-100 inmates who attended this weekend seminar. (Ed. note: there were 37 candidates and 22 cha-chas - we just crowd them in a corner and it looks like more.) They had divided into groups - each group with a facilitator. They had been asked to answer the questions: 1) What was their spiritual condition before they came? 2) What did they get out of this weekend? and 3) What will they take away from this weekend? Each group got up and introduced themselves and the facilitator answered for the group. I was in tears when the first young man gave his response. These young men had truly encountered the Lord on this weekend. They looked like any other group of born-again believers with happy smiling faces, and the light of Christ on their countenance. As they shared, many of them broke into tears and said it was the first time they had cried in many years. One young man said he had been in prison for two years and had not heard from any member of his family. During this weekend, he had received a letter from an 8 year old girl who told him that she loved him. He said that letter meant a great deal to him - that he had been waiting for two years to hear those words from his family. Many of these young men told of the way they grew up without love and unable to trust anyone. During this weekend they came to know the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. They had their arms around each other and had formed a bond that they had not known before. That bond of fellowship will be the force God will use, along with our prayers, to keep them as they go back into the prison population.

After they finished sharing with us, we mingled with and hugged them. Then we divided with the inmates on one side of the room and the visitors on the other, singing "Amazing Grace." Every inmate had his hands raised praising God from the depths of his being. In our worship services many times we are unable to praise God that unreservedly. I was reminded of the parable of the wedding banquet where the King sent his servants to summon those who had been invited to the wedding feast and they refused to come. Then he sent his servants to go into the thoroughfares and invite all who would come, both bad and good. He has sent us into the thoroughfares, the prisons, and wherever else men and women will desire to feast at His table.

One of the things that impressed me most was the unity and love among the Christian inmates. We need that kind of unity in the whole Body of Christ. There is much strife today in the Body of Christ as ministries oppose each other and families are too busy to look beyond their own walls many times. Jesus said in John 17 that the world will believe that the Father sent Him when we become one as He and the Father are one. My concluding thoughts are that the church will be able to fulfill our commission to win the world to Christ when we manifest the kind of love and unity that these Christian inmates at Cañon City have for one another.

We all brought God to the weekend in a little package and we're taking Him out in a semi.

I just walked across the yard singing a song with my arm around another man, I would never have done that before.

We found people this weekend who answered our questions and we found out there is more family than just our table family.

I saw the quiet ones get loud and the loud ones get quiet.

I came to the Kairos weekend and something got inside me, don't know what but...

All my life I've been locked up without Jesus in my heart, everybody left me and I lost everything, now I have a family.

I got a letter from an 8 year old girl who told me that she loved me. I've been waiting two years to hear that from my family and now I found a family that I didn't even know I had.

I'm 63 now and I don't always remember too well, but I think I recognize someone out there, is that Lucille, she used to be my babysitter and change my diapers.

The first night I was one those guys who said that they didn't want to hug -- I found out that I was the first one who needed a hug.

There is no acceptance in this place. I learned to accept recently - about 15 minutes ago.

The Lord can't be in this place, I said. He slapped me in the face when I came through that door.

I looked for a church when I left San Quentin and found the door locked. This time when I get out I will make a pilgrimage to the home of brother Lee here in the wheelchair. I know what he is going through.

They're really sneaky, you come from the chapel and there is this little bag on the table. They even have your name on it so you can't get out of it. My mom always told big things come in small packages.

I cried for first time in 12 years. Praise God!

We all had a lack of trust and found that love brings that trust.

We found rivers of living water running down our faces.

We found that people really do love us.

I gave up a visit that I have been waiting a year for to come to Kairos - I guess I was right. My favorite verse is John 3:16, in the picture we got of this weekend, there I am, 3rd row 16th man over.

I had hit a low spot and prayed and prayed for something to lift me up. I didn't expect this much. I found that you can cry in joy - guess that is what it took.

by the superintendent - I really wasn't sure when you people first came and told me about Kairos 5 years ago at Fremont. I checked it out with the other places that had the program and they told me how great it was, but I still wasn't sure. Now I can't wait for you to come back. I have even learned a new vocabulary, Kairos - Ultreya - Palooka, oh, Palanca. Guess I still have more to learn.

SOMETHING NEW

There is now an informal gathering at CWCI on the third Sunday of each month. This time will be for fellowship and also time to work on Palanca for upcoming events. Sandy Browning is coordinating these weekends, call her if you are interested.

ULTREYAS

Women's Ulteya is the first Sunday starting at 4:30 P.M.
Territorial Ulteya is the first Sunday starting at 6:00 P.M.
Fremont Ulteya is the first Sunday starting at 6:30 P.M.
Skyline Ulteya is the first Sunday starting at 3:00 P.M.

Reminder - these are the starting times inside the facilities. Remember to arrive earlier to get from the parking areas to the meeting areas.

DENVER REUNION

Last Friday of the month at St. Pauls Episcopal Church, 10th & Garrison, Lakewood starting at 7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is July 23, 1987 at 7:00 P.M. and will be held at the Falcon Inn in Monument in final preparation for the Kairos Conference in August. Any one who wishes may attend.

MORE NEW THINGS

New tables and chairs arrived at Fremont just in time for the retreat on June 13th. With the old furniture now stored at Territorial this means we no longer have to worry about moving it between the facilities 4 times a year. Thanks to everybody who helped stencil that weekend.

STILL NEEDED

New sealed cassette tapes (Christian), greeting cards, books new or used of any appropriate subject, or puzzles. These items can be given to Bob Sears, Bill Potter or Sandy Browning to be passed on to the Chaplains who will make them available in the prison libraries.

There is an organization who will donate a complete modular building to be used for a prison chapel. Maybe we could all join in prayer for one of these buildings to pop up at CWCI.

DATES TO PLAN FOR

August 22 the second Kairos training workshop.
Sept. 10-13 Fremont #10 Andrew Kaminski, rector.
Oct. 9-11 CWCI #10 Luetta Marsh, rectora. Pray for the cleanup to be done in time for this weekend.
Nov. 19-22 CTCF #4 rector to be announced later.

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