

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 18 #2

Summer 2000

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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HUMILITY

The inmates always want to thank us for coming in and for doing things for them. They regard us as very special people. They see spiritual strength in us that we ourselves are not aware of. The fact that we are not aware of it is a sign of our humility.

In Team Meeting #5 we focus on humility. The scripture for that meeting is John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last." Note that Jesus did not appoint them to do things that would get them puffed up with their own good-ness. Their personal tree was to bear fruit for the use of others, not just make beautiful foliage for its own nourishment. The Rector's talk for that meeting says:

"Humility is the presentation of the self fully in love with Christ and his people. It is the manifestation of a self no longer attentive to self, either at a conscious or unconscious level, because all attending belongs to the object of our passionate love — our God.....True humility arises from truly loving one another as Christ has loved us."

True humility arises from a secure position in Christ, the "blessed assurance" we sing about — the assurance that produces spiritual self esteem, which in turn permits us to love others as ourselves. Sound backwards? We have to have a happy ego in order to be humble?

Yes. Consider Moses. In Numbers 12:3 we read: "Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth." How could he be so humble? Because he was God's man. At the time of the Exodus, God trusted Moses and worked through him more than anyone else alive. Moses was very sure of his relationship with God.

He no longer had any pride in his own capabilities. He knew that everything he was able to do came from God. God was everything, and without God he was nothing. That is how Moses could be so humble.

Moses was so sure of his humility that he was able to write about it with a straight face (assuming that someone else did not edit Numbers later). Would any of us be able to do that? Are we sure enough of our own relationship with God to have no pride about it? Do we realize that things that would make a non-believer more proud serve to make us more humble?

Paul writes in Colossians 2:9 that we "are complete in Him," and in Romans 8:17 that we are "heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ." What more could we want? When this wonderful message sinks in, how can we have even a trace of pride in our own accomplishments or status? How can we make ourselves any more important than God has already made us? On our own we can add nothing to what Jesus Christ has already done for us. In this state of humility we are free to be a servant to others, to be the hands and feet of Jesus here in this time and place — exactly what He needs for us to be, especially in our Kairos ministry.

One might say that all of this could be summed up by simply saying that humility is the opposite of pride. More to the point is that humility is the result of confidence — total, unwavering belief that everything we have become and will ever be all comes from the Creator. He is the One Who did it all, He is the One Who keeps it all going. We give Him the glory. Then where is there any room for pride?

There is room only for humility. We may not notice it, but our inmates will.

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

5 February 1928

JANE L. MERRITT

12 April 2000

Jane Merritt's earthly life touched many, many people. The Memorial Service was packed. Kairos brothers and sisters from Denver, Boulder, and Cañon City were there. As Kim said in his eulogy, "Mom has four biological children, but her family extends way beyond that, and well beyond her twelve grandchildren. At Golden Bell they were touched in their stomachs (Jane was head cook there for many years), in Kairos it was the cinnamon buns." In other places it was the huge hugs. A "Jane hug" — that's how she passed on God's love to so many of us. And she let God hug her. One of the eulogists said: "Jane gave God a chance, and He hugged her."

For many years Jane served on Kairos and Emmaus teams as Kitchen Head. The meals were great, but more than that, just her presence on a team was such a blessing to all. Then one day she came to her friends and said, "Pray for me, I have cancer." We did pray and she did her part, too — always a positive outlook in spite of the pain and all the medical things. She knew that the Bible is the Word of God, so she took encouragement from passages such as "Neither death nor life...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38,39). One of the eulogists said that death is not so much an extinguishing of the light, but a turning off of the lamp as a magnificent dawn breaks forth. We take this on faith. Jane knew it — profoundly, as she went so peacefully "full tilt into the spiritual realm" to be home at last.

27 October 1936

DARRELL N. CORLETT

15 April 2000

Darrell Corlett had a Masters Degree in Education but his real gift from God was as a carpenter. His life goal was to become as Jesus in touching people's lives. Darrell never wavered from his goal. He touched the lives of men not only in the prison but also in the work place. No matter how hot or how much work there was to be done, he always found time to share his love of Jesus. Darrell never stopped pitching for the Kairos ministry. He was known in his church as the "cookie man." Along the way he served as Delta Facility Coordinator for three years.

Darrell just plain loved his ministry in the Kairos program. He shared it with his wife Sue who made table favors for every meal for every Kairos that Darrell was involved in., and with their daughter Kristen who worked on the place mats that her school made for the meals at Kairos. But his real family was much larger than Sue and Kristen. He said that it kept growing with every Kairos weekend. He loved, as family, every man who went through the program. His love was so deep it "made his eyeballs sweat."

Now Darrell has gone home to his Father's house (John 14:2,3). All of us, especially his immediate household and his family at Delta, will miss him. Delta Kairos will not be the same without him, but he leaves hearts happy in the knowledge that he has graduated "to the Higher Place." Now he doesn't just have a Masters Degree. He is with the Master.

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

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 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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KAIROS KALENDAR — 2000

Fremont	#36	Sep 14-17
Women	#33	Oct 19-22
Delta	#18	Oct 19-22
Territorial	#30	Nov 16-19

Please keep these teams in your prayers.

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Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub "Spiritually Speaking" by Jim Strub

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The Corlett, Mares, and Merritt families; Cecelia Lobato, A.J. Luckey, Duaine Medina, Gerri Quintana, Wanda Sitler, Vicky Thorson, Bill Tipton and Chuck Weida. Some are healing nicely, others are waiting. Please pray for God's will and comforting presence.

CLOSING COMMENTS — DELTA #17

Our table family arrived drained, but wanting to learn about Jesus. We became friends, learned about the power of God, became better listeners, and came to understand the importance of fellowship. We are taking with us faith, stronger hope, positive attitudes, forgiveness, an appreciation of agape love, and a general spiritual overhaul.

Last night I told my mom that I had accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior.

How absolutely beautiful it has been this weekend to watch Jesus Christ soften men's hearts through grace. Some of the toughest guys I know have been saved through the grace of Jesus Christ.

We arrived with very little love but hope — feeling like birds with broken wings and lacking spiritual

strength. We found here agape love in unbelievable abundance from all the brothers on the weekends. To a man, we know that God is alive. As we leave here today, we are counting on Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit.

Of my 32 years, I have been incarcerated for 17. I offer no excuses for this — I made bad choices. Coming from my family, crime is all I knew. We have found here the love of Jesus Christ through our brothers and know that we must now be obedient to Jesus Christ and continue to walk with Him on the street. I look forward to bringing Jesus Christ to my family when I return to them.

My table family found more love than any of us could have imagined here this weekend. We are taking Christ with us in our hearts as a new family.

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



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CLOSING COMMENTS — CAÑON WOMEN'S #32

Before coming to Kairos I was practicing the religion of Wicca. I have turned away from that, and I have turned back to God. Until this weekend I never truly knew spiritual love. Now I do. I have cried tears of joy. I have found the mountaintop.

I've forgiven my mom, for the first time in 21 years.

We found those who made us feel human and treated us with respect.

My biggest struggle has been accepting myself for taking a blessing that the Lord had given me. Now I know that He forgives me. I need to keep walking right with the Lord so I can get home to my angel.

I came knowing Jesus, but only part of the time.

Now we know the truth: Christ wants all of us.

I didn't feel worthy of walking into this building. I learned to accept myself, and love myself this way. Also, even if I'm in here, I'm just as good as anyone outside because Jesus is here and He loves me.

I know that I am special in God's eyes.

I'm not embarrassed to be a Christian anymore.

I'm taking the fire of Christ with me. I hope to set the whole penitentiary on fire.

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