



COLORADO



FROM THE CHAIR

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Our Best-est for His Highest

With apologies to Oswald Chambers for first blatantly stealing and then badly abusing the title of his famous Devotional book, I have been thinking lately about what it means to give God our “best” when it comes to prison ministry. What does “excellence” mean when we’re talking about a volunteer organization where people were called by God to generously give of their time and money and heart and soul in His name? They answered the call. **You** answered the call.

As I look around our great state of Kairos, I mean our great state of Colorado; I see the state of Kairos is good. People are giving so much of themselves to Kairos and the men and women we serve. I see and hear about lives being changed by God in miraculous and supernatural ways in every one of our facilities served. [Wait, Time out: that thought made me think of Maurice, one of the terrific young men at my table on a weekend many years ago, so I just stopped and texted him to see how he and his beautiful family are doing]. Ok, time back in.

But how do we know if we are giving our best-est to Jesus? There are no rankings, no scores, no reports that can capture the real effectiveness or excellence of how we do what we do. So how do we know?

Well, we can see the utmost passion in what Ann Weida, Jean Yanchek, Jean Magnuson, and Sara Igyarto are doing to get Kairos started up at La Vista. They are giving all of their bursting energy to this great goal. I hear how supportive the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) people are to help make this happen and am thankful to God for that excellent blessing.

We can see Lee Schafer and Kevin Condon travelling to Buena Vista to start up that facility, right on the heels of starting up Bent County. They not only don’t complain about the long drives, they constantly talk about how excited they are about these excellent facilities, the wonderful CDOC people, the helpful local pastors and churches, and all the fired-up volunteers who are supporting this great mission. [You know Kevin gets teary when he talks about how God is moving in Buena Vista. So do I, so it’s OK, Kevin!]

We can see Janelle Scrivner’s AKT team planning another outstanding Advance Kairos Training leadership training event in Denver in May. By the way, special thanks to Liz Castillo for her many years of excellent leadership to make Colorado AKT a shining example for other states.

We can see the new volunteers recruited up at Sterling and at all our other Advisory Councils around the state. Excellent work, everyone! I could go on and on!

FROM THE CHAIR (cont'd.)

But can we do even better at what we do to serve God in Kairos? By that I don't mean spending more time or money. I mean, can we enhance our excellence just by knowing and putting into action the best ways to do things based on lessons learned in other states?

Yes! People all over the country have been asking for training for all local Advisory Council (AC) leaders and volunteers on the best ways to do things to enhance our effectiveness and excellence at the AC level. So, Evelyn Lemly, our KPMI Executive Director, raised donations to fund creation for training of the trainers from across the country, and delivery of an excellent new training course called ACT (Advisory Council Training). Thank you God, this is fantastic!

Big News: We are extremely pleased to invite all AC members from across the state one day this summer to conduct a major morning ACT event, followed in the afternoon by a powerful volunteer celebration gathering at the same venue. I ask all local AC and State Committee members to mark your calendars right now to plan to come to Frisco, Colorado on **Saturday, July 16 at 8:30 am at the Frisco Senior Center**. The training lasts 4 hours, followed by a gourmet lunch created by our very own Fr. Tom Hall (and team)! Then we will have some exciting, powerful, excellent speakers who are graduates of Kairos weekends in a couple of our facilities. I feel personally blessed that one of my new friends, Gina Brockmeyer, head of all Women's Prison Ministries at KPMI, will be leading the ACT training, along with another trainer from another state.

I can't wait to see all of you for ACT Training and the Volunteer Celebration Event on July 16!
God's best-est and most excellent blessings to all of you!

Submitted by,
Randy Weldon
State Chairman, Kairos of Colorado

LA VISTA—IN GOD'S GOOD TIME!

Kairos will hold their first weekend at La Vista on October 20 to 23, 2016! After three years of attempting to get Kairos going inside of La Vista Women's Correctional Facility in Pueblo, we gave up because we were getting nowhere. A 4-Day Weekend had never been conducted there, just reunions. In fact, our reunion attendance had dropped to maybe one or two participating offenders. So, we gave up trying and pulled our efforts aside.

Then, in fall of 2015, we, along with Jean Magnuson, were invited to attend a volunteer luncheon at La Vista by Kirk Machin, Colorado Department of Corrections. At the luncheon, much to our surprise the Warden, Laurie Tafoya, announced that Kairos would be coming into La Vista.

So, since then we have been attempting to get the wheels turning so we can have our first weekend. It has been challenging to say the least, but we are consistently being reminded God is in control. Not us! We are most grateful for the challenge and we ask for more volunteers and prayers, prayers, and more prayers.

If you would like to help us spread God's love to the incarcerated women there, please contact Ann Weida at 719-548-9102 or weidacr@aol.com. All meetings will be held in Colorado Springs beginning in August.

Thank you and God bless,
Jean Yanchek and Ann Weida
La Vista Kairos volunteers

Friendship with Jesus

Friendship with God is a key – if not the central, fundamental teaching of Kairos Prison Ministry.

It's the beginning lesson in the construction of the three-legged stool analogy during a four-day weekend. This lesson teaches the inmates that God wants to be in relationship with us. It's a good beginning teaching but I have a question for you.

Are you living in friendship with Jesus?

The reason for asking the question stems from my observation that many Christians treat friendship with Jesus/God in what I consider a very casual manner. It's very similar to this scene.

You walk into church one Sunday morning and you start greeting your friends. Hi Joe, how did the week go? Hi Sue, that sure is a great dress you're wearing today. Hi Mark, how's your son doing in football this year? Hi God, how are you doing?

Casual. No big deal. It's something taken for granted since we are saved, right?

How does God see friendship with him? Jesus explains what it means to be his friend in John 15:9-17.

Jesus and the disciples have left the upper room and are on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus explains that he loves them just as the Father has loved him and encourages them to remain in his love by obeying his commands. In 1 John 5:3, we are reminded that love for God is defined as obeying his commands. In verse 15:14, Jesus declares that you are his friend when you do what he commands.

This obedience is not burdensome. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Mt 11:32). It allows us to find joy in life by our willingness to allow our lives to be directed by the express will of God. A disciple's life is not an imitation of Christ but the result of Christ in our life. Our joy is his joy in us. It is not the result of pleasant circumstances, but of wholehearted obedience.

We do not earn Jesus' friendship by obedience. Our lives should provide evidence that such a friendship does in fact exist.

So I ask the question again.

Are you living in friendship with Jesus?

God Bless,
Tom+ Hall

RIFLE 2-DAY

The Rifle team held a two-day retreat on Jan. 9 & 10, 2016. We used the "Wild at Heart" small group video series by John Eldredge. The video series is based on Eldredge's book by the same name. It consists of eight sessions, approximately 30 minutes each, and follows five guys through a series of adventures in rafting, fishing, shooting, repelling, and riding horses. Amid the adventures, the men discuss topics such as the heart of a man, have I got what it takes, wounds, healing the heart, a battle to fight, and an adventure to live.

This video series was very successful in terms of getting the men involved and generating discussion. We showed a video session and then divided the men into small groups for discussion. Attendance was good with over 20 each day. The men were able to relate to the guys Eldredge had assembled in making the video series and the topics were pertinent to the men's lives. The sessions that dealt with relationships, with fathers, and the wounds men receive were particularly beneficial and generated much discussion. We could not complete all eight sessions during the retreat, so the remaining sessions have been used during recent reunions.

For a quick look at the "Wild at Heart" series, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBx6DyAcaUk>.

Submitted by Tyne Bush,
Kairos volunteer

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Please, let us, as a team, address reimbursements, advances, vendor payments and anything requiring me to approve a check issuance from Lonnie Womack. If you have the capability to scan your appropriate documentation and send them to me and Lonnie, **do it!** My address is sharliemorel@me.com and Lonnie's is lwomack46@gmail.com. If you do not have scanning capability, please mail a copy of your documentation to my home address, which is:

Sharlie Morel
1562 Oneida Street
Denver, CO 80220

Do NOT send your information to the Colorado Springs P.O. Box and please try using the forms available to you at mykairos.org.

Now, for our deposits, which include Cash Receipt Logs, deposit slips, bank deposit receipts, and check copies. Once again, they can be emailed or snail mailed to me.

You and your Donor Expert have options in the Cash Receipt Log. If you have a Donor that directs their donation to go to La Vista or another correctional facility, please mark that clearly on this form. Your complete information allows me to serve you better. I check our Cash Receipt Logs with a fine-tooth comb. I enter the amount in a particular deposit to the correct council, and they are charged with the KPMI 15% affiliation fee. I also break down each deposit for our councils into the following categories, Team, Churches, Businesses, and Friends.

Lonnie and I want to provide you with the most efficient "Customer Service"!
A BIG THANKS TO OUR TEAM IN COLORADO FOR ALL YOU DO!

Submitted by,
Sharlie Morel
State Financial Secretary

KAIROS CELEBRATION AND ACT



Kairos of Colorado Statewide Volunteer Celebration & Advisory Council Training (for all)

Changing Hearts
Transforming Lives
Impacting the World

- **Light Breakfast** 8 AM
- **ACT** 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- **Lunch** 12:30 PM
- **Speakers** 1:30 PM – 3 PM

Saturday; July 16, 2016

Summit County Community
& Senior Center
83 Nancy's Place
Frisco, CO

Advisory Council Training (ACT) is available to all **Kairos members**, whether they are an AC member or not. It serves as the catalyst to provide all the tools needed to operate efficiently, to understand their roles and authority, and to operate effectively and according to the Operating Procedures.

This training will empower and equip all members to perform their duties according to the highest standards with a spirit of Excellence and Spiritual Integrity.



TIME FOR AKT

God equips the called for Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) and they come from all over the US, including New York, Alaska, Tennessee, California, New Mexico, and other states. It is such a joy to get to know the participants while having a meal with them, transporting them to and from the airport, or just bringing a pot of soup to share. It is okay to drop in to see them learn how to carry out and deliver God's love to the residents.

I always love working this weekend where you can hear and feel the delight and enthusiasm these servants experience as they prepare for a leadership role in a 4-day Kairos weekend.

Date: Friday, May 13 – Sunday, May 15, 2016

Location: Burns United Methodist Church 1095 Newark Street, Aurora, Colorado. 80010.

Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton Denver - Stapleton North 4040 Quebec St. Denver 80216

Deadline for registration is April 29th.

Come and see God work!

Submitted by,
Janelle Scrivner
Training Chairperson

STATE WEBSITE – AN ASSEST FOR ALL

How do we spread the ministry of Kairos? Talking individually to someone or to a group is a great approach and nothing will ever replace the human touch. However, technology can also be a great asset that we can add to our tool chest.

God is willing to use technology, as imperfect as it may be, when it is done for the proper reasons. In the Bible, God gives us examples of the use of then modern-day technology, which included Noah's Ark, The Ark of the Covenant, and the tablets for the Ten Commandments, the tabernacles, ships, fishing nets, etc.

Today, we need to determine if a technology may be useful and consider when is the right time to use and how often. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 tell us, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." For those of use involved in the Kairos ministry, there is a plethora of information to use and at times it can be daunting to shift through it.

The redesigned Kairos of Colorado website <http://kairos.colorado.org/> has been online for about a year now and it's full of useful information. Folks who don't personally know a Kairos member and who are interested in serving in prison ministry can visit the website and get contact information.

The website offers the following solutions:

- *Prayer vigils.*

Create a prayer vigil at www.3dayol.org and have it linked to the Kairos of Colorado website.

Share this link with folks and they can learn about Kairos from the website

<http://kairos.colorado.org/pv.html>

- *Recruitment.*

Let's face it, we are not getting any younger and having new folks join Kairos is critical to the success of the long term ministry.

<http://kairos.colorado.org/recruit.html>

Please read the Kairos of Colorado Recruiting Guidelines, it lays out the various recruitment methods.

Other Recruitment Information includes -

Faith and Citizen Programs Volunteer Application

Interest Card

Outreach Mailing Brochure

www.MyKairos.org Outreach and Recruiting Page

Kairos Recruitment Videos

- *The website also has the state's calendar, DOC and prison info, Kairos history and tons of other information.*

Suggestions for improvements are appreciated and welcomed - please email me at susan@kairos.org

Submitted by,
Susan Despotopulos
Database/Website Chair

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Three years ago my friend, Shawna, was sentenced to eighteen years in the Department of Corrections for a crime she did not commit. She did have a certain level of culpability which had the judicial system worked properly; she could have received a much lower sentence. During her three years of confinement, she has prayed. Prayed for understanding. For peace. For her wonderful husband to come to know and love God as she does. For the court to correct her sentence and lessen it. For her husband, a construction worker, who was without work, losing their home, and selling their possessions to make ends meet. Shawna prayed.

I have known Shawna two of her three years of confinement. Never once have I heard her bemoan her circumstances. She prays. She “gives it to God” daily.

On December 30, 2015, Shawna appeared in court for a sentencing “reconsideration.” Her attorney told her the original sentencing judge personally requested to preside over the reconsideration hearing. Shawna was to appear in court at 9 am.

... At 9 am in Denver Women’s Correctional Facility, a group of women gathered and openly prayed for Shawna’s success. They prayed, asking God to place His hand on the heart and mind of the judge. I was in my room praying, too. I was not praying for Shawna – I was asking God to open the mind and heart of the judge to hear Shawna and to consider her request with a gentle, Christian heart.

The judge told Shawna she had been “haunted” by giving an 18-year sentence and then reduced her sentence to 12 years. At this time, Shawna will apply for release to Community Corrections (a halfway house) in April. Amen? Amen!

Did I mention that Shawna’s husband came to Christ and has committed his life to our loving, saving Lord? He also now has the best job he has ever had and is actively searching for a home for the two of them in Denver.

PRAYER. It’s powerful!

Written by,
Lisa, a DWCF resident

WHAT GOD CAN DO THROUGH KAIROS

From a former DWCF inmate,

The (Kairos) women bring a lot of cheer and hope to those of us who were lost for so long in our addictions or crime. You have no idea how much of an influence a (Kairos) volunteer can do in a persons life! I have been clean and sober for 10 years now and I owe a lot of that to the words that I heard from the (Kairos) women who took the time to bless us with their presence & amazing stories!

Submitted by,
RuthMary Lyons
DWCF Kairos volunteer

ABUNDANT LIFE

Living in dependence on God is the way to enjoy an abundant life. You learn to appreciate the tough times because they amplify your awareness of God's presence. Tasks that you used to dread are becoming rich opportunities to enjoy His closeness. When you feel tired, remember that God is your strength; you can take pleasure in leaning on Him. God is pleased by your tendency to turn to Him more and more frequently, especially when you are alone.

When you are with other people, you can often lose sight of God's presence. Your fear of displeasing people puts you in bondage to them, and they become your primary focus. When you realize this has happened, whisper the name of our Lord; this tiny act of trust brings Him to the forefront of your consciousness, where He belongs. As you bask in the blessing of His nearness, His life can flow through you to others.

This is abundant life!

Adapted from Jesus Calling

2016 EVENTS

CONTACTS

31 March-3 April	RIFLE #22	Tyne Bush
7-10 April	BENT COUNTY #2	Russ Gorrell
7-10 April	TERRITORIAL #60	Dick Wilson
14-17 April	DELTA #59	Bill Bennett
5-8 May	STERLING EAST #13	Mark Cook
13-15 May	AKT	Janelle Scrivner
4-5 June	DENVER 2-DAY	Glenda Condon
11-12 June	BENT COUNTY 2-DAY	Russ Gorrell
9-10 July	RIFLE 2-DAY	Tyne Bush
9-10 July	TERRITORIAL 2-DAY	Dick Wilson
16-17 July	DELTA 2-DAY	Bill Bennett
13-14 Aug.	STERLING EAST 2-DAY	Mark Cook
8-11 Sept.	DENVER #26	Glenda Condon
20-23 Oct.	LA VISTA #1	Ann Weida

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

[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 thirty-five states and nine other countries – Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. The course materials are

COLORADO CHAPTER – STATE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Randy Weldon	303-358-2280	randymweldon@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Tim Brady	970-280-3599	tkbradydc@aol.com
International Representative	Glenda Condon	303-906-4762	ggcondon@gmail.com
Secretary	Elizabeth Wilson	407-312-8753	lizwilson@hotmail.com
Financial Secretary	Sharlie Morel	303-506-4972	sharliemorel@me.com
Treasurer	Lonnie Womack	719-534-3557	lwomack46@gmail.com
Clergy Co-Leader	Tom Hall	719-650-5319	th@biotest.net
Clergy Co-Leader	Carolyn Somerville	303-755-9290	carolynsong@aol.com

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Bent County	Rick Rodriguez	719-989-7317	christa_rick.rodriguez@yahoo.com
Buena Vista	Kevin Condon	303-906-4532	kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com
Delta	Tim Brady	970-280-3599	tkbradydc@aol.com
Denver Women's	RuthMary Lyons	970-405-0263	rm80620@hotmail.com
La Vista	Sara Igyarto	719-330-0637	bobsarai66@gmail.com
Rifle	Ken Ooley	970-270-6276	kokustomz@yahoo.com
Sterling	Mark Cook	970-302-0150	peregrine310.mc@gmail.com
Territorial	Tom Guidera	303-730-2148	tom281940@aol.com

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Agape	Sandy Miller	316-200-7361	solespoken@hotmail.com
Database/Website	Susan Despotopulos	303-808-7419	susandck@yahoo.com
New Facilities	Lee Schafer	703-585-5053	leeschafer2@aol.com
Newsletter	Pat Mills	303-319-0917	patmsjja@yahoo.com
Security	Jean Yanchek	719-599-8280	jmbyy@cs.com
Training	Janelle Scrivner	303-204-6475	janellelouise@yahoo.com

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Kairos of Colorado, P.O. Box 25004, Colorado Springs CO 80936

www.kairoscolorado.org

www.facebook.com/groups/kairoscolorado/