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"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"

Volume 12 #4

Autumn 1994

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

1930 RAY HAUSNER 1994

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit -- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."

John 15:16-17

Jesus chose and appointed Ray Hausner. Ray did go and Ray did bear fruit -- fruit that is lasting. Ray Hausner often prayed to the Father, and the Father gave him what he asked in Jesus' name. Ray Hausner obeyed Jesus' command to "love each other".

Jesus called Ray Hausner home in late July. Ray was the Rector for Delta Kairos #6 and had already organized the team and led the first team meeting. He continued as Rector in spirit -- a warm, loving spirit keenly felt all through the rest of the team formation and the Weekend itself. Ray's wife, Marilyn, continued through the Weekend on the kitchen team. Praise God!

At the Closing the Delta Superintendant, Bob Hickox, gave glowing recognition of Ray and his service to the facility. He announced that hereafter at the volunteer recognition banquet, the award to the honored volunteer will be called "The Ray Hausner Award." Chaplain Bill Potter called Marilyn forward and presented a hand-painted pendant, card, and poster signed by the inmates and team.

Many people loved Ray very deeply, and Ray loved them back just as much. Ray loved the inmates at Delta and spent many, many hours with them on a weekly basis. Once when Ray hugged an inmate and told him that he loved him, the inmate asked Ray, "Why?" Ray's response was simple and from the heart: "Because Jesus loves you."

(More on page 2)

KAIROS RETURN FORM

Check here if new address.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Here is my gift of \$ _____ for Kairos Prison Ministry

_____ in _____ prison.

_____ wherever help is most needed.

_____ I'd like to volunteer. Please send team application.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

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"A Ray of sunshine has gone from our lives."

Ray Hausner showed God's love to a remarkable number and variety of people. The title above and the lines below are excerpts from the thousands of loving words written in the hours prior to Ray's funeral Mass. And yes, they all do refer to the same Ray!

- + **Ray, my son – I'll miss you so much. You have always loved me and looked out for me. You brought so much sunshine into my life. Your mother.**
- + Dad always loved seeing somebody else catch a fish.
- + Ray's little laugh and twinkle in his eyes are such a precious memory of God's special servant.
- + He would always pray with us, at any time, in person or on the phone. He would always say it never hurt to stay prayed ahead!
- + Ray always reminded me of what I thought one of Santa's helpers would be like.
- + When I needed special help, I would call Ray and he always came to my house and we would pray and cry together and it would make me feel as if all my trials and tribulations just floated away. My prayers were answered very soon.
- + My most vivid thoughts of Ray go back to the days when I and many other cousins spent summers stacking hay for him. Working for him always meant a good time...
- + I will always remember Uncle Ray teaching me how to ride a horse. He was very patient and right there to catch me when I fell.

- + **Mr. Hausner was a perfect example of how the Lord could use a person's life every day.**
- + Ray was my friend. My troubles were his troubles. My sadness was his sadness.
- + Ray always made boring things like cutting and wrapping elk meat seem more fun than they really were.
- + If I had 5 more minutes with Ray, I'd thank him for sharing himself with us and showing us what life should be...deep, intense, unshakable faith; pride in and unconditional love of your children; honor, respect, infinite love and tenderness for your spouse; and time and affection for all who need you.
- + Ray made the darkest, cloudiest days full of warmth and sunshine.
- + I remember Ray as singing -- it was the music welling up out of his heart!
- + He was so content working on his backhoe, said he even split his firewood with it.
- + Right after I got back from Viet Nam, Ray was one of the first to take me aside and make me feel like a human again with his understanding and caring about what went on.
- + Ray was a hugger -- a disarming hugger. He was able to penetrate the barriers of discrimination, distrust, or simple social resistance. I believe he could have walked into a lion's den and captured the trust and confidence of a wild animal. And Ray did not become this way by learning talents of manipulation; and Ray did not practice to become better and better. Rather, Ray was simply living and being Ray; he was what he believed and therefore was the best he could be from the beginning, because Ray was not a product of man; he was a product of God.

- + **I didn't have a blood brother. Ray was my brother in Christ.**
- + Wherever he was with his smiling face you could see and feel the joy of the Lord.
- + If anyone's life could be changed by smile, Ray had the loving smile that could do it.
- + Ray was one man who was proud of the growth of being able to cry.
- + I met Ray at Kairos, and the thing that impressed me the most about him was that he seemed to love everybody.
- + Ray -- I met you at Kairos. You showed me something that, even though I had been living 38 years, I had never known before. It was love that you showed me.
- + I cried with him and laughed with him.
- + I know that the Lord has received my Brother with the words "Well done, thou good and Faithful Servant."
- + A man of God whom we'll all miss very much. Goodbye, Ray Hausner.

FROM DELTA #6 CLOSING ---

Thursday I was anxious but scared. It feels so good to know now I can take Jesus with me.

I came unworthy. I'm leaving unworthy, but that seems OK with Jesus.

The love blew me away. I've never felt it before and it's beautiful, real beautiful.

I felt like I was on a rollercoaster. I am full of something that feels like fear, but I know it's not. I walk around here trying to stay to myself, and I feel very alone. But when I felt the Spirit, I wasn't alone anymore. I've always been a caring, loving person and that attitude is from Christ. I know that now, and I am thankful for Jesus not hardening my heart and compromising my belief, despite my environment and the people around me. Now I'm full of God's perfect love -- I'm really full of it. I want to throw it out over all of you. I'm full of it. Before I was down and unhappy. Now I'm smiling for the first time and meaning it.

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FROM FREMONT #24 CLOSING ---

What we found here was something like watching a baby being born.

Life in prison is only as hard as you make it. We Christians should make life here easier for the guards. We're not a bunch of jerks; we can be reformed.

When I saw all of you (at the Closing) singing "Surely the Presence" with us, I finally realized how much more love there is for us.

Movies are a big escape for me, so I might describe us like this: We arrived "Lost in Space". Here we found the courage to "boldly go where no man has gone before". Then, remember the old Coca Cola commercial? This is the "real thing".

It really touched me that these guys have problems and make mistakes, too. We must not be afraid to take that next step.

I hope you keep on doing this for all those who'll come after us, 'cause this is so great, so special.

I thought I was macho, really big. But there's someone so much bigger and that's the Lord.

I couldn't believe a group could come together like this in prison, but it did. It's awesome.

I thought I was strong inside, but when I saw all those letters, it busted me wide open inside.

FROM FREMONT KAIROS #24 RECTOR ---

Fremont #24 is now in the history books. Like all of the Kairos Short Courses it was unique and will never be repeated. It was a special Kairos moment, bringing a group of outside team members together in a way they will never be together again, to serve a unique group of candidates. The only thing not unique about the weekend was God's precious Holy Spirit who is always the same.

Our weekend began early when 20 of us arrived at 11 am for a tour of the facility. Most of us had never been below the chapel before so it was quite an eye-opening experience. Several things strike you as you go deep in the facility. One thing is the size of the place. It is much larger and much more complex than you might imagine. It is very easy to get out of sight of the corrections officers and much easier to understand how an inmate could be intimidated by other inmates. There doesn't seem to be any architectural plan to the facility. It looks like it grew like "Topsy" and is still growing. The metal working shop is much smaller than you would guess and the wood working facility is much bigger than you can imagine. It is a two million dollar per year profit center for the system.

I suppose the part of the tour that held the most interest for the team was the cell houses. They are somewhat like you would imagine, with long rows of cells, three stories high, with an open area in the middle. You can see all of the cells from a security office on the ground floor. The concrete floors are polished to a high gloss. What was somewhat a shock was how small the cells are. They appeared to be about eight feet wide and ten or twelve feet long. Most contained two steel bunks covered by a thin, foam rubber mat. A small shelf ran the length of one wall, for storing books, commissary items, clothes and personal items. A commode without a seat and small sink were at the end of the bunk. Most cells had small TV, radios or fans. It was very hard to imagine two people living for any length of time in such a small space.

Of the more memorable things about the weekend itself was the large number of candidates. We started with 44 and maintained that number until Sunday morning when two men did not meet the early start. The tables worked exceptionally well, staying on task and with excellent participation. Most of the time they would work right through the breaks. The inside team functioned well together, trying their best to outdo the team that served them. The food was, as usual, excellent and plentiful. If there was anything different about Kairos #24, it was the exceptional prayer support this weekend enjoyed. A number of churches conducted prayer vigils and there was an around the clock prayer chain of inmates going below the trap. It is tempting to name names and single out individuals for special recognition, but in order that they receive their reward from God and not from man, they will go unnamed.

What we saw was the Body of Christ at its glorious best, being guided and directed by the Head, moving through the door opened by His Holy Spirit.

Praise be to God! Dave Tillack

FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT —

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a very exciting summer for Kairos and I would like to share some of the special things that I have personally experienced.

One of my most enjoyable undertakings was to go to the Summer Conference and get acquainted with the National Board. One of the things the Colorado delegation came home with was the privilege to host the 1996 National Summer Conference which will be held at Snow Mountain Ranch near Granby.

I hope all of you involved or interested in Kairos will plan on attending this particular conference and get to meet some of the many other volunteers that make Kairos one of the most successful prison ministries in the world.

In Christ always, Joseph B. Mares

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KAIROS KALENDAR —

Mark your calendars now for the Spring 1995 Kairos Weekends:

Fremont 25	March 16-19
Women's 24	April 20-23
Delta 7	April 27-30
Territorial 19	May 25-28

Prospective team members — please contact the specific Facility Coordinator (names and phone numbers are in this newsletter) for more information or to volunteer for one of the Weekends.

Closing visitors are a vital part of each Weekend. For some inmates, they are the final convincer that God loves them enough to send even more of His people to show their support at that special time. Please be planning ahead for the Spring 1995 Closings.

Remember that you **MUST** contact each specific Facility Coordinator at least six weeks ahead of time to arrange for your name to be on the admission list for each specific Closing. Each facility has its own security rules and we must abide by them. Our willing cooperation is part of our Christian witness to each staff.

Team members — remember your commitment to the monthly Reunions for a year after serving on a team? Please make every effort to attend when it is your turn. If you are in any doubt as to when you are expected to attend, please contact your Rector or Facility Coordinator to find out when you are needed. God will bless you for your faithfulness.

LAST FRIDAY REUNIONS...

These Reunions are held in the Denver area on the last Friday of every month, starting with a potluck at 6:30pm, followed by fellowship, sharing, witnessing and sometimes a special speaker. The Reunion location will change now and then, so please call Vice President Joe Mares for the current location and directions and **bring friends! See you there!**

FROM OUR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE —

The following was gleaned from Mary Sogan's report on the National Summer Conference...

One of the featured speakers was Emmett Solomon, retired Head Chaplain of the Texas Department of Corrections. He reminded us of the condition of the United States -- greed, violence, juvenile crime, the lack of morality and ethics, and so on.

Unlike most of us, who blame it on either the government officials, parents, media, or society in general, he opened our eyes to our (Christians') role in the decay. That is, that in a primarily middle class, Caucasian community of 800 Christians where he spoke another time, if three would step forward afterward and say they were involved in ministering in prisons, he would be surprisingly thankful. When the service was finished, not one person came to him.

We need to step out of our comfort zones, as commanded in Hebrews 13:3, "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

Our Vice President, Joe Mares, was on a panel of five ex-offenders, who gave their responses to the question "What circumstances/obstacles did you have to overcome in your Christian walk while incarcerated?". Some responses were: being a hypocrite, ridicule when you accept or are accepted by another ethnic group, disrespect from correctional officers (especially opposite sex), being vulnerable due to confidentiality, learning to love the unlovable (homosexual, rapist...) and not be labeled by others.

Joe shared that pride was the toughest to overcome. Taking off the masks and dying to self. Also, he worried about what would happen when he was released. Would there be a community there for him and would he be accepted into that community? He shared that the Colorado Kairos community made themselves available to him.

All participants reiterated how important it is to have someone on the outside to count on for just a letter once in a while who will encourage and affirm them. We must **LISTEN, LISTEN, LOVE, LOVE.**

Note: Joe has been appointed to the committee to look at continuing ministry, which is focusing on giving the inmate continued guidance after the Kairos weekend, preparation for eventual release, and hopefully, continued assistance following release and reintegration into society.

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MAKE A FRIEND

BE A FRIEND

BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST