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"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"

Volume 15 #3

Autumn 1997

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

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

LEMONADE OUT OF LEMONS

Lemons happen. We hear of them daily, whether from inside or from "the street." We hear of them from the past, especially during Kairos Weekends, when we get into the Kairos "Freedom Guide" and consider once again what happened to Jesus -- all foreordained by God, of course, but still not what is normally considered to be lemonade. On page 2 we have "Christ the Prisoner:"

"He allowed himself to be taken a prisoner in the Garden, after His agony, to be bound and led away to a trial which was a mockery of justice. He endured torture after being unjustly condemned to death. His stay on death row was very short, followed by a public execution that lasted three hours. All this -- to set us free."

On page 21 we have "Prayer to Christ, the Prisoner:"

"Lord...you were rejected by your neighbors...forced to stand in front of judges and prosecutors with no attorney to help you...accused by lying, paid witnesses...tortured with beatings, insults, and whippings...had men spit in your face...had sharp thorns shoved into your scalp...punched in the face...had sticks beat your body and head...not allowed any medical treatment...blindfolded, had all of your clothes stripped off your body...forced to carry the thing you were to be killed with almost half a mile...nailed, through your hands and feet, to a heavy piece of wood...hung on the cross between two criminals, in front of the whole city, and your family, and your friends...offered bitter wine to drink, had a spear shoved into your side and left to die, *with no appeal.*"

Jesus' disciples had lots of lemons, too, and so did Paul -- prisons, stonings, beatings, whippings, shipwreck (see 2 Cor 11:23-25). Martyrs and non-martyrs suffered. Today many of our Kairos people are suffering -- infirmities, grief, out of work, depressed. Let us encourage one another to make each of these sufferings a time of letting Jesus have His way with us so that we may know Him more deeply, see Him more clearly, and worship Him more awesomely. This definitely makes lemonade out of lemons.

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING 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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KAIROS KALENDAR

	Fall 1997		Spring 1998	
Fremont	#30 --- completed	#31 ---	March	
Women's	#28 --- see below	#28 ---	??	
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.

WOMEN'S KAIROS #28 POSTPONED ---

CWCF has postponed Women's Kairos #28 because that week in October is the one scheduled for the Gary Davis execution. This is being done for the safety of the volunteers.

Donations already deposited for Women's #28 expenses will be held until "God's Special Time" for that Kairos weekend arrives. Please pray for peace and for everyone's well being during this unusual and difficult time.

NO LETTERS TO INMATES, still ---

DOC says that the regulation prohibiting volunteers from writing to inmates continues in effect. The waiver granted to some volunteers is rescinded. If you are writing to a Colorado DOC inmate, even if he/she is housed in another state, please stop now or risk losing your volunteer status.

KAIROS SUMMER CONFERENCE --

Art Wise, our representative to National Kairos, attended the National Board Meeting and Summer Conference in New Orleans this past July. He submitted a written report of the Board Meeting to our Colorado Board. A copy can be made available to any of our readers through our Secretary, Donna Wood.

Art encourages all Colorado Kairos people to attend the next Summer Conference, scheduled for Maine in July 98.

COLORADO BOARD MEETINGS --

Meetings of "the Board" (aka The Colorado District Committee of Kairos, Inc) are open meetings. They are usually held on Thursday evenings at 6:00pm in an upstairs room at the Greenwood Community Church, which is at Belleview and Holly a mile or two west of I-25. The next meeting is set for October 9th.

GORDON SORENSEN

9 AUGUST 1928 -- 7 AUGUST 1997

After many years as a jeweler in Glenwood Springs, Gordon went to Cedaredge as a pilgrim on Walk to Emmaus #9. He became active in the Emmaus and Kairos communities. He served on Delta Kairos Weekends, including one as Rector. God led him into other prison ministries, notably at Rifle Correctional Center where he was also instrumental in raising funds to support the Rifle volunteer Chaplain. A group of Christian inmates from Rifle CC sang at the funeral. Heaven has gained a sparkling new jewel.

Gordon, we miss you!

ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING --

November 14, 15, 16 in Colorado Springs

by Ken Grosse, Training Coordinator

The first annual Colorado Kairos Training weekend will be held at St Patrick's Parish Center beginning at 7 P.M. on Nov 14 and continuing until 1 P. M. on Nov 16. The training will be conducted by Bill Enter from National Headquarters. He will be assisted by local leaders. As stated in a recent National Kairos Newsletter, this is training that is needed and required for Kairos Volunteers.

"The purpose of these seminars is to: 1) Enlighten volunteers and help them see the 'big picture' of the entire Kairos ministry. 2) To empower upcoming rectors and help them understand that, as general manager of a Kairos weekend, they have more authority than they might have been previously led to believe. and 3) To create bonding and prayer support among participants who come from many areas and often different states. Plus, we always have a lot of fun in the process. Even though the seminar is designed for future rectors, anyone interest in learning more about the program is welcome to attend.

"The Kairos (National) board of directors passed a resolution that participation in this training presented by the national office will be mandatory for those serving as rector on all Kairos weekends after January 1, 1998. Still, many others, even those who never will choose to be a rector, can and should attend to get a better understanding of Kairos, particularly the dynamics of the 1996 manual."

I attended training in Amarillo, TX, last year and found it very informative, fun, and spiritually uplifting. I strongly recommend all volunteers who are going to be involved in Kairos to attend. Facility coordinators should plan to attend and bring a large contingent. This is a must for anyone who will be a rector/rectora during 1998.

The cost of the training will be \$25 per person. Housing and meals will be provided by local volunteers (what a deal, huh?). Registration should be completed by Nov 7. Please request a registration form no later than Oct 28 by one of the following methods: FAX 719-333-4255, Phone 1-800-783-1249 PIN2978, e-mail grossekc.dfe@usafa.af.mil, or addressed to Ken Grosse, 8270 Brigantine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Please be sure to include your return information so that registration forms may be sent to you for timely completion.

JIM WATERS -- "OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR"

Each year the Colorado Department of Corrections hosts an event for recognizing the many hours of service given by the hundreds of volunteers, religious and otherwise, who serve in the system. This year the event was a picnic in Cañon City on August 16th.

Among the many Kairos volunteers attending was **Jim Waters** who received recognition as "The Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" -- complete with a humongous trophy and Lieutenant Tina Gurule's letter of recommendation, which we reproduce here with permission:

"I am writing this recommendation with sincere admiration and respect for a man that has shown me a dedication and compassion for a ministry in his life that goes beyond the walls of the prison.

"Jim Waters has been a faithful Kairos Volunteer for the last nine years and for the last three of those years he has been the coordinator for the Fremont Facility. Jim is the person who works out all the details, sends all approval lists and menus and requests for food items. He wheels and deals with us to bring in the best for each program. I am bombarded with a constant stream of faxes before each 4-day retreat and he always sends a fax for each monthly reunion more than one month in advance.. You may think that he has no other life? But the truth is, Jim also runs a company, raises a family and keeps in touch with his own personal spiritual growth.

"But more than this, Jim has an overwhelming willingness to work with the Colorado Department of Corrections and its many changes in rules and in staff. Not that he always LIKES it but he has an acceptance level that plays a part in the respect that the staff has for him and the group of volunteers that come in with him on a regular basis.

"I can recall a particular 4-day retreat where I watched Jim run back and forth making sure things were running smooth which even included occasional runs to the store for items and a run to the [Colorado Springs] airport to pick up a volunteer coming in for the retreat. On the 4th day as Jim was leaving, he seemed pale to me. I felt his forehead and he was noticeably running a fever but he was not only not going to allow himself to be sick until he had completed the job God has called him to do but because he hadn't complained I didn't realize he was getting sick until the end of the program. This is when I truly realized Jim's efforts to provide us with a program that has a direct impact on the safety, security and welfare of not only the inmates but the staff and community as well.

"I thank Jim and all the other Kairos Volunteers who have displayed such devotion. If I could, I would make each one of them outstanding volunteers for the day because they have deserved it."

Jim is not exactly into trophies and wants everyone to know that he considers this award to be for all of the Kairos volunteers who regularly serve in all four of our facilities in Colorado. Even so, Jim **has** done an outstanding job, and we are very pleased to offer congratulations and give thanks to the Lord for such really great service!

RESIDENTS RUN CTCF REUNIONS --

In August the Territorial residents elected one of their own to be Kairos chairman for six months and to be in charge of the monthly reunions. Various residents have been doing this for several months. Now the responsibility is clearer, and the September Reunion bears that out. Kairos "inside the walls" is growing in the Lord and in numbers. Surely God appreciates all the glory given Him by these men and by the outside team members who continue to participate faithfully -- in spite of financial difficulties and physical infirmities.

FREMONT #30 CLOSING ---

We weren't sure what we'd find here. We were like the Israelites wandering in the desert -- prison being our desert. In this oasis we found love. We're going out and show that love so others will want to come and find this oasis.

We came defensive, scared. I thought people didn't care about me, but you changed my mind. We found love, God's love and we're taking JESUS away with us.

There's nothing in my eye -- I'm just so full of love, it's flowing over. I thought I had love, but the love I found here, it's so much it can't be contained here. We've got to spread it around.

I came in an extreme desert spiritually, even working with Christians. I live with one full of the devil. He pushes me all the time -- like Paul's thorn in the flesh -- God's grace is sufficient. I found overwhelming love, my cup runneth over. I'm taking the revelation of what it means to lay our lives down, but we must be vulnerable first. I never did that before, but last night I opened up. I renewed my commitment to share Christ.

I was a gang member out there and in here. But now I'm a gang member who's found God. No matter what I had, money or whatever, it wasn't enough. I found a lot of love here. I accepted it with open arms. I see Jesus in every one of you.

I was stumbling two steps back for every step forward, but I've learned to take the next step now. When I stumble again, I'm going to stumble forward, not back.

I've been building a granite wall for the last ten years, and a steel door -- only let a few through it. I found love, tools to tear down that wall -- it's cracking. I'm taking friends and the love of God that I've been missing all my life.

I found here unity in a family situation. When I was arrested, I wondered where that family of God was. When these folks leave, we have to be committed to each other and pray and be there for each other. Satan's mad at what's happened here, so we have to stand together against that.

I'm a drug addict. I'm still weak, but now I'm stronger. I need programs like this to help me. My celly brought God into our cell. Now I've got the Lord on my side and that's a good addiction. I had a good family, but became an addict anyway. I've forgiven myself and apologized to my mother.

I was always with the Lord, since childhood. But when my son died, I blamed God -- couldn't love my wife and my other children. I finally came back to the Lord, but I've been stumbling over rocks and finally hit a wall. Now I'm a brand new me -- I'm one with Christ now.

I came with a hard heart and lots of hatred. I found a lot of love and help. I'm taking the key to a treasure.

I came as a leaky vessel -- had to fill holes, voids. I found love and support here -- old and new friends. I'm a new person who can share love, like with my wife and four children. I hope I can share so others' lives can change like mine has in these four days. I found color don't matter -- black, brown, white, yellow, red, purple -- we can share this love always.

I thought this would be four days of pushing the Bible, but I've been renewed in body, mind and spirit. I've been giving my testimony in the Chapel, but I had one foot in and one foot out. I ask you brothers to put a hand on me when I'm straying. Let's keep this going!

We came spiritually dead, broken, with doubts and questions, holding back, stony hearts. Was it as good as we were told? We found fellowship, spiritual growth, open hearts and minds, peace, joy, new relationships with Jesus Christ and our brothers, a new walk, LOVE. This broke down walls. We're taking love that we couldn't find anywhere else, full stomachs, awareness, peace, a new journey. We'll be seeking out the Lord like seeking fine treasure. They'll know us by our love.

You don't know it, but people get saved outside because of this -- families, friends... Someone needs to tell the government.

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WOMEN'S #27 CLOSING, more ---

I had backslidden from my faith. But I'm taking the Lord and new sisters with me. This is going to help me bring my four children to Christ.

The Holy Spirit got me up here to say this. I've been carrying a lot of unforgiveness. I could pray for them but not forgive them. I wasn't going to put my paper in the water, but the Holy Spirit prodded me to do it and get it over with. As I watched it dissolve, I felt peace. Now I have a new start, can do what God wants me to do.

We came hungry, empty, confused. We found security, acceptance, tremendous love, sharing. Now we know to walk by faith, not by sight. We're taking the ability to forgive, and security in a threatening world.

I came hurting, in spiritual turmoil. I learned how to cultivate the soil for the harvest of forgiving my family.

I came unsure, thought I was unloved, abandoned by family. I had to give up my kids for adoption. I found love, friends, Christian fellowship, strength to go on as a daughter of God. I recommitted my life to God and am asking Him to show me what He wants me to do here.