

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 17 #3

Fall 1999

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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ONE LIFE

What can one life accomplish?

We may get discouraged sometimes. "What's the use? I'm just one person. What difference can I make in this world?" At another time we may have an opportunity to plant a Gospel seed and think afterward that we've blown it because we didn't sense any immediate result. "Oh, well, what difference do I make anyway?"

We will never know, at least we will never know the whole story. We are not supposed to know. Only God knows. If we knew, it might make us more prideful than we already are. If we started keeping track of the good deeds we have done, the seeds we think we have planted, the plants we think we have watered, and even the souls we think we have harvested, we will be taking credit for good works that are really God's doing, not ours. Yes, we make the choice to make ourselves available for Him to use, but it is the power of His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, that does the good work.

Besides not knowing the immediate results, we also do not know what will lead to what. On Kairos after Kairos we sense that some of the persons present, both inside and outside, are deeply touched by the Spirit of the Lord. At the same time, other persons appear to be totally unmoved. Happy? Yes. Fed? Yes, at least physically. Spiritually changed? Who knows? It is not for us to know what's going on in someone else's spirit. Did your talk or meditation reach into any hearts? Did your one-on-one with so-and-so really do any good? Did your prayer

for someone's healing actually help? Only God knows — and only He arranges how any of it leads to some result in someone else.

The earthly life of Jesus was just one life, albeit extraordinary. From the Bible we know of many people whose spirits He touched, many healings, many miracles. And "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book" (John 20:30). "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25). But the gospels were not written right away. It was the *lives* that Jesus touched that the Holy Spirit used to touch more *lives*, and then more thru them, personally as well as thru the written Word. The small band of disciples and others who knew Jesus personally multiplied rapidly to hundreds, then thousands, then millions — all from *one life!*

Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

So, with Jesus interceding for us in Heaven, the actions of one life on earth can lead to many actions in many other lives — to "greater things." All we have to do is be open to the Spirit's leading, to "Pass It On," and not be concerned about the outcome.

"I am just one life?" Ted Van Horn's life is a clear example of what *one life* can lead to.

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

FORGIVENESS - A TRUE STORY

The following story exemplifies the miracle of the freeing power of forgiveness:

A certain volunteer felt called to prison ministry many years ago, but hesitated to get involved because he feared his own reaction if he should encounter the inmate who murdered his sister. Finally he took the risk about 12 years after the murder and answered God's call.

At the end of a ministry weekend some 2 years later, as the team was saying goodbye to the inmates, that murderer passed by. He had participated in this ministry many years before, so he asked and the guard allowed him to come into the area and greet team members he knew. Thus the feared encounter took place. When the volunteer saw that inmate, he went right over to him and hugged him. At first the inmate didn't recognize the volunteer until he identified himself. Then the volunteer found himself asking the inmate to forgive him for having hated him all those 14 years since the murder! And the inmate asked the volunteer if his family could ever forgive him for what he'd done. He'd prayed for years for the opportunity to apologize to them. They hugged and cried and cried and hugged and reconciled as brothers in Christ.

After the inmate left the area, the volunteer was sobbing on another team member's shoulder. But his tears were tears of joy. Through his actions of apology and forgiveness, in the Holy Spirit's power, he found such release and freedom and peace in his heart that he raised his arms in praise and thanksgiving to God. He declared through his tears, "I'm free! I'm free! I've hated him for 14 years! Praise God, at last I'm finally free!" All rejoiced with him knowing that the encounter was a miraculous work of God's grace, forgiveness, and agape love.

Instead of seeing that inmate just as his sister's murderer, he now sees him as a forgiven brother in Christ. The volunteer continues to rejoice in the freedom and peace that God has given him — a peace truly beyond human understanding. And he shares the freeing power of forgiveness every chance he gets — giving God all the glory.

CLOSING COMMENTS

I had seven certificates in Biblical studies, but couldn't tell you who God is. I needed to talk to someone. All I could do was cry. I finally got from here (head) to here (heart). All that hugging freaked me out. Now I'm hugging more than anyone.

We came a mixed bag — half empty or full, confused, lost, lonely — all looking for something. We used to think love was a four-letter word, and not a good one. We found a lot of love right here in this room, this prison. We found a family, fellowship, peace of mind. And the biggest thing of all — love. We're taking love — a good four-letter word this time — and friendship. We're full of food, too — not just physical, but spiritual and emotional. We're taking everyone in green and brothers and sisters outside all over world. Those letters covered the windows.

I was in the hole Monday — got back to reading the Word. I got out Thursday and came here. Thursday was OK and Friday. Saturday, during the testimonies last night, I couldn't stop crying, didn't even try. I found love. I was a Pharisee, but God replaced my heart of stone with a heart of love. We may be locked down, but we are freer than 70% of those out there. Our job is to pass it on.

The agape has reached me!

I came low in spirit. I found lots of love, Jesus, more and more of Jesus. I could feel His love. No matter what we did, it was all Jesus. We get low down in here behind bars. But the world is full of prisons without bars.

I thought I knew God, but I really met him this weekend.

I didn't have an open heart, but lots of anger and bitterness. I found the Way to give up that anger and bitterness. I hope I can keep that when I go from here.

"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

	1999	2000
Fremont	#34 Sep 16-19	#35 Mar 16-19
Women	#31 Oct 14-17	#32 Apr 6-9
Delta	#16 Oct 21-24	#17 Apr
Territorial	#28 Nov 18-21	#29 May 18-21

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Moses Archuleta, Lorraine Harding, Duaine Medina, Jane Merritt, Matt Mueller, Gerri Quintana, A.J. Luckey, Bill Potter, Bill Tipton, the Van Horn family, and Chuck Weida.

OUTSIDE WEEKEND INFORMATION

Walk to Emmaus, E: Randy Detter, 719-632-2740
Walk to Emmaus, W: Janet Keenan, 970-963-1030
Cath Crsl, Den: Francisco Mondragon, 303-429-3464
Cath Cursillo, Colo Spgs: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404
Episcopal Crsl, E: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448
Episcopal Cursillo, W: Jan Smith, 970-325-4409
Via de Cristo, Luth: Mark Carnes, 303-924-7192
Koinonia, Denver: Tom Starnes, 303-421-9305
Koinonia, North: Julie Wilson, 970-226-5925

**Make a friend. Be a friend.
Bring your friend to Christ.**

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

BOARD NEWS

In the space above you can see that there are now three vacancies on the Board — Vice President, Secretary, and one of the District Spiritual Directors. For various reasons Ken Grosse, Ken Huard, and Bill Cooper had to resign from the Board. At the meeting on 2 September, the Board confirmed VP Bruce Carlson to be President until the Board elections in January 2000. At that time we will elect five persons to the Board. Two of the present incumbents (Burson and Strub) are eligible for a second term, but we will need at least three new candidates. If interested, please contact Bruce (phone # above or abcarlson@worldnet.att.net).

In the space above you may also notice a new Board position, that of Coordinator for the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. Mary Sogan has kindly consented to fill that position for the time being, at least during this time of getting Kairos started there. Monthly Reunions are in the evenings of the first Tuesdays, beginning in October. Call Mary for details, including times of the 2-hour facility training sessions.

The next Board meeting is Thursday 4 November at 6 pm in St Francis Of Assisi Church in Castle Rock. You all are always invited. We start with food!

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



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THEODORE A. VAN HORN

1999

After many years in the Emmaus and Kairos communities, Ted Van Horn has been called home. Right to the end, Ted let God have His way with him -- no extraordinary measures, nothing artificial, just Ted, the way God made him -- loving, patient, walking with the Lord and wanting everyone to know that same joy.

One will seldom find such a good example of how a yielded life can lead to so much for so many. For some, Ted's witness was the initial seed planted. For others, Ted's persistent and loving witness led to their deeper walk with the Lord. In so many ways the Lord used Ted to draw others to Him -- through Kairos, through Emmaus, through Bible Study Fellowship, through his church. In his later years he became active on the Delta Kairos teams (with his dear wife, Heidi, often doing the kitchen team). He was loving father and grandfather to the inmates as well as to his own family.

Ted was a man who learned how to be patient with adversity and arrangements, to wait on the Lord for His provision in His time. As an Army retiree, he could ride space available on military transports and often waited days for just the right flight to go visit a friend or relative. The patience of Job!

If you are led to make a memorial gift, please send it to Delta County Ministerial Fellowship, P.O.Box 1013, Delta CO 81416. Mark it for "Chapel of Hope" (the new chapel at the Delta Correctional Center).

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