

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 18 #3

Fall 2000

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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GOLDEN RULE

Sometimes we as Christians (Followers of Christ) forget that the "Golden Rule" comes out of Mt 7:12, Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount. "So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, *for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*"

So many times in a Christian community (church, ministry, Bible studies, etc.) a Christian brother or sister commits some sin, makes a thoughtless statement, "falls short", so to speak, and is made to feel they have committed some unforgivable act. They are set aside (sometimes understandably), wounded and feeling all alone. Ever feel that way?

WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)? Here's what he would have done! As we read in Luke 10, Jesus tells the parable of "the Good Samaritan". A man is headed to Jericho from Jerusalem. Robbers capture him, strip off his clothes, beat him half to death, and leave him to die. Do you know anyone who may have been stripped of their possessions, their spouse, their reputation, their dignity? Or have you or someone you know been "the robbers" and left someone to die (emotionally/spiritually)? Two people pass this man lying by the road hurting, bleeding, yes, dying. They, in fact, avoided the man by crossing the road to the other side.

Have you ever avoided crossing paths with someone because (as we described before) you don't know what to say, or for fear of "getting involved", or worse, someone else may perceive that you've "taken sides"

with the so-called enemy? Maybe we fear rejection from the wounded?

A third man comes upon this man, and, let me say, it is important to understand it was a Samaritan who helped this man, who was probably a Jew. Samaritans, to the Jews, were the "scum of the earth", so to speak. The Samaritan dressed his wounds, spent his money to house him as he healed, and when he had to move on, left him in competent hands for care (and promised to check back to pay any additional expenses).

To me that is the answer to WWJD? Also what Jesus would have us do! When our brother/sister is wounded, alone, hurting, ashamed, guilt-ridden, and maybe even dying inside from their pain, Jesus would have us step out as he would and:

- Evaluate their need. Does the person need physical help, such as medical, food, transport, and maybe just knowing they are still loved and you will listen, listen, love, love!
- Do what you can to meet the need. You may have to dig in your pocket, closet, and, hardest, your heart, to do what needs to be done.
- See it through. That means you follow up until the person is healed and able to stand stronger and whole again!

Yes, do. "In everything do to others what you would have them do to you."

by Mary Sogan

THE GRATEFUL SERVANT

This is about a Fremont inmate who worked on the inside team. He was a very good servant, worked hard, and was enjoying being there — all smiles, bantering back and forth like they do on the weekends. The following Tuesday he expressed his thanks to Lt Gurule for the opportunity to work, since he had not been selected with the group from his own weekend a year ago. He told her that "it was the greatest weekend during my nine-and-a-half years in prison, especially since it was my last weekend inside. I've completed my sentence and will be out tomorrow!"

The unique thing about this little story is that during the weekend he didn't say anything about his upcoming release. No one on the team knew of his real joy. Nor had he shared this with the Chaplain or the Lieutenant till Tuesday. He was so grateful just to be able to serve!

by Dick Evans

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

ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS

CAÑON WOMEN'S

The big news here is that we now have an inside Advisory Council. We have already met with these five faithful inmates, talking with them about the provisions in the Kairos manuals, especially on the angels' role in the Kairos weekends and on the details of conducting the Monthly Reunions. They're all very excited about this, and so are we.

Ever since the National Training last June we are seeking to move closer and closer to the manuals. Besides the above, this also includes getting the Chaplain more involved. We look forward to working with our new chaplain, Julie Mehl of the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry.

For many years our Monthly Reunions have been set up for two hours, currently from 12:30 to 2:30. We are working on extending them for an hour, to 3:30, and to include some refreshments, as the men have been doing for some time at Fremont and Territorial.

DELTA

There are 42 men signed up for Delta #18, plus 14 alternates. Never a problem having a full weekend at Delta. Praise God! Also, it is such a blessing to be able to hold these weekends in the beautiful new Chapel of Hope — thanks to all who contributed in so many ways.

To the extent possible, the Delta team stays in the homes of members of the Delta Christian community. This saves money, builds community, and spreads the blessing of the Kairos Prison Ministry.

Delta Kairos team members have been actively supporting fund-raising efforts of the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, whose mission it is to place trained, ordained chaplains in 14 Colorado prisons and to support these ministers financially. The Delta Chapel of Hope choir has provided praise music at two of the fund-raising banquets.

STERLING

On 15 August we met with Warden Robert Furlong and Programs Manager Michael Ehrmann to discuss implementation of Kairos at one of the SCF medium units. Arrangements are progressing well. We are also working with the Sterling Ministerial Alliance.

FREMONT

We give thanks and praise for Fremont #36, a glorious weekend, soaked in prayer. As Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). We also had solid support from Lt Gurule and Chaplain Mike.

For this Kairos we had the candidate names ahead of time so we could pray for them. On Thursday all but five of them arrived. Five alternates then joined us. We placed men from the same living unit together (in two's or three's) in the table families. We did this to promote the bonding that would make it easier for them to form sharing groups after the weekend. 41 men completed.

There were 32 on the outside team, including five on their first Kairos. Bruce Carlson was Rector. Steve Gabriel was Observing Rector and is slated to lead #37.

We need to be strongly aware of fund raising. The Fremont account is still low. For the #36 team: we have not received all of your team donations. If yours is missing, please send your check to Dan Halperin ASAP.

TERRITORIAL

For some months now we have been holding our retreats and monthly reunions in a new location — the "multi-purpose room" next to the Law Library. It is bigger than the Chapel and just as handicap accessible. For the 2-day Retreat in August there were 9 outside team and from 21 to 28 inmates, varying with session. For the September Reunion there were 16 outside team and 45 inmates — a group too big for the Chapel.

Now the question is: where will we hold Kairos #30 in November? The Auditorium (our location for so many years) is now a no-no, because it is not handicap accessible. Chaplain Dan and Lt Parker are looking at alternatives, including the Lower School and Gym. In any case, Chuck will be allowed to haul our supplies in and out on a trailer thru the back gate.

Doug Meares is Rector of Territorial #30.

DENVER WOMEN'S

We have a new chaplain and are working with him and staff to get the monthly reunions started soon, hopefully in November. One requirement that slowed us down was for the "female-specific" training for our volunteers. This requirement no longer applies.

"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 — 2000-2001

Fremont	#36	Done! PTL	#37	Mar 15-18
Women	#33	Oct 19-22	#34	Mr 29-Apr 1
Delta	#18	Oct 19-22	#19	Apr 19-22
Territorial	#30	Nov 16-19	#31	May 17-20

Please keep these teams in your prayers.
Spring volunteers? Please call Coordinator.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The Evans and Merritt families; Cecelia Lobato, A.J. Luckey, Duaine Medina, Nita Rosengarten, Gerri Quintana, and Bill Tipton.

Some are healing nicely, others are waiting. Please pray for God's will and comforting presence.

POWER OF THE RESURRECTION SETS INMATES FREE

[The following is edited from an article by Roxanne King in the Denver Catholic Register. By permission.]

Unconditional love, forgiveness, new life in Christ — that's what 27 women took into the Colorado Women's Correctional Facility in Cañon City April 6-9 when they offered Kairos, an ecumenical retreat. It was "Good News." It set 36 prisoners free from spiritual bondage.

"Last night was the first night in my whole life that I felt somebody's arms around me that really cared for me — and she doesn't even know me," said [one] inmate. "She doesn't know what I'm in here for, she doesn't know where I come from. But she loves me. She loves this broken down person."

Team members shared their own stories of brokenness — growing up in dysfunctional homes, struggling with alcohol or food addictions, surviving abusive relationships — and the healing they found through Christ. Leading the inmates in prayer, song and feasting, they celebrated God's free gift of salvation and offered hope.

22 inmates who experienced a previous Kairos

helped out on this one. One of them, convicted of killing her boyfriend, is serving a 50-year sentence. She described her Kairos experience as "overwhelming — full of unconditional love." She now volunteers to help make the experience just as special for other inmates. "It was the best experience of getting closer to God and forgiving myself — we really struggle with that because we've all done something to be here," she said. "I figured if I could do one thing to help a fellow sister grow closer to God, that would be God working through me to touch someone else. We can make it better here for our fellow sisters. It's like what the team said about the cross — our vertical connection is to God but our horizontal connection is to each other."

During the closing, an inmate who was convicted in the death of her child cried uncontrollably after saying, "My biggest struggle was accepting and forgiving myself for taking the blessing that the Lord gave me... I need to continue to serve the Lord and do right by Him to get home to my angel."

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FREMONT #36 OPEN MIKE AND CLOSING

The two most moving events in my life were the birth of my two children and this Weekend.

Every night when I go to bed and think about another day with no mail and no phone calls, I sigh a sigh of loneliness. Last night I sighed a sigh of relief.

We lost our voices this weekend, but we found His.

I arrived DOA, broke down, in need of relationship. I found a wake-up call and believers. I am taking an alarm clock back to the general population.

I learned that to be a criminal is not a disgrace, but to remain a criminal is a disgrace.

You are people who would bring love to outcasts.

I already had the Lord. Now I have seen what it really means to serve the Lord.

I arrived strong spiritually, a practicing Christian, but realizing that I was still holding back a piece. I was looking for an oasis from the violence and profanity

around me. I found love, people I could trust (which I had not found since my arrest), people who look at me the way God does — not my past, or even my present, but my potential.

I know Jesus, but to stand up and proclaim Jesus? Now I can do that.

By now I have lost my wife, my family. Kairos has come to love me, to care for me — my new family.

I was at a dead end, avoiding people, a very hardened person. My new name is Abraham, I have lots of descendants. I know there are people praying for me all over the place.

Jesus picked up a lost little lamb and brought me back into the fold.

At first the talks seemed almost too simple. Then I realized that I have to come as a child.

I'm no longer just a number.

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