

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we look forward to 2004, there are many challenges, but we also recognize how great are the blessings we have received from God in this special environment of Colorado prisons. Here is a summary of a year-end assessment that I provided to the State Committee:

(1) Ministry: Excellent. In 2003 (our 21st year), the Kairos ministry served God at 15 short courses in 7 prisons across the state, sharing the Good News with about 500 residents. We saw a new start at Limon led by Dick Evans and the DWCF program (started in 2002) matured under the leadership of Jean Mares.

(2) Stewardship: Excellent. We have successfully transitioned to the new Kairos financial reporting system thanks to Treasurer Jack Burson and his predecessor Jim Strub. All Advisory Councils have strong financial support, primarily by the team members or from donations solicited by the team members and the Newsletter. We also have sound fiscal reserves.

(3) Servanthood: Satisfactory, but needs improvement. In Colorado, we have over 250 Kairos volunteers and our rectors were well-trained at the 4th annual Advanced Kairos Training session (thanks to training coordinator Dick Evans). This fall, about 10-15% of our team members were "first-timers." However, a shortage of volunteers has limited expansion to new facilities and led to difficulties in filling teams at some facilities. Recruitment is a major emphasis of our Strategic Plan, and we are actively promoting Qualifying Tables and a Qualifying Weekend.

(4) Governance: Satisfactory, but needs improvement. Our Colorado State Committee is in good standing with the Kairos International office, and we have developed a good rapport with the Advisory Councils. The Committee of 15 dedicated and hard-working volunteers meets regularly and is administered efficiently. We also have a new Strategic Plan to guide us in the coming years. However, much remains to be done as the Committee has no by-laws or position descriptions, and quality assurance is an on-going issue.

**Pray for our brothers and sisters in prison,
especially on Christmas!**

QUALIFYING WEEKEND

Colorado Kairos will conduct a "Qualifying Weekend" in February 2004. It will be at Saint Michael's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, Friday the 20th, 6-10 pm, and Saturday the 21st, 8 am - 5 pm.

The purpose is to provide "Kairos Weekend" experience for potential team members, and qualification in lieu of the requirement for attending a "street weekend" – all in accordance with National Kairos directives.

Participants must attend the entire session (both Friday and Saturday) to be considered "qualified." It will

be a "commuter" session for local participants. Attendees coming from long distance may stay with local Kairos host families or at one of the many hotels located near the church. We will ask for donations to cover the cost of food and supplies.

The team will consist entirely of Colorado Kairos team members, with

Rector: Steve Gabriel
Coordinator: Deacon Frances Mutolo
Registration: Joy Maly

Steve is looking for volunteers for jobs like Table Leader, Clergy, Music, and Kitchen. Contact Steve with questions, comments, or suggestions – and especially if you want to volunteer, as some have done already.

Advisory Councils: begin now to identify candidates.

THANK YOU!

Kairos of Colorado wishes to thank all of you who have been providing monetary support to the volunteer DOC chaplains, especially through the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry. This and other chaplain sponsoring organizations will be grateful for your continuing support. You can send contributions for the GNJ&PM Colorado chaplains by name thru:

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry
P O Box 9760
Richmond, VA 23286-4103

Without the cooperation and support of these chaplains, there would be no Kairos in the DOC prisons.

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

COSTA RICA # 1

Below is part of what Colorado State Committee member Wayne Park reports on the November Kairos in Costa Rica:

Costa Rica Kairos is off and running with a powerful, spirit-filled first Kairos Weekend. What a joy to participate in a brand new Kairos, in a different language and culture. We used the draft Spanish manual that Tony Prado and I had been reviewing throughout the summer. The company in England that did the basic translation really did a fine job. They now have the final version and are completing touch ups on the format. Kairos should have a printed version of the Spanish manual in a couple of months.

Because of lack of security personnel at the San Sebastian prison on Sundays, Costa Rica #1 was held on Wednesday night through Saturday night. There were twenty five residents, split into five tables, with three team members at each table. I was with the Family of San Juan. We lost three of our residents early Thursday morning because of last minute legal affairs that pulled them out. But God had a purpose. The man who sat next to me needed a lot of special attention. We spent much time in one-on-one conversations at the table and in the hallway. Giving him freedom to slip out when he wanted gave him a sense of freedom in relationship with Christ. Refusing to participate initially, he began to talk in the hallway. We had a number of pretty tearful conversations out there. And then he began to be willing to participate in the drawings and presentations, and on Friday night, he gave a powerful witness at open mike. He told us that Kairos had saved his life, as he had planned to take his life the opening night of the Kairos weekend. The team was wonderful in passing on love to this young guy. And God touched him. When you read this, pass on a prayer for Wally, that he continue to be in relationship with Christ.

COLORADO CLOSING GEMS

- Well, we tried it on our own, and here we are -- in prison. We can't make it on our own, but the church provides a place for the broken and hurting.
- I know now it is true: ask and you shall receive. I got on my knees and asked.
- We found how rich the love of Jesus Christ is.
- We have new memories we can use for a long time.
- The team accepted me as is - a man.
- The weekend opened my eyes to Jesus. I had been a Satan worshipper for years.
- I had no previous relationship with God, was hardened, nervous – now have found peace and tranquility in my table family.
- I didn't realize how much love there is in Christian community. I hadn't cried in years, but I cried three or four times a day during Kairos.
- I found the most love I could imagine. I'm taking God's light to shine through me to help others.
- I see Christ in everyone's eyes. Now I understand why we didn't need to bring Bibles.
- I found the ability to forgive others – and myself.
- The hardest thing for me was the unforgiveness, but now a huge weight is lifted off my shoulders.
- I am very thankful for being able to accept the love.
- I lost my son a few years ago, felt no need to go on – but now I do.
- I almost left the first night but I knew there was a special kind of love, so I stayed.
- I had an attitude, maybe the Devil attacking me? But so many told me, "I love you."
- Nothing can stop me now – I'm on fire!

5 April 1946 – DUAINE ALFRED MEDINA – 4 October 2003

Another Kairos brother has gone home to be with Jesus – after a very long illness and complications of diabetes. Before the illness settled in, Duane served faithfully on many Fremont and Territorial teams. He was the hands and feet of Jesus in other settings as well, including the Knights of Columbus, the Denver Catholic Cursillo, the Catholic Charismatic Movement, and especially in his own parish, Our Lady Mother of the Church in Commerce City, where he was in the choir and served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. A very special ministry for him was working with the HIV/AIDS patients at Seton House, a respite care/hospice modeled after Mother Theresa's Calcutta ministry.

Duaine was born in Del Norte, graduated from Adams City High School, and served as a Marine in Vietnam. He worked as a truck driver for a furniture warehouse. He and his wife Cecelia (Ortiz) had four sons, one of whom (James) has already gone home. Cecelia, Steve, Alfred, David, their spouses and the seven grandchildren will miss him and his gentle ways very much. And so will all the others God touched through him, including us.

Include a Qualifying Table (“8th Table”) in your next Kairos Weekend.

COLORADO CHAPTER OF KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL, INC

STATE COMMITTEE

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Chairman	Steve Gabriel	719-282-1924	jsgabriel@pcisys.net
Vice Chairman	Bruce Carlson	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
Secretary	Carolyn Richardson	719-390-5253	jcchrdsn6@aol.com
Treasurer	Jack Burson	303-499-3024	jack@ecommerce-cpa.com
National Representative	Joseph Mares	303-727-9243	jmares3409@aol.com
Ministry Operations	Joy Maly	303-988-7339	just4joy7@aol.com
Training & Limon Ad Hoc Chair	Dick Evans	719-597-3426	rdeco@pcisys.com
Spiritual Director	Alan Marquez	303-252-7655	mar4plus@aol.com
Spiritual Director	George Tewksbury	970-434-6920	gstewks@juno.com

APPOINTED MEMBERS (FACILITY COORDINATORS):

Cañon Women's	Ann Weida	719-548-9102	weidacr@aol.com
Delta	Bill Bennett	970-626-3855	billandsharyn@gwe.net
Denver Women's	Gabriella Ramirez	303-455-4392	gabrez1@qwest.net
Fremont	Terry Kruse	303-646-3064	tkruse@natkin.com
Sterling (North & South)	Wayne Park	970-577-1483	waynepark@aol.com
Territorial	Dave McGee (interim)	719-594-9390	mcgeedad@aol.com

SUPPORT CREW

Agape	Wanda Sitler	719-380-7166	jewhsit@juno.com
Data Base	Bruce Carlson	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
Supplies	Joy Maly	303-988-7339	just4joy7@aol.com
Newsletter	Jim and Peggy Strub	719-634-2821	pjstrub@juno.com
Recruiting	Kairos Community	all area codes	all Christians

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to the incarcerated, and to assist them in building up the body of Christ in each prison. We are volunteers. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. We encourage you to use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries. Please make checks payable to "Kairos Prison Ministry, Inc" or "Kairos."

"God's Special Time" is published quarterly, at the time of the equinoxes and the solstices – a heaven-based schedule. Our volunteer printer is the Episcopal Church of St Michael the Archangel in Colorado Springs.

2004	WEEKEND, DATES, RECTOR	FACILITY	WEEKEND, DATES
	#2 26-29 February	Dick Evans	#3
	#43 18-21 March	Joseph Mares	#44 16-19 September
	#5 1 - 4 April	William Katzenmeyer	#6 30 Sep - 3 October
	#40 15-18 April	Marilyn Fuqua	#41 14-17 October
	#25 15-18 April	Mike Schell	#26 21-24 October
	#7 29 Apr - 2 May	Patrick Keziah	#8 4 - 7 November
	#37 20-23 May	Gary Kulbitski	#38 18-21 November
	#4 3 - 6 June	Cindy Swindell	#5 2 - 5 December

MAKE A FRIEND. BE A FRIEND. INTRODUCE YOUR FRIEND TO TEAM MEMBERSHIP.



KAIROS OF COLORADO

P.O. Box 25004, Colorado Springs CO, 80936-5004

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME
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GRACE BEHIND THE WALLS

In November 2002 at DRDC I received a confirmed diagnosis of Hepatitis-C. For a brief moment this was a relief because I feared even worse news: HIV. That news came a few minutes later. A double whammy!

I felt kinda numb, not sure what to say or think What do I tell my family, or my girlfriend, or anyone, for that matter. It was all unreal. I was one of those who believed that this could never happen to me.

After two days in my cell alone, the Lord spoke to my heart and took all the fear from me. Right there on my knees, in that cell, Jesus cleansed me and washed me with His precious blood. God forgave me of my sins. PRAISE HIS BEAUTIFUL NAME! The King of Kings and Lord of Lords gave me a new life!

Now the healing begins to bear witness to my testimony of God's mercy and great love. Not once since that day the Lord came to me in my cell have I worried about the two deadly viruses in my veins. God has given me tremendous peace and comfort – not to worry, that my life is in His hands!

In November 2003 I requested, for genotype purpose, the type of Hep-C in my body. The PA told me, word for word: "Strange news, your viral load came back undetectable for Hep-C – that is, no virus in your body. Genotype could not be determined due to no detectable viral levels in your body. It is not affecting you, or your body has beat it on its own."

My fellow believers, you and I both know my body did not heal itself, it did not do the scientifically impossible on its own. Glory to God for the Divine Healing!

Brothers and sisters, God is not done healing. In May 2003 my CD-4 helper count was 440 and my viral load was 2946. In September 2003 my CD-4 helper count was UP to 621 and viral load DOWN to 2811. Anyone who understands these numbers or my situation knows how amazing this change in numbers is!

My friends, I am on no medication whatsoever! My body is beating HIV "on its own" – that is, by the power of God. Praise His Holy Name!