

RIFLE #1

It was another weekend with God and His amazing ways with the human heart. I was the Servant Leader this weekend for Rifle #1 at Rifle Correctional Center. We had 18 men join us for a truly amazing weekend. A lot of time and preparation brought us to this point, and it was well worth every mile driven! We had 17 men make it through the weekend all the way. The men were not the usual mix of inmates who sign up for a Kairos Weekend at other facilities. The Chaplain picked only gang leaders, tough nuts and the sort, and very few who were making a walk with God. Still, God had to be in on the selection, as their hearts were ready for something new, and change was embraced by several of the men. By Sunday, many of them made the first steps of a new commitment to following Jesus.

The weekend was kind of a new invention as we were finding out what worked and didn't with the schedule, the rooms they put us in, the counts, and all. But God's grace was there and we ran ahead of schedule on a regular basis from Friday noon on. The men were a mixed bunch of reactors, one table was into the whole thing with the first talk and poster, another was half and half, and another had two guys who were enemies, but by the end of the weekend they were friends by the power of forgiveness!

We were a "transitional manual" team! Some of the team had received their new blue manual a week before, and used it for their talks. Some stayed with the preparation they had in the purple manual. It made for an interesting weekend for my time keeper and me!

We had a team of 23 men, and 4 table families: Peter, James, John, and Thomas, our team qualifying table, which included 3 men from the Rifle area. They were overwhelmed with emotion by the end of the weekend. Our Kitchen Team did an outstanding job in meal preparation, transporting, setup and serving.

I gave the last long talk on Sunday. It was time for me to share my life with the men and to encourage them to walk with Jesus everyday, step by step. One thing that came out clearer than I had done before was in a short testimony I shared about my life. I had been raised by a abusive alcoholic father who cursed over me time and time again. Much of my life was lived under those curses, of never amounting to much as he said. When I came to Christ, God started to work on that unforgiveness in my heart first thing. I began to pray for my dad and realize that he didn't know how to love me, because he had a dad like mine. Same stuff happened to him. I was 33 when my dad quit drinking and it was a few years after that when he told me how proud he was to have me as his son.

I told the men we are all longing to have our dads bless us, but most of us have only known the curses. But I think the thing we must remember is that we have a Heavenly Father who is there for us day after day waiting for us to come to Him and He will bless us each day. He will show you the person He sees you as, and show you how to become that person.

The Closing was a small gathering of folks due to prison restrictions, but it was still a joyous occasion. The men shared that this day was a glorious day and yet a sad day for them. We assured them we would be back the next Saturday, and there on with a continuing ministry. What great big smiles we were shown on that Saturday as we came into the Prison Chapel!

We as a team were overwhelmed by the power of God's love on these men who had not known the respect and kindness that we shared with them before. It touched us in deeper ways than we can express, as we saw God working in our midst. We heard reports of how their friends wanted to come to the Instructional to taste and see what God was doing in our midst!

FROM THE RIFLE #1 CLOSING

- ◆ Jesus has come and not only knocked on the door, He has knocked the door off its hinges and kicked it down, by His awesome love!
- ◆ I have never known so much love and respect.
- ◆ Remember our faces, and our hearts as brothers!
- ◆ I have experienced love for who I am, not for what I have done.
- ◆ Your service has put smiles where there have been none for a long time.
- ◆ Came struggling to believe in God, but I found out He is real.

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

This time of year, I would love to be writing about the "Joy to the World" given to us in Christ and sing praises to Him how I am so thankful to have been chosen to be saved by His grace. But I am writing now about something which is heavy on many hearts in Kairos of Colorado.

We have experienced several problems with security issues at various DOC facilities over the past year. In each case, the problem has been caused by a Kairos volunteer. Simply put - the volunteer failed to follow DOC security directives. We are taking steps to strengthen our security awareness starting with the recruitment and training of new volunteers, and making security training a mandatory part of the team formation process.

Colorado Kairos Prison Ministry seems to be in a real struggle. I believe that God is reminding us that we need to change the way we have been approaching His ministry. We need to put on the attitude of a servant, and we need to get back to being more intent on obedience.

We are asked to make a commitment when we are privileged to be chosen to serve in God's ministry of Kairos. This ministry is precious to Him, and He is trusting us to protect and love it just as He does. The Program Manual outlines the commitment expected of Kairos volunteers. We all need to read it, pray on it, and then ask ourselves, "Are we willing and able to make this commitment to God and Kairos, and to not 'short change' Him by not living up to that commitment?"

We must be willing to fulfill all the requirements of becoming a volunteer in this miraculous ministry - such as regular church attendance, being part of a prayer and share group, committing to the follow-up, and other requirements listed in the Manual. We must be willing to abide by DOC and Kairos rules/policies, and follow the Kairos Program as set out in its manual. Do we love this ministry enough to not compromise any of these?

Finally, we all need to know that our most important job in this ministry is the four "L's" - Listen, Listen, Love, Love. If each of us would practice this central theme of Kairos in every facet of our lives we would not have trouble with working the ministry.

In the first week of team meetings we are asked to "Love one another". Let each of us look at ourselves, not our neighbors, and ask our Lord if we are doing our very best in this area. Also, each of us needs to be praying for one another, and for the entire Kairos program in Colorado.

Our humanness is our greatest weakness, but our greatest weakness is overcome by our great love of the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

FYI AND PRAYERS

♦ **LEE ABEYTA.** One of our Kairos brothers, Lee Abeyta, has been hospitalized since September with respiratory failure and pneumonia. He is in Room 213, North Valley Rehabilitation Hospital, 8451 Pearl Street, Thornton, CO 80229 where he is slowly recovering. Lee has been a faithful team member and Prayer Warrior with the CTCF and FCF Kairos Teams for over 18 years. He would appreciate visits and cards from all of us. You can call him through the Nurses Station at 303-286-5129.

♦ **FREMONT RESTART.** Fremont CF has requested that Kairos resume operations in 2006 at a measured pace, beginning with monthly reunions and progressing to a 2-day retreat and eventually a 4-day Weekend -- all depending on how well the new security procedures work out. The earliest possibility for a 4-day Weekend is September 2006. Jim Waters will serve as Kairos "Security Chief" -- the single point of contact between FCF staff and Kairos team members while in the prison. The first monthly reunion will be 5 February 2006.

♦ **STERLING CUTBACK.** Sterling CF has requested that each of the three Kairos quadrants cut its program back from two 4-day weekends per year to one, due to overall administrative load caused by six Sterling weekends per year. East and South will conduct their 4-day in the Spring of 2006. North's will be in November.

♦ **STATE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.** Each January the State Committee elects new SC members. This year there will be at least three positions to fill, including Secretary and Training Chair. You do not need to be an expert - just have a servant's heart and contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Jim Carter, Jean Magnuson, or Jim Strub). The meeting will be at 6:00pm, Tuesday, 17 January, at Faith Community Church in Littleton (6228 South Carr Court, just southwest of Bowles and Wadsworth). All are welcome.

♦ **MAGHABERRY #1.** John Thompson, Executive Director of Kairos Prison Ministry International, is asking for our help in raising money for the startup of Kairos in Northern Ireland. The asking is for \$5,000 to \$7500 (to KPML, 130 University Park Drive #170, Winter Park FL 32792).. This is a wonderful opportunity to bless our Christian brothers & sisters in Ireland.

♦ **SUMMER CONFERENCE 2006.** Kairos of New Mexico is hosting the 2006 KPML summer conference on 25-30 July at the Glorieta Retreat Center, near Santa Fe. New Mexico is looking for Colorado volunteers to assist them. If interested, please tell Steve Gabriel.

COLORADO CHAPTER OF KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL (KPMI) STATE COMMITTEE

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2006 WEEKENDS & LEADERS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| LIMON #5 | 16-19 Feb | Brian Beattie |
| BRUSH #2 | 16-19 Feb | Chris Bauer |
| STERLING EAST #3 | 2-5 Mar | Randy Borden |
| RIFLE #2 | 9-12 Mar | Bill Faller |
| CAÑON WOMEN'S #44 | 20-23 Apr | Sara Igyarto |
| DELTA #29 | 27-30 Apr | Robert Larson |
| STERLING SOUTH #9 | 4-7 May | Jeff Holley |
| TERRITORIAL #41 | 18-21 May | Harold Lobato |
| DENVER WOMEN'S #6 | 1-4 Jun | Liz Castillo |



"Without the shedding of blood there

THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter, "God's Special Time," is part of our mission of bringing Christ's love and forgiveness to the incarcerated, and assisting them in building up the body of Christ in each prison. We publish four times a year. Our volunteer printer is First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, to which we are very grateful!

Tom Guidera has volunteered to take over as Editor, beginning with the Spring 2006 edition. He has been a Kairos team member since 1987, in several of our programs, mostly at Fremont and Territorial. He has participated in the editing of this Christmas edition. He would appreciate any input you might have regarding the content and format of the newsletter. Some people even submit an article now and then.

Bob Ashida has designed the new masthead on page one, and also the crosses at left. He is a professional in the graphic arts and may contribute some more art as we go along. Bob has been a member of the Fremont team for many years.

Thank you, Tom!

Thank you, Bob!



KAIROS OF COLORADO

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

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 23 #4 Christmas 2005

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FROM CTCF KAIROS #40

A participant in Kairos #40 wrote this for and read this to his fellow participants:

- ◆ ONE BODY – we are a single family unified for one purpose.
- ◆ ONE SPIRIT – we all have the Spirit as our power source.
- ◆ ONE HOPE – we all look forward to the same future.
- ◆ ONE LORD – we all trust the some person in charge.
- ◆ ONE FAITH – we all trust Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation.
- ◆ ONE BAPTISM – we all have a single identity.
- ◆ ONE GOD AND FATHER – we all share the same source of our existence.

What a difference it would make if we all could dwell on these seven "ones." Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love! The fellowship of

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE GIVE THANKS

- ◆ For **Prayers** – our main form of support – prayers of our team members, their families, their churches, and so many of you out there in our Kairos Community – the prayers of God's people. We give thanks.
- ◆ For **Donations** – our financial form of support – tax-deductible donations from our Kairos volunteers, churches, and you, our generous Kairos Community. 100% of your contribution to Kairos of Colorado goes into the ministry directly. We have no paid staff and no fundraising expenses. We encourage you to use our pre-addressed envelope and make checks payable to "Kairos." We give thanks.
- ◆ For **Prayers about donations** – combine the two, especially in this Christmas season when we give in gratitude for all God has given us in His Son. We give thanks.
- ◆ For **Patience** – on the part of all those involved in the recent security issues that Mary cites in her letter (page 1). God has been with all of us – DOC personnel and Kairos. We give thanks.
- ◆ For **Peace** – the peace which only Jesus can give. "My peace I give you.....let not your hearts be