

God's SPECIAL TIME

**KAIROS OF
COLORADO**

Volume 24 #2
Christmas 2006

25 YEARS OF KAIROS IN COLORADO!

The Fall of 2007 will mark our 25th year of having the awesome privilege of serving our Lord and Savior in the Colorado Prisons. The first Colorado weekend was held at Colorado Women's Correctional Facility in October 1982. Since then we have expanded to serve 9 prisons – Women's: Colorado (Cañon), Denver, and Brush; and Men's: Fremont, Territorial, Delta, Sterling (3 separate units), Limon, and Rifle.

We hope to celebrate this 25th Anniversary over the Labor Day Weekend in the Denver Area. If you would like to help with planning the event, please contact me (Mary Sogan, data on page 3). We are hoping that doing it over a holiday weekend will facilitate attendance and traveling times.

As I reflect on my 21+ years in this amazing ministry, I know that it has changed my life. I was not part of the first weekend but I can tell story after story of the miraculous events that have happened, the friends that I have been blessed with on team, and in being involved at the State and National level.

One story that will always touch my heart happened at Cañon Women's many years ago. On Saturday evening it came time to have the Forgiveness Windup, and we each went forward and placed in the bowl of water our list of names of those whom we needed to forgive (or needed to forgive us). After placing my list in the water and having been prayed for by one of the Clergy on team, I stopped at the rear of the Chapel and took a quick look around. I noticed one of the women was still sitting in her chair. She was still holding the sheet of paper with her names, and seemed almost paralyzed, unable to move. I said a quick prayer asking what I should do, and quietly walked up and sat down next to her. The Holy Spirit took over. I asked what was wrong – didn't she want to forgive these people, and didn't she want to be forgiven? "Oh, yes! But, what will I do without these?" she said, holding up the sheet of paper. I asked what she meant. She continued and, in short, said she had a lot of emotion tied up in these names, and what would replace that if she gave them up. Again, I prayed for the Lord to take over, and He did! "Well, what was it that stands out to you about this weekend so far, what have you gleaned?" She thought for a few seconds and explained that everyone was so loving, joy-filled and caring; and that they are actually strangers who have come here, not caring what crime I committed, and want to love me and show me that God loves me. "Well, think how much better you would feel if you replaced the negative feelings those names represent with the love, joy and care you have experienced on this Kairos weekend." Again she thought for a few seconds, smiled, rose and walked up and placed her names in the bowl of water. She even stood there for a moment to watch the paper dissolve. A Clergy person prayed for her, and she turned around to return to her seat. When I looked at her, as she turned, I not only could see a new sparkle in her eyes, but it seemed as though there was a light surrounding her entire body – the light of a new life. Praise God! She came to reunions, retreats, and served on subsequent Kairos Weekends as an "Angel". No matter what was going on in her life in those years following her Kairos Weekend, she never lost that sparkle or light.

This is just one of many stories that I know exist in the Colorado Kairos community. These are the blessings that make us so passionate about this ministry. I would like to hear your stories, and I am sure others in the ministry would also. My hope is that if enough of you would send them we could make a "memory book" for this 25th Anniversary Celebration. We could also publish them in this newsletter. We have many people who contribute time, talent, and finances to this ministry, and I am sure they would love the stories you have to tell. I would especially love to hear from those of you who were there in the "beginning".

Please pray and consider contributing your stories and memories – from your Kairos communities as well as from your times in the prisons. You can send them to me via email (mlsogan@comcast.net) or mail them to me at 1232 S. Marshall Court, Lakewood, CO 80232; or send them to the Kairos P.O. Box address printed on this newsletter.

I pray that each of you and your loved ones will be blessed as you celebrate the Birth of Our Savior this year. May your New Year bring peace, joy and the continued presence of God's love.

Love in Christ,
Mary L. Sogan, State Chairperson

COMMENTS FROM CLOSINGS

CAÑON WOMEN'S #45

- ◆ I came in like a torn shirt, found the needle and thread to sew me back together again, am taking away a whole shirt.
- ◆ In Jesus we found a bond with each other.
- ◆ Coming in toward the Closing and hearing the singing [When the Saints Go Marching In] gave me a vision of what it will be like to arrive in heaven.
- ◆ I found a peace I've never had before – free of all conniving people, etc. I've been in the Department of Christianity (DOC) all my life, but this was a time of coming back to life, the way out of my sinful life.
- ◆ Now I know the Lord loves me, loves us all.
- ◆ Kairos is the best thing that ever happened to me. Kairos pulled me out of a lot of [emotional] turmoil.
- ◆ I came in with a very closed mind, but they flooded me with love.
- ◆ I came in seeking something, a seeking I've had all my life. It turned out to be love – God's unconditional love.
- ◆ I learned that God's door will always be open to me.
- ◆ Before Kairos I had a lot of hate inside me. Now it's gone. I know Jesus has forgiven me.

TERRITORIAL #42

- ◆ I found that I am not hopeless.
- ◆ We found God and community.
- ◆ I found a sense of peace.
- ◆ No matter what the inmates in the yard say, I now know for sure that Jesus can fix me.
- ◆ I haven't spent this much time with Jesus in 20 years.
- ◆ God has told me "You have to see people through My eyes, not yours."
- ◆ I am twenty years old, arrived here in a state of darkness, with terminal cancer and about five more months to live. I didn't think I had any choices, that I was going to hell, and I don't belong here. Then I felt God working within me. He stirred me. I found myself starting to shine. He gave me a vision of heaven. Now I have choices -- to be whatever He wants me to be for my remaining time.
- ◆ God works through other people. I saw that here this weekend.
- ◆ Jesus is not religion. He is not false.
- ◆ Kairos was blessing upon blessing upon blessing – an opening of the heart. What got me most was writing the names on the dissolving paper –forgiveness of so many, from childhood on.
- ◆ I had a foundation, but now I am completing the building.
- ◆ I didn't realize how many people there are who care.
- ◆ Anyone who says prison is all bad hasn't been on a Kairos Weekend.

UPCOMING IN 2007

- ◆ STATE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS. Four positions are open on the State Committee: Secretary, one Clergy, Recruiting/Outreach/Fundraising, and Programs. Elections to the SC will take place by teleconference in early January, and elections to specific positions will take place at the SC meeting in Castle Rock on 20 January. If you are interested in serving on the State Committee or wish to nominate someone, please contact Jeff Holley, Chair of the Nominating Committee – soon.
- ◆ KAIROS SUMMER CONFERENCE. For your planning purposes, this inspiring annual event is scheduled for 4-8 July 2007 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Details later.
- ◆ ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING. The Colorado State Committee plans to host a session of Advanced Kairos Training (AKT) on 20-22 July 2007 at St Michael's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs. This training is open to everyone. It is a mandatory prerequisite for all Weekend Leaders (formerly known as Rectors). Contact for the AKT is Pete Kufeke.
- ◆ COLORADO 25th ANNIVERSARY. We plan to celebrate this on Labor Day weekend, in the Denver area. Mary writes about it on page 1 and needs your help.
- ◆ KAIROS OUTSIDE. The State Committee has set up an Ad Hoc Committee for starting up "Kairos Outside" in Colorado. This is a ministry to the female loved ones of incarcerated men and women. The format is similar to Kairos inside the prisons, but it is a totally separate program. The SC has appointed Jean Mares as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. She needs your help, especially if you are a woman – and most especially if you have a loved one in jail or prison. Please call her at 303-438-8557 or email her at jamares46@msn.com.

KAIROS #1 in HONDURAS

In November three years ago a group of intrepid Spanish-speaking volunteers organized and conducted Kairos #1 in Costa Rica. Now in this November a similar group has conducted Kairos #1 in another Central American land – Honduras. Both groups included our long-time Colorado volunteer, Wayne Park – who, by the way, was in the group that got Kairos started at Sterling. Thank you, Wayne – and all the others who let God use them in this powerful way. Most of all, thank you, Lord Jesus.

*"If God has made your cup sweet, drink it with grace; or even if He has made it bitter, drink it in communion with Him."
Oswald Chambers "My Utmost for His Highest" 11 November*

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

OFFICERS:

Chairperson	Mary Sogan	303-937-7675	msogan@aol.com
International Representative	Steve Gabriel	719-282-1924	jsgabriel@pcisys.net
Vice Chairperson	Bruce Carlson	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
Secretary	(open)		
Financial Secretary	Lee Kulbitski	719-322-8408	leek@amerion.com
Treasurer	Jim Strub	719-634-2821	pjstrub@juno.com

CLERGY:

Clergy	(open)		
Chaplain	Jack Olafson	719-590-9639	jolafson7@msn.com

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

Brush Women's	Karen Salzman	970-686-2688	karensalzman@fhtm.us
Cañon Women's	Jean Magnuson	719-686-9231	jeanmagnuson@gmail.com
Delta	Bob Storch	970-874-9485	rlstorch@aol.com
Denver Women's	Glenda Condon	303-377-3580	glendagaycondon@yahoo.com
Fremont	Jim Waters	719-632-5759	watersfin@yahoo.com
Limon	Jim Richardson	719-390-5253	jrlich60@msn.com
Rifle	Chuck Perkins	970-241-7916	cperkins16@msn.com
Sterling (East, South, North)	Jeff Holley	303-664-9756	jeffreyholley@msn.com
Territorial	Jim Carter	719-594-9337	jimmegcarter@msn.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Agape	Wanda Sitler	719-380-7166	tubalady@msn.com
Newsletter & Data Base	Jim Strub	719-634-2821	pjstrub@juno.com
Observer Program	Bruce Carlson	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
Programs	(open)		
Recruiting/Outreach/Fundraising	(open)		
Supplies	Joy Maly	303-988-7339	just4joy7@aol.com
Training	Peter Kufeke	970-587-5680	pkufeke@msn.com

2007 WEEKENDS & LEADERS

BRUSH #3	1-4 Feb	Karen Salzman
STERLING EAST #4	22-25 Feb	Bob Porreco
RIFLE #4	8-11 Mar	Ryan Pritchett
LIMON #7	15-18 Mar	Jimmie Lazanis
FREMONT #46 (tentative)	15-18 Mar	Bruce Carlson
CAÑON WOMEN'S #46	12-15 Apr	Sara Igyarto
DELTA #31	19-22 Apr	Steve Parish
STERLING SOUTH #10	19-22 Apr	Tom Salzman
TERRITORIAL #43	17-20 May	Glen Wiersch
DENVER WOMEN'S #7	31 May-3 Jun	Diane Kufeke
BRUSH #4	2-5 Aug	Patty Morrison
RIFLE #5	2-5 Aug	Tyne Bush
FREMONT #47 (tentative)	20-23 Sep	TBD
DELTA #32	11-14 Oct	Daniel Tyler
CAÑON WOMEN'S #47	18-21 Oct	TBD
LIMON #8	18-21 Oct	Ozzie Oswald
STERLING NORTH #12	25-28 Oct	Bill Hollis
TERRITORIAL #44	8-11 Nov	Larry Bauers
DENVER WOMEN'S #8	29 Nov-2 Dec	TBD

GIVING THANKS

Each year at this time we are reminded of the open and generous hearts of so many of you – your prayers, your attending Closings, your time and talents on teams, your time and talents in the many other tasks that go together to make the human part of this ministry work; and finally, for your continuing financial support. We are also very grateful to the Colorado Springs First United Methodist Church for printing this newsletter!

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

To start serving on a Kairos team, just contact one of the persons listed in the SC roster above. If you have made an outside Weekend (Cursillo, Emmaus, Tres Dias, Via de Cristo, Koinonia, etc), this will be something like serving on one of those teams – except for the setting. You can dip your toes into the water by attending a Closing.



KAIROS OF COLORADO

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

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 24 #2 Christmas 2006

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
ORGN
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
COLO. SPGS., CO
PERMIT #745

ARE WE READY?

It is December. In many of our churches we are in the season of Advent, when we anticipate the coming of Christ, first time and second time. It is a time of reminding us to get ready, to be ready.

We know when He came the first time. We don't know when He is going to return. But He says He will, and He told His disciples that only the Father knows when (Matt 24:36, Mark 13:32). We will meet Jesus, either here or there, when we go, or when He comes. In either case, we are to be ready.

When we were young we played tag. Whoever was "it" called out, "Coming, ready or not!" For Christians, Jesus is the ultimate "It." He is calling to us: "Coming, ready or not!"

How are we to be ready? Repent of our sinful nature, be absolutely convicted of His saving grace, continue in good relationship with God, and be about our Father's business, **such as being the present-day hands and feet of Jesus in the prisons, as in Kairos.**

The Rt Rev BILL DAVIDSON

Our good friend and brother, Bishop Bill Davidson, left this life on 8 May 2006. He had been wrestling with a slow growing cancer for some time and was in the hospital recovering from a related surgery.

Bill served on Kairos teams at Fremont, Territorial, Sterling, and Cañon Women's, and as a Spiritual Director on the State Committee. He touched many of our lives in so many ways. One inmate whose life he touched brought his copy of the Fremont #11 photo (1988) to a recent Sterling Kairos, to share his remembrance of Bill. This image showed Bill, Moses Archuleta and Father Dave Jones – all now safely gone home, and smiling on our activities down here?.

Bill lived out the goals of Kairos as a faithful member of a reunion group where he provided some elegant insights. When quoted, he often remarked, "Did I say that?" Whatever he said, it was always in God's love. Indeed, his life was a constant outpouring of God's love.

Bill was ready.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last." John 15:16