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MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Colorado Chapter of Kairos Prison Ministry International publishes this newsletter bimonthly. USPS address is P.O.Box 25004, Colorado Springs CO 80936. Donations are appreciated and tax-deductible. Kairos is a 501 (c)(3) ministry.

FROM OUR CHAIR

Changes in seasons. Here in Colorado we are blessed with the full variety of weather, from sub-zero cold to triple digit heat. The real shock to newcomers is just how fast it can change from one to the other and how warm winter days and cold summer days just aren't that rare here. It's a change in season for me as well, as my "babies" both graduate from high school and my wife and I become "empty-nesters". It seems that I'm going to get a big dose of change as my Hardware job at IBM is gone and have been asked to try my hand at Software, and my tenure as Kairos State Chairman comes to a close. I've been asked to chronicle my administration, and like any public figure, I've earned some accolades and acquired some detractors.

It's not appropriate to "take credit" for much of what I'm going to write, since this is a volunteer team and more like a family. This is more of a historical collection of events. Kairos of Colorado has had some wonderful successes and some frustrating loses in the last two years. We added the Kairos Outside Ministry and we lost High Plains. We dodged the bullet on losing Rifle and moved our Cañon Women's to La Vista. Fremont came back from the brink and is running smoothly again.

At the State Committee level we brought about a new level of financial stewardship with clearer financial methods, including developing a state budget to be voted on by every AC and a regular method of funding state initiatives. We added a website and eliminated paper newsletters, netting a nice savings and a green initiative. We shepherded better understanding of the International Operating Procedures with an Advisory Council Training. The State Committee met more often but for a shorter more productive times, taking advantage of conference calls, and used new technology like google groups to more effectively manage its communication.

The issue that seemed most urgent to me was a feeling of "us vs. them". Whether it's at the AC level, the SC level or International level, we are one big Kairos family with the same goals and passion for helping the incarcerated. We have tried hard to open up the State Committee and have invited anyone to come and participate and have published the meeting dates. We took an initiative to create communities in Kairos by having the Security (and soon the Recruiting) coordinators from all ACs meet together. The long-term goal is to continue this strategy and open lines of communication throughout the state and encourage everyone to make the pilgrimage to the International Summer Conference.

Our relationship with CDOC is solid. We get constructive phone calls from them and have worked hard to educate the Kairos volunteer base on evolving issues and concerns through this column in this newsletter. I recently managed to clarify some difficult AR900 rules for smoother operation with CDOC. One was confusion over whether a CDOC deactivated (not for cause) Kairos volunteer could still attend a Closing, as they should be able to! Also, anyone that is a new volunteer must make sure to take their facility tour within 90 days of their BVT or risk having to start all over. However, a returning volunteer may have that requirement waived at their facility's Programs Director's discretion, if their deactivation was brief and they had already had a facility tour previously.

Finally, I hope that team recruiting now rests squarely on the AC's shoulders, and no longer on a weekend leader's shoulders. AC's should be working hard to educate the entire volunteer base that successful recruitment comes from everyone of us and that it is managed by them, the AC.

I am required to be on the SC for one more year as the "Advising Chair" and will continue to serve in Sterling. I sincerely thank everyone of you for your servant hearts and hope to serve side by side with you in the future. God Bless. and have a very Merry Christmas.

M. Jeffrey Holley, Outgoing State Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
2010		
1st & 3rd Thursdays	LA VISTA WOMEN'S REUNIONS	Sara Igyarto
2nd Fridays, 7:00pm	DENVER STREET GATHERINGS Warren United Methodist Church, 14th and Gilpin. Bring spouse, friend, grouping card, musical instrument. Volunteers also bring potluck dish.	Glenda Condon
3rd Fridays, 6:30pm	COLORDAO SPRINGS STREET GATHERINGS Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hancock & Boulder. Volunteers bring potluck dish.	Jean Magnuson
11-13 February	KPMI WINTER BOARD Holiday Inn, Orlando, Florida	Mary Sogan
11-14 February	FREMONT #48	Jim Waters
4-7 March	RIFLE #10	Ken Ooley
8-11 April	TERRITORIAL #49	Chuck Weida
15-18 April	DELTA #37	Ken DeForest
29 Apr 2 May	STERLING EAST #7	Kevin Condon
21-23 May	KAIROS OUTSIDE #4 Id-Ra-Ha-Je Camp & Retreat Center, Bailey	Pilar Manzanares
21-23 May	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (KI) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Jean Mares
3-6 June	DENVER WOMEN'S #13	Michelle Johnson
11-13 June	ADVANCED KAIROS TRAINING (KO) American Motel & Conference Center, Wheat Ridge	Glenda Condon
27 July-1 August	KPMI SUMMER CONFERENCE Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas	Randy Borden
5-8 August	RIFLE #11	Lloyd Strobeck
7-10 October	DELTA #38	TBD
7-10 October	TERRITORIAL #50	TBD
4-7 November	STERLING WEST #27	Rob Bradley
5-7 November	KAIROS OUTSIDE #5 Ponderosa Retreat Center, Larkspur/Monument	Catherine Flint
2-5 December	DENVER WOMEN'S #14	TBD
		Glenda Condon

2010 STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Face-to-face Meetings, nominally four per year. Next one is at **First United Methodist Church** in Castle Rock at 9:00 am on Saturday 9 January 2010. The meetings are open to all.

Teleconferences, in the months between face-to-face meetings, on third Sundays at 7:00 pm.

OPENING THE GIFT

In spite of the economy, most people will probably have a gift (or gifts) under the tree this Christmas. Children usually can't wait to open theirs. What would you think of the person who receives a gift from a family member and admires the beautiful wrapping and the lovely bow, but just sits there in wonderment at such a pretty gift, and decides not to open it? This person doesn't want to destroy such beautiful work, and so the gift is put on the shelf to be admired, but not opened. Would we not think such a person strange and no doubt very disrespectful of the one who gave the gift?

Yet do not many do that at Christmas time? They get caught up in the story about the baby in a manger, the spectacular lights, the decorated tree, the candles, singing "Silent Night" and the other carols, and all the festivities and feasting of Christmas, but once it is over no more carols, the manger scene is put away, also the Christmas tree, and all the other decorations are all packed away for another year, and they miss the real meaning of what is celebrated. They fail really to open the true gift of Christmas.

Christmas is not just about the birth of a baby to a virgin, the visit of the shepherds, or the generous gifts of the wise men. It is really about the gift (or gifts) that God has given to us human beings. The true Christmas story does not stop with a visit to see the baby Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem, but goes throughout the life of Jesus, culminating in His death on a cross, His resurrection from the dead, and His ascension to the throne on high.

The tradition of gift giving at Christmas began with the **gift of God's Son** to us. "**Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**" (2 Corinthians 9:15). Our world is full of people looking for some real meaning in life, but really do not know where to find it. They know that something is missing, but what? They may think that a large salary is the answer, or pleasures, or success, or security. But deep down that is all to no avail. Something is missing, and the answer is not in a place, a program, or some pill. It is in a person - Jesus.

Because of sin, we lost relationship with our Creator God. A sentence of death, not just physical, has been placed upon us, eternal separation from a loving God. Jesus came and took that sentence of death, and offers us the **gift of life**, life everlasting in His presence. He offers us the **gift of grace**, something we do not deserve - the forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with Him. He **gives us His love**. He **gives us the promise of peace** with Him. He gives us the **gift of "righteousness"** - right living.

Above all He gives us the **gift of Himself - Emmanuel**, "God with us," the name of Jesus. With that comes the **gift of the Holy Spirit**, God dwelling within us, to guide us, to have power to see us through the struggles of life. God does not remove all the trials and tribulations of life, but gives us the assurance that He is always with us, and the strength to endure to the end. This is just a brief outline of the many gifts that God gives to us, by giving us His Son Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. By putting our trust in Him we open these many gifts. Paul wrote to Timothy: "**fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you**" (2 Timothy 1:6). We all have been given some gift of service, and for some of us the gift of serving those in prison. Let us let the Holy Spirit "fan into flame" that gift we have received and be willing to share God's gracious gifts to those incarcerated.

As Christmas approaches, let us give thanks to God for His "indescribable gift," and when we put our decorations away, we make certain that by putting our trust, our faith in God, we accept and use the gifts He offers to us. May this be a blessed and wonderful Christmas and New Year to our Kairos family.

Submitted by *Elwyn Tedford, Clergy on State Committee*

A CHRISTMAS REMINDER

In the message above, Elwyn reminds us of the many gifts we continually receive - and the continuing need to open them, especially the greatest gift of all, that of eternal life through faith in Jesus.

The Lord sends us into the prisons as gifts - surrogate gifts of Himself, of His love, of His care for the prisoners. By accepting our ministry as such, the prisoners are opening gifts God is providing.

One of the underpinnings of this process is the servant's heart of each and every one of our volunteers - team members, team support, pray-ers, and many others. This is our agape.

Another underpinning is what some call "**green agape**" - the financial support so necessary to keep this ministry viable. The green agape comes in all year long. And now it is Christmas. What about **green agape** now?

Most of us have so much "stuff" that we're at a loss thinking about gifts. A slogan we're hearing is "**Buy less, give more.**" Give to a worthy cause, rather than buy more stuff. Give in honor of someone who already has that stuff. Let that person know that you are doing it in honor of him/her.

You can choose to give to Kairos this Christmas, "**in honor of John Doe,**" and then John Doe will not have the burden of returning a gift he already has or really doesn't want. Kairos will open your gifts - and apply them in love.

DELTA #36 CLOSING

From the Table Families:

We arrived on the fence; did but didn't; off track; bankrupted emotionally; fear; rusty; battered & bruised, low commitment; spiritually under nourished; reluctant to let go; broken way down; wounded; weak; open minded; lacking;

We found God's fellowship; His spirit; joy; love; answers; strength; said good-bye to hurts; new direction; baggage went; revived; back on track to freedom; peace; forgiveness; letting go; open arms; intimacy; open listeners; help; unconditional love; knowledge; acceptance into freedom; free from guilt; Jesus' friendship; new-being reorganized as an individual; walls went down; amazing love; safely found.

We are taking away fellowship; peace; will to get on, keep on; how to pray and worship; new walk; spiritual experience; love; best friend Jesus; free of guilt weight; new relationships; not being fearful; loving; remembering truth; lasting experience; assurance; deeper walk; new knowledge; understanding; more fellowship; reopened wounds healed; tools of Jesus' rejoining grace.

From Open Mike:

- I came with apprehension, an addict, broken down, walls given to God.
- I learned to pray with Roy's help.
- Thankful extra! Didn't expect what my Dad did seven years ago here at a Kairos. He is now a minister of God.
- I was suicidal. Gave up everything. Cops were in front, not back of me. I had lost hope. Pain can be overcome with Jesus. What it means is to reach to people. I have hope, giving. DON'T GIVE UP!!
- I was off track. Got back via praying. Kairos changed my whole life. Set back today - -life changing.
- Beautiful--learned -- on the right track. If you know, do the right thing.
- Crazy time--cold--didn't know what love is, grateful. Harden heart empty--forgiveness – Holy Spirit.
- Can help--looking forward to stepping out.
- Cried--can't see through glass; must act up to image -- talk about # 1; only one of my group; I wasn't coming back on Friday; again I wasn't coming back on Saturday; I am here.
- Always knew God; came here--because of Kairos, changed me. Show my family how much life means; best time here.
- From a small town--will be back; changed; came to see what is about--I saw. It is good.
- We need to take what we found this weekend out to the yard.
- I was apprehensive, into drugs and alcohol, and afraid of my old life on the outside. I have been inside for two years and seven months and have stopped living and loving. At Kairos I found love and forgiveness. I was able to forgive my Dad. Walls were broken down, and through the love of Jesus my hardened heart was emptied.

Submitted by Robert Aragon

NEW STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The State Committee has reelected Mary Sogan as Colorado State Representative to KPMI. (KPMI required that this election be held prior to November.)

Election for new members and officers of the State Committee is scheduled for its 9 January 2010 meeting in Castle Rock. All of the current officers are eligible for reelection, except for the Chair, who has served the KPMI-prescribed limit of two years. Both clergy positions are open.

If you have any interest in serving or know someone who has, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members – Randy Borden, Glenda Condon, or Peter Kufeke. They are still accepting nominations for Chair, for Vice Chair, and for two Clergy positions.. On 9 January, nominations from the floor will be accepted, provided that the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

You can view the current composition of the State Committee on page 7.

SECURITY

If you have ANY questions about security, be sure to contact Jean Yanchek at
719-599-8280

jmbyy@cs.com

STERLING WEST #26 CLOSING

From the seven table families:

We arrived at Kairos feeling dumbfounded, doubtful, confused, anxious, excited, hungry, spiritually weary, afraid, searching, uncertain, broken, numb, lost, frustrated, angry, unstable, detached from God, heavy-laden and challenged.

We found that we were not judged. We found peace, kindness, brotherly love, desire to serve God & others, true love & passion, care, smiles, friendship, abundant food, hope, guidance, a way to channel negative energy, bags of letters, trust, strength in family, spiritual food, a lot of acceptance, joy, unity & fellowship.

We are taking with us: knowing that we can handle anything with Christ, knowing we are not alone, new friends, security in trusting Christians, faith, memories, love of God, constant indigestion, forgiveness, a plan & blueprint for our lives, spiritual direction, understanding, newfound appreciation, and taking more letters than I have gotten in 15 years, freedom, new attitude, and peace.

Personal testimonies:

- I came for my kids so that I could be a better man. I am so proud to be a part of the Kairos family.
- Now I know I have a new family, you are my family. I will follow God and be a better person for both my small family & you.
- I came to kindle my spirituality, & got more than I bargained for. I'll be a better soldier for Christ.
- I'm a born again Christian, there's always room for growth as Christians. I met beautiful people, just in different clothes. I now have sisters in Christ also. I hate to go back to pod because I will miss you all. I saw God's hand in everything.
- I now know you need to share your burdens. I never had friends - I was able to share this weekend and I found out a lot about myself and feel cleansed & pure.
- Incredible weekend! It touched my heart. It is amazing to see so many people here and I cried. I feel good & I want to shout. You have touched me for the rest of my life.
- I didn't know what to expect from Kairos. We figured we could hang as a group, then they split us up, I met new people & it was a good experience. I got a lot off my chest; I'm going to be on God's side now. I accepted Jesus today!

Fourth day speaker: It's time to let go of your pride, anger, hatred, resentment, pain - time to let go and let God! He has something better for you. The weekend continues in the yard. Please accept Jesus as your Savior. It's time to make that choice!

Submitted by Joan Borden

FROM OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO KPMI

Another year, 2009, has come and is about to go. KPMI, for the past two years has been struggling through many changes. The most significant will begin at the Winter Conference in Orlando, February 11-13. Kairos has come to the realization that to grow there must be change - and change never comes easy.

I will be seated as your International Council Representative at the Conference. I am not only very humbled by God's willingness to allow me the privilege of serving Him in this capacity, but I ask for your prayers that I always do my best to "glorify Him" in all I do, and serve Colorado with a "servant's heart and selfless attitude". I am here to serve you, the volunteers. If you would like to speak with me, meet with me, chew me out, or have any questions, feel free to email me at mlsogan@comcast.net or phone me at 303-937-7675. I am at your service.

I thank each and every one of our volunteers for your own "sacrificial servant hood". We, of the Colorado State Committee, sometimes, in trying to oversee the ministry, give the impression that we are taking our volunteers for granted, but I want you to know that that is not our intent. Without each and everyone of you, there would be no "Kairos of Colorado". Kairos of Colorado can only survive to bring hope to "many without hope" because of your love and devotion to Our Lord, and "His Ministry" of Kairos.

May our Lord and Savior, Jesus of Nazareth, bring each and everyone of you, your families, and all those you hold in your hearts, His love, peace and joy this Christmas, and throughout 2010.

Love in Christ,

Mary L. Sogan, Colorado Representative to KPMI, Inc.

"Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same."

Franz Schubert

DENVER WOMEN'S #12 CLOSING

We heard as usual stories of pain and grief and brokenness and really bad choices. We are told that about 96% of prisoners in Colorado are where they are because of drugs and I am sure the statistic is accurate. And we heard stories of women beginning to heal and to laugh,

My favorite was told by one woman. She said she arrived Friday morning wondering if the feelings were real. Sometime that morning during a break another woman who was a casual friend came to sit in the empty chair beside her. That woman said she just had to tell her something even as she kept looking over her shoulder. The message she gave was "I am to tell you God is here."

Another comment daily by an older woman with a sweet smile - I am glad I woke up this morning in my right mind.

Submitted by Glenda Condon

From the table families:

We arrived at Kairos lost, looking for tools, struggling, a work in progress, looking for understanding and peace, were spiritually thirsty, curious, hurt, scared, broken, anxious, confused, and hardhearted.

We found new friends, direction, peace, understanding, Christ, courage, belonging, passion, unconditional love, freedom, compassion for self and others.

We are taking away a new trust, a new future, hope, love, joy, respect for others, encouragement, salvation, forgiveness, a spiritual experience that we will have for a lifetime as well as life long friends.

Personal testimonies:

- I walked in here on Friday wondering what the feeling of love is like because I had never felt unconditional love in my life. The person sitting beside me looked over at me as I looked over my shoulder and I didn't see anything, but I felt something and I wondered if it was God. I looked over my shoulder again and the person next to me said to me, "It's okay, God is here."
- I was asked this week to pray for a family and I thought oh no I've been asked to do something. I prayed all weekend and learned that praying for someone else is a great privilege and I learned that others matter, too.
- The story about The Wall was very special to me. I'm a very secluded person and I know that with the help of God and my new sisters, I will be able to take down each stone in my wall.
- I came here struggling. I've been an addict to drugs. When I got here, I was mad at my father, as he had not told me about my mother passing away. This weekend I learned I couldn't be a Christian and not forgive my Dad. Yesterday, I was able to write a letter and forgive my dad, so I can be closer to God.
- The Lord works in mysterious ways. I put my name in for Kairos and figured I wouldn't make it. On Thursday, I heard the list was posted and lo and behold, my name was on the list. I came and got connected with God so I can be a better person and better mother to my child, I get out in 8 days and my baby is due very soon. I cannot believe I was able to be a part of this weekend.
- I am so hardheaded and able to forgive others, but I can't forgive myself. This weekend, I learned to forgive myself. It has been such an inspiration. There are a lot of beautiful women here. The greatest thing is to be surrounded by the Kairos community.

Submitted by Joan Borden

CONTACTING DOC

We still have a chronic problem of folks calling (and pestering) CDOC to check on Form 900 status. We have promised to limit this contact to one person per facility, and that person (either the Liaison or Data Coordinator) is the one who sends in the Form 900s. Any weekend leader or other individual doing this is doing Kairos a huge disservice and annoying our partner, the CDOC Faith and Citizens Program folks.

Please refrain from this practice, and don't expect special treatment or expediting of your team members' forms. Primary contacts may only contact the office to verify that Form 900s have been received and are in process.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL (KPMI)

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led Christian ministry which conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions. The Kairos program starts with a weekend event which allows participants to receive Christ's love through the servitude of Christian Kairos volunteers. During this event participants are given the opportunity to experience a spiritual renewal, accepting God's call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution, and beyond. Participants are encouraged to establish small, two-to-five-person "Fourth Day" Prayer and Share groups within the institution. The groups meet regularly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another, other residents, and staff in the institution.

Kairos is currently in 31 states and eight other countries – Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. The course materials are available in English and Spanish. The ministry includes about 30,000 volunteers worldwide.

COLORADO CHAPTER – STATE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS:

Chairperson	Jeff Holley	303-469-7719	jeffreyholley@msn.com
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The Reverend	(vacant)		

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EX-OFFICIO:

Chaplain	Jack Olafson	719-590-9639	jolafson7@msn.com
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We say, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," while God is wanting to give us the bush with all the birds in it.
Oswald Chambers