

KAIROS OF COLORADO, INC

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PRISON MINISTRY

"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"

Volume 12 #1

Winter 1994

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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT --

First of all, let me say THANK YOU for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read our newsletter. Beginning now, our format will be a little different. As in the past, we will keep you up to date on recent and future events. In addition, each member of the Colorado District Board will share a bit of what is happening in their particular area of responsibility. This newsletter will be our primary means of communicating with our KAIROS FAMILY on the outside and its supporters.

Before accepting the position of President of this Board, I went to the LORD for direction and guidance. In response to my inquiry I believe He is leading as follows:

First: To establish and operate Advisory Councils for each facility in which we are active (see Exodus 18).

Second: I want to PERSONALLY invite you to attend ALL the Closings you can. Not just the ones at the facility in which you work, but the other parts of our COMMUNITY as well. At this moment I plan to attend all but Delta 5 (because of another commitment).

Third: WE NEED MORE TEAM MEMBERS. We have requests for KAIROS at no less than three (3) more facilities, but to do so we need more HELP. If you know of an individual or group that is interested, but you don't feel qualified to share of VISION of KAIROS with them, PLEASE call me or any other Board member and let us help you. Our telephone numbers are on page 2 of this newsletter. WE, KAIROS, ARE A TEAM.

Fourth: Watch this newsletter for information on upcoming events involving the WHOLE KAIROS FAMILY -- like our Reunion pot-lucks on the last Friday of each month (in January there were over 40 people with great fellowship), retreats and seminars.

Last, but not least: I must remind you that when you volunteer for a 3-day Weekend team, it is a commitment to the LORD, and the inmates in that facility. The Weekends are neat and a blessing, but the REAL NEED is in the follow-up. Attending the Retreats and the monthly Reunions is a part of that commitment. These that we have come to know on the inside are looking to us for fellowship and help on their spiritual walk. Besides, we told them we would be there with them. PS -- It's in the manual on page 62.

I am LOOKING FORWARD to WORKING WITH YOU THIS COMING YEAR. **The Reverend Dave Buckingham**

KAIROS INFORMATION FORM

Check here if new address.
Name: _____ Phone: () _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Here is my gift of \$ _____ for Kairos Prison Ministry
in _____ prison.
_____ wherever help is most needed.
I'd like to volunteer. Please send team application.

Thank you for your support!

Printing courtesy of St Michaels Episcopal Church, Colo Spgs

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FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to one and all:

My name is Joe Mares and having been seated on the Board of Directors of Kairos of Colorado as Vice President, I would like to thank God and all concerned for allowing me to serve in this Ministry.

For those of you who don't know me, I would like to share with you that because of Kairos I personally have come to know The Lord, and I recognize the tremendous amount of time and work so many have devoted to this cause. So I can not turn away from this opportunity and privilege to share the love of Christ with those who are still searching for that special peace and joy that can only come from His Majesty Jesus Christ!

If I can be of help in any way please feel free to contact me through the Kairos post office box or by phone.
God bless you all!

JOE MARES

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BIBLES FOR KAIROS

Once again we wish to thank the Monument Bible College in Monument, Colorado for contributing the Bibles that we distribute to the inmates on each 3-day Kairos weekend. As of the Spring of 1994, this gift adds up to some 2700 bibles -- a truly Monumental number!

Imagine how many men and women have found Jesus in all these pages, in Spanish as well as English (Dios Habla Hoy and Today's English Version). A gracious and enduring gift indeed.
Thank you, Shirley!

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FROM OUR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

We held our Annual Winter National Board Meeting in Oviedo, Florida, February 3-6. Our primary focus was coming up with a "KAIROS VISION". Each one of us is a needed MEMBER of the Kairos body (of Christ)!

To make this "Vision" complete, and to accomplish any goals we set to reach the vision, we NEED your God Given GIFTS.

My request at this writing is PRAY, PRAY, PRAY as to where the Lord would have you further commit your gifts to the Kairos ministry. I will share in future months regarding specifics.

I am available for questions, suggestions and concerns, so feel free to call me at any time.

MARY SOGAN

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FROM OUR FREMONT COORDINATOR

Team meetings are well under way for Kairos #23 at Fremont. Under the leadership of Denny Shea, our team is building strong community in preparation for the Weekend.

Please consider coming to the Closing on Sunday, March 20th. (If you don't know whether or not you are on the admission list, please call me first and check!) All people attending will need to be at the front gate by 4:00 pm.

We have been blessed with large numbers of inmates attending the monthly Reunions. The facility has limited the number to 45 and we often have a room full.
Praise God!

JIM WATERS

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The purpose of Kairos is to build up the Body of Christ inside the prisons.

OUR ECUMENICAL RESPONSE

(copied from National KAIROS Newsletter)

Kairos is an ecumenical ministry carried on in prison. Many misunderstand the meaning of ecumenical as pertaining to Kairos. Some automatically assume that usage of the term implies the spirit of Vatican II, meaning that we come closer together in our doctrine. This is not what is implied by our ecumenical ministry.

Ecumenical, for us, is taken directly from the original territorial meaning of the word, "an area shared in common". The original Greek *oikoumen* means to occupy or dwell on common ground.

Our teams, as well as those who are introduced to Kairos inside the prisons, come from virtually every denomination. We are truly an inter-denominational ministry.

We never ask team members to give up anything which is held sacred in their diverse churches. We want all our volunteers to remain strong in their own particular denomination.

This means that we present only very broad, main-stream theology and practices on our weekends. We refrain from those teachings or practices which could accentuate or draw attention to our differences.

Because of the ecumenical nature of the ministry, many of our most cherished beliefs and practices are not presented on weekends. Among those things many of us legitimately hold in high esteem but leave home are: speaking in tongues, deliverances, healing services, Marian theology, altar calls, baptisms and Eucharist.

It is extremely difficult for some of us to leave these things at home, even though we know some of our fellow team members would be made uncomfortable by their presentation, content or style. Sometimes we hear of team members who surprise the rector with impromptu and unannounced presentations which violate the ecumenical ground of Kairos. These variances almost always bring painful consequences among the team. Conversely, the self-sacrifice of our own agendas during a Kairos insures the peaceful environment where Christ is most readily seen.

By entering the prison as a fully united community in Christ, our ecumenicity is one of our strongest statements to the residents. Most of the religion found in prison is highly divisive. Kairos presents a counterpoint to the cliques and exclusivity found inside. Most residents will admit they have never seen a group like Kairos.

Kairos is, indeed, a rare, inclusive environment. We go after the unchurched deliberately. We tell them they do not have to be Christian to attend our program. We model for them, and leave with them, the love of Christ and ask no commitment from them. We leave it to the Holy Spirit to draw whatever commitment is needed from them. We know from experience that the Kairos method works. It works so well it is incredible for those who have not seen it with their own eyes.

We in Kairos just thank God that we are given the privilege of seeing the miracles with our own eyes and hearing the witness with our own ears.

--- KAIROS KALENDAR ---

Mark your calendars now for any and all of the following Kairos events which you might wish to attend.

Fremont Closing	March 20
Women's Closing	April 24
Delta Closing	May 1
Territorial Closing	May 29

Remember that you **MUST** contact the specific Facility Coordinator (names and numbers are in this newsletter) well ahead of time to verify whether or not your name is already on the Closing list or to arrange to get your name on the list for that specific Closing. Each facility has its own rules and we must abide by them. Our willing cooperation is part of our Christian witness to each staff.

Team members -- remember your commitment to the **monthly Reunions** for a year after serving on a team? Please make every effort to attend when it is your turn. God will bless you for your faithfulness.

LAST FRIDAY REUNIONS:

These Reunions are held in the Denver area every month, starting with a potluck at 6:30pm, followed by fellowship, sharing, witnessing and sometimes a speaker. Our **special treat on March 25** will be the Reverend **Bill Potter**. Bill was God's primary agent in bringing Kairos to Colorado twelve years ago, and is now Chaplain at Delta Correctional Center on the western slope.

The Reunion location may change now and then, so please call Vice President Joe Mares for the current location and directions and **bring friends!** See you there!

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! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU !

--- for your prayers, participation, and financial support. God loves a cheerful giver, and this ministry cannot operate without your help. All of our donors are deeply appreciated. Please use the form on page 2, mark the enclosed envelope "Treasurer", and **keep up your and our good work!**

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MORE FROM A TERRITORIAL CLOSING

I've been thinking real hard these four days and tonight I want to give my life to the Lord. Will you all please pray with me now? (We did and he did -- PTL!)

I have the AIDS virus. Doc says I've only about a year to live, but it's OK! I found true life and the time doesn't matter.

I've been to the bottom, things have been so bad for me. I tried suicide four times this year. But the Lord brought me back because I have a son out there who needs me. I'll be out soon and hope to bring my son to the Lord.

The following articles are reprinted exactly as they appeared in a prison newsletter, and are used here with the permission of the authors.

It was a blessing to serve my fellow KAIROS Candidates, and it was a bigger blessing to be able to intercede for them in prayer when there was nothing else to do physically. It reminded me that there are so many of us who need to feel real, live, genuine love. I'm talking about God's Love.

By **MARGIE MARQUEZ**

KAIROS EXPERIENCE

By

JOAN KALLINEN



"De Calories."
Where's the poster board?"

"Food."

"I feel the love."

"More food."

"I never cried so much."

"More food, ole!"

"Sh-h-h-h, another speaker."

"We need just a couple of more minutes."

"That is a nose, I don't care what anyone says, that is a nose." "More food, oh heavens, now cookies."

These were just some of the things I heard said from Thursday evening, October 14th to Sunday evening, October 17th, at the 21st session of KAIROS. Every one of the 34 candidates received many wonderful things; many beautiful cards, some with very personal messages just for them. For some of us, it was the most mail we have ever received.

For me, it was watching women - some who didn't really know each other except by sight - come together to share ideas, sing songs, hug a lot, and cry. I saw togetherness, women speaking to each other in gentle tones, not four letter words. I saw women, Black, White and Hispanic, hugging each other, sharing their pain, joy and caring.

The volunteer kitchen help had us holding our sides, we were laughing so hard. Grown

women, some old enough to be our mothers, put on funny costumes, and did skits that made us feel the thrill of laughter without wondering, "Why are they doing this, what's in it for them?"

There were speakers, and spiritual advisors if we needed to get away for a private talk. We were each assigned a sponsor, who at the end of the session placed a silver cross around our neck while speaking these special words: "Jesus Counts on You," and we replied, "We Count on Jesus." We hugged and pledged we would do our best. I came away with a smile on my face and love in my heart.

A gentleman all dressed up in his Sunday Go To Meeting clothes, at first I didn't know who he was - got up to address us. I don't know Mr. Nix very well. He's always been just someone in a blue uniform who sits behind glass in the Control Center telling me where, what, and when. Now, he said more than a few words. He showed caring and love. He showed all of us hard core inmates - at least that's what most of society calls us murderers, robbers, drug addicts, convicts, inmates, and numbers - that a man need not be afraid to laugh or cry. It's not a sign of weakness.

I hope this feeling will continue for a long time. It's a wonderful feeling. At the end of the 21st KAIROS session many of the women got up and gave their thanks. These are women who have been programmed not to cry. Women who cannot show feelings because it might be seen as a sign of weakness. Just do your time.

It was wonderful, so very wonderful. For a while, only three days, but for those three days we were treated like human beings, not just a number. We are women; we are human beings; but, most of all, we are God's Children. For a few days everyone remembered. Please, please, let's not loose it--let's all remember and keep remembering!

**MAKE A FRIEND
BE A FRIEND
BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST**