

God's

Special



Time

"I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME." *Matthew 25:36*

JULY 1989

KAIROS OF COLORADO, INC.

NEWSLETTER #24

KAIROS OF COLORADO

REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 17, 5:15 P.M. -- FREMONT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
OCTOBER 8, 6:15 P.M. -- COLORADO WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
NOVEMBER 19, 5:30 P.M. -- COLORADO TERRITORIAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
CANON CITY, COLORADO

TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF GOD'S GRACE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONIES
OF OUR FALL 1989 WEEKENDS

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

We have all taken part in CELEBRATIONS of significant events in our own lives and those of our families and friends. And we know that such CELEBRATIONS are made more festive by the presence of friends and family, the more the merrier. A Kairos Weekend is a very significant event in the lives of the participants, most especially the inmates. During the Weekend God's grace and love are made known to them through the team members in many ways, among which are the gifts of their own sacrifices of time, travel, etc, in order to be there.

Another powerful demonstration of God's love is the presence of many guests at the Closing, the final event of the Weekend. Many inmates are overcome by the gift of God's love shown by people willing to give their time and to travel long distances to JOIN THE CELEBRATION. The Christian love and support shown by the Closing guests are often the final convincer that God is indeed a loving God -- even toward convicts.

So we invite YOU, friends and supporters of Kairos, to give the gift of your presence to at least one of the above Kairos Closings. It is a loving sacrifice which ministers to the inmates and rewards the givers immeasurably.

For Reservations deadlines, prison rules, dress codes, etc., see page 2. Coordinators may be able to help you arrange carpools. We understand that last minute conflicts can occur, but please make reservations anyway, so you can be allowed in when you do come. Then mark your calendar and come --

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

GUIDELINES FOR KAIROS CLOSINGS

The prison facilities welcome Kairos, but they do have to maintain appropriate security. Kairos agrees to abide by all rules, with no exceptions.

Fremont and Women's facilities require that Closing guests complete and sign (on the back) the DOC Temporary Volunteer Form -- see copy in this newsletter. Separate forms are needed for each facility's separate file. If you have already turned in this DOC form for a previous Closing at Fremont or Women's, then you should be in that facility's current file. If there is any doubt, then complete and turn in the form NOW. Send the forms to the Facility Coordinators by the deadlines below for timely processing.

Fremont, deadline August 18: Bob Goss, 7845 Gardiner Rd.
Cascade, CO 80809 PH:719-684-2226
Women's, deadline September 22: Lorraine Harding, 3501 W Edgemore Pl
Englewood, CO 80110 PH:303-730-8202

Territorial does not require the DOC form, just your name, COMPLETE address, phone #, and social security #. Our previous Territorial Coordinator is now a DOC employee. As of early July, we are seeking his replacement. Meanwhile, please send the required information to our Vice Pres/Chief of Operations:

Territorial, deadline October 27: Al Rodriguez, 5401 S Sherman St
Littleton, CO 80121 PH:789-4159

There are restrictions on who can attend. Minimum age is 18. If you are on the visitor list of any inmate in that facility, you cannot attend a Closing in that facility. If you have a criminal record, you must give your DOC Form or info to the Facility Coordinator a month earlier than the dates given above.

Bob Goss has provided a list of dress and behavior rules for Fremont. These rules are also appropriate for Women's and Territorial.

1. Be at the check point on time. We are committed to a schedule.
2. Dress appropriately and modestly -- NO shorts, tank tops, tight or revealing clothing, metal belts, watches, bracelets, non-cross necklaces, or earrings (not even pierced-ear studs). The only jewelry items allowed are wedding rings, crosses hung around the neck, and Kairos-type nametags.
3. Everyone must carry driver's license or other picture ID. Drivers may carry a single car key and will check it in or store it as instructed by the facility. Leave all other keys, money, checkbooks, purses, valuables, smokes, etc, outside. (We suggest you lock them out-of-sight in car trunks.) You may carry kleenex, handkerchief, eyeglasses, and wrap.
4. Expect to go through a metal detector and be pat-searched.
5. Never run, near or inside the facility.
6. Take nothing in for an inmate and nothing out for any inmate (not even a verbal message to someone)!
7. Make no promises to any inmate that you can't keep, either because of DOC rules or your Kairos commitment.

Remember that you are in a prison, dealing with persons who have been sentenced for crimes. This must affect your conduct, however much you may love them and feel sympathy for their situations. Don't fall into the trap of letting your emotions overcome your commitment to follow all the rules that the state establishes to properly run a prison system. Inmates will ask you for things. But our help can only be by participating in Kairos functions, praying with and for the inmates, caring about them, loving them, and listening to them.

Your Facility Coordinators appreciate your helping them keep the Kairos program functioning. They especially appreciate your adhering in every way possible to the fine line we all must follow in order to serve the Lord in this wonderful Kairos prison ministry.

HOME

Every now and then I run across a former prisoner who says he (or she) is having a hard time getting adjusted to the outside world and wishes he were back inside again, where conditions are more reliable and people are more predictable. Then a little later, I am apt to find that person back in prison -- much more content than he was on the street. It's almost as if prison life were his true home, and his overriding longing was to go "home", even if it means being locked up.

Don't we all have a longing to be home, or to go home? We have physical homes, our dwelling places, where most of us go regularly. We have home towns, where we sometimes go for nostalgia and curiosity. We have family reunions, and war-buddy reunions, and high-school reunions... and, well, you name it. In all of this, what are we looking for? A home, yes -- but what? Suppose our present living arrangement is not to our liking? Suppose we never had a place we stayed long enough to call a home town? Suppose we came from a dysfunctional family or a broken home? Suppose we didn't really have a high school experience? Then what does it mean to go "home"?

An answer presented itself twice on a recent Sunday. In his morning sermon, Father Paul Robinson told us of his life-long yearning to find and experience his "home". He had been raised in Bolivia by a missionary family, and then had lived in several other places. He had not regarded any of these situations as "home". But then, recently, he attended a reunion of many families who had served as missionaries in Bolivia -- people who had shared the harsh and relatively primitive living conditions, people who had shared in sacrificing most of what the world normally calls success, people who had shared in the giving of themselves. To his great surprise, he suddenly realized that THIS group of people, many of whom he had never known before, were his "home". Because of what they had experienced in common, what they had given in common, and what they had suffered in common -- because of that sharing, there was a bond among them stronger than any of the ordinary things we identify with "home".

On that same Sunday, at the Fremont Ultreya, the inmates confirmed Father Paul's message. Within the first 20 minutes, one of the men witnessed to how comfortable he felt when he came into the Ultreya room -- a place, he said, set aside from the stress of the prison at large, a place where he could expect loving fellowship, a place where he could vent frustration, a place where he could share his burdens and offer to help others with theirs. Then another inmate stood up and shared a very frustrating dilemma he was in -- a depth of sharing that he could only have done in THIS group because these were the men who had been through a lot of the same things he had, these were the men he knew would understand and have compassion. And they did. They prayed with him, there, in that room where they felt comfortable and in that group where there was MUCH in common. This was their "home" -- the body of Christ in that prison.

Do you have such a "home" -- a safe haven of Christians with whom you can share what you have in common, a place and time where you can unload and expect compassion and love, a little body of Christ of your own? If you do, you know what Father Paul and the inmates were sharing; you know what it is to be home, to go home. This may be the place where you live, your own family; or it may be some kind of sharing group, like a Kairos small group that meets every week or two. It may be both. Or maybe you are still longing for your "home". And maybe some of your Kairos/Cursillo/Koinonia/Emmaus friends are still longing, too. Maybe it's time to find out who they are...what burdens you might share...what help you might be to each other...how Jesus works in each of your lives. Maybe you'll start sharing together. Maybe you'll soon be "home"!

Jim Strub

GREEN PALANCA

Many of you are familiar with the Spanish word "palanca", which translates literally as "lever, or crowbar". In the more figurative sense, we use palanca as a means of leverage into someone's heart -- a deliberate act of love toward someone or some group. In Kairos this kind of palanca takes the form of special prayers, special acts of devotion, little gifts, warm fuzzies, "footprints" cards, notes, letters, posters, and whatever other inspirations the Lord gives us.

Many of you are also familiar with another kind of palanca -- Green Palanca. These are the love gifts of money and other necessities such as food, weekend supplies, overnight lodging for a team member, and so on. Some of these gifts represent large amounts of money, some represent small amounts; but each one is a true act of love -- a Palanca all its own.

In Kairos, Green Palanca occur mostly in connection with the three-day Weekends, the Retreats, and the Ultreyas. Each team member "donation" is a Green Palanca, whether given by the team member himself or by a sponsor. Each team-member scholarship is a Green Palanca (see Sponsor Form on back). Each meal is a Green Palanca. Each gift of cups, plates, poster board, and other supplies is a Green Palanca. Each undesignated contribution is a Green Palanca. Put them all together and you have the leverage that brings a giant gift of love to the candidates -- God's love, touching hearts, many for the first time.

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KAIROS LAPEL PINS

Perhaps you have noticed that some of the Kairos volunteers are wearing very attractive red or blue cloisonne lapel pins with the Kairos "logo" design in gold. These lapel pins are custom-made for us from our registered trademark. The minimum order is 50.

Wearing the lapel pin is a good way of bearing witness for our ministry, as it sometimes draws someone to ask what the pin means. That opens the door for the wearer to talk about the ministry, the Christian life Kairos is all about, and maybe some personal witness.

Our Treasurer, Jim Waters, will order more of these beautiful lapel pins when he receives enough PREPAID orders to meet the manufacturer's required minimum of 50. He will order the color most requested. Please realize we cannot say when your pins will be delivered to you, since Jim can't place the order until he has enough prepaid orders on file. The price is \$5 each and includes handling. Please use the order form provided below.

I request _____ Kairos lapel pin/s at \$5 each. I am enclosing full payment.
(Make checks payable to: Kairos of Colorado, Inc.)

COLOR: I prefer RED ___ BLUE ___, but will accept whichever color is ordered.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: (_____) _____

Send this order to: Jim Waters, 2411 North Nevada, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

KAIROS PRISON CHAPEL FUND --- CHAPEL AT WOMEN'S PRISON --- \$32,500 COST

PROGRESS REPORT --- DECEMBER 1988 --- \$17,500 TO GO

PROGRESS REPORT --- APRIL 1989 --- \$15,500 TO GO

PROGRESS REPORT --- JULY 1989 --- \$13,500 TO GO

Most of our readers know by now why and how this fund came into being. Those who don't know, please see BACKGROUND below. In the meantime, we want to keep you all informed of our progress and of our continuing need -- for your prayers and your donations.

Thanks to this Chapel, which is being paid for by your donations, the Body of Christ in CWCF has a "home", a sanctuary set apart for worship, fellowship, and growth. It is tangible evidence that concerned Christians CARE about their incarcerated sisters.

Since July 1988, this Chapel building has made possible three Kairos 3-day Weekends and three 2-day Retreats. Also, Prison Fellowship held its first large Seminar Weekend in the Chapel in June 1989. Sunday worship services are being held there regularly. The Chapel is also available for other classes and meetings beneficial to the inmates' rehabilitation.

The Chapel also houses the Chaplain's office, that of his inmate clerk, a religious library, and ministry equipment storage. CWCF is responsible for maintainance, and has added a second door (emergency exit), a wheelchair ramp, and replaced the airconditioning. Someone donated exterior paint, a cheerful blue, and we hear that some sort of exterior cross will soon proclaim to all who enter the CWCF gate that God is present and active in that facility.

But we're not through yet, and still need \$13,500 to finish paying off our \$23,500 no-interest loan. The last two \$1,000 payments were made possible by a \$1,000 grant from a small foundation, \$500 from one churchwomen's group, and \$500 in smaller gifts. Please take this need to your pastors, groups, friends -- and ---

RESPOND YOURSELF! THANK YOU!

Make checks payable to: "KAIROS PRISON CHAPEL FUND"

Send to: Peggy Strub, 2821 N Chelton Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

BACKGROUND: In mid-1987, due to extensive remodeling, the major religious programs in CWCF lost use of spaces which were previously available. Kairos Weekends and Prison Fellowship Seminars were put on indefinite "hold". The state cannot provide funds specifically for religious program activity space -- that is, Chapels. Only outside donations can do so.

Kairos volunteers realized that without a specific religious program meeting area, Kairos and some other ministries might never be able to resume their full programs in CWCF. Inspired by the example of a donated modular Chapel building at Shadow Mountain Correctional Facility, this special fund drive was started in March 1988 and an appropriate building was located.

Thanks to \$9,000 in donations and a \$23,500 no-interest loan from St John Chrysostom Charitable Trust Fund, we were able to prepare the site, purchase, move, and set up the building, and pay all bills in full. Furnishings were donated and the Chapel was beautifully dedicated to God's work during Kairos #10 in late July 1988. Another \$10,000 in donations have reduced the loan balance to \$13,500. Thanks be to God for His generous people!

KAIROS SPONSOR FORM --- PLEASE HELP!

Some Kairos team members need SPONSORS to help cover the donations needed from or thru them - \$50 each per Weekend and \$35 each per Retreat - toward the costs of this ministry. Your tax-deductible donations will really help -- thank you!

Please print: AMOUNT: \$ _____ FREQUENCY: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Send to: Kairos Treasurer, P.O.Box 25004, Colo Spgs, CO 80936. THANK YOU!!!

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS(30c) and ESPECIALLY RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE(69c) bulk mail are VERY expensive. PLEASE help us save ministry money and USE the following:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PRESIDENT: Donna Bolte
- VP/CHIEF OF OPS: Al Rodriguez
- SECRETARY: Gerry Lam
- TREASURER: Jim Waters
- SPIRITUAL DIR: Fr Dave Jones
- REP TO NAT'L BD: Fr Dave Jones
- PROPERTIES: John Keiser
- PALANCA: Jan Wilkowski
- TEAM BUILDING/TRAINING: Ed Junghans and Mary Sogan
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Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub

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"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME."

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