

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 17 #2

Summer 1999

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

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CAN WE LOSE OUR SALVATION?

Someone, especially a person in prison, will ask: "Can you lose your salvation?"

The short answer is: "No – unless you persist in denying or badmouthing Jesus." (See John 3:18-20, Mark 3:29.)

The long answer starts with an assumption that this person at one time had been "saved" – that is, had acknowledged his sinfulness and his need for help, had earnestly desired and begun to change his ways into God's ways, and had accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. Then the person "fell away" – that is, went back to his old ways or some other sinful life style, so that now he feels he has once again separated himself from God. He wonders if he has lost his salvation and is just as "condemned" now as he was before accepting Jesus as Savior.

There is a scripture that prompts someone to ask about this, namely Hebrews 6:4-6: "For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, since on their own they are crucifying again the Son of God and are holding him up to contempt." (NRSV) The key to this passage is the condition that "they are crucifying again the Son of God and holding him up to contempt." If the person is doing that, and while he is doing it, he cannot be restored to salvation. To be saved he must give up his contempt of God, give up his badmouthing of Jesus, recognize Jesus as the Son of God, throw himself on His mercy, and once again earnestly repent. Then and only then can he be restored.

Think of salvation as a magnificently brilliant, rugged

pinnacle of rock towering up out of a slimy, endless expanse of murky water. The pinnacle is Jesus Christ, literally the "Rock of our salvation." The murky water is "the world" of sin, especially the sin of denying God. At some point in time our spirit lets God's Spirit lead us to grab onto the rock and be lifted up out of the murk. On that rock and because of that rock we are saved from the condemnation of the watery murk. Sometime later we may "backslide" – maybe all the way back into the murky water. But we have known what it's like, there on the rock. We know that He is still there for us, and we earnestly want to be lifted up there again. Why? Because the Spirit of Christ is still in us, still pulling at our spirit. We let Him pull us up there again. This can happen over and over again. How many times are we to forgive our brother? Seventy times seven (Mt 18:22). God does the same with us – as long as we aren't denying His existence or cursing the Holy Spirit or "crucifying again the Son of God." If we deny the pinnacle of rock, the rock can have no effect on us. But if we recognize the pinnacle of rock for what it is, even though we may be in the water and swimming away from it, the rock can draw us back – if we let it, if we make that choice, in the free will God planted in each of us.

Of course God is God and He can do anything He wants to, as in the story of Job. However, to live a life in Christ and in God's kingdom, we have to follow His rules, especially to not commit the one unforgivable sin, that of blaspheming (denying/cursing/badmouthing) the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:29) – which, in effect, cuts us off from God and from being saved or being restored to salvation. Other than that, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

How can we be involved with ex-offenders and remain within the rules of DOC? I recently had a conversation with a DOC official on this subject and the following is the guidance that he gave me.

- From release to two years out: If the ex-offender happens to show up at our church, we should treat him as we would any other friend, hugs and all. If after church we both end up in the same Sunday School class, no problem. If we both go downstairs for coffee with the crowd, no problem. If the ex-offender suggests that we stay and talk privately, that is a problem and it is up to us to terminate the meeting immediately. Now, let's say that we have group bible study in our home. The ex-offender is welcome to join the group. When others leave, he must leave immediately also. **Bottom line: at no time must we allow situations where we are one-on-one with the ex-offender.**
- Between years two and five, we may involve ex-offenders in Kairos as outside support, such as kitchen help. They will not be allowed to go inside any DOC facility until they pass their fifth-year anniversary of release.
- At any time during the five-year period, we can invite them to be guest speakers or give witness to any outside group. The key word here is "group." We are not allowed to cultivate one-on-one relationships. Of course, we can always keep them in our prayers.

On another topic, I would like to remind you that our Board meetings are open to all who are interested. The remaining meetings for 1999 are on July 1, September 2, and November 4 – all at 6 pm at St Francis of Assisi in Castle Rock. Please feel free to contact any board member with questions or comments. If you have something that you would like on the agenda, please contact me at least a week prior to the meeting (Ken Grosse, 1-800-783-1249 pin 2978 or e-mail: Ken_RitaGrosse@msn.com).

FROM FREMONT #33 CLOSING

We've got murderers, thieves, rapists, child molesters – the most despised of society here. But a church is being raised up here. The world says "Once a thief, always a thief". Even mental health says that. But Jesus says we can be changed, and I know I've been changed by the blood of the lamb.

I came hungry and nervous. I didn't know what to expect. I found fellowship with the brothers, joy, love. I was singing with my eyes closed and then I saw 50 more people in here! I'm taking a new direction, a deeper understanding of being one with God, kinship, family, and sincerity. I'll be a closer follower of Christ and a better person. What was accomplished here this weekend was by the grace of God – nothing else.

We came really low. We found love, peace, harmony, a new way, and new life if we're serious about it. Jesus is the only way to live. We're taking down our walls with Jesus. Here there were no barriers – racial or whatever. Here, it's always a veil in the way. You guys took away that veil. I hope I can encourage others to get into the word.

I really just came up here to get some Kleenex. I was a flower child, then an 80's junky, and a 90's pervert. I came in bad spiritual condition. I was on the verge of suicide for about a year. I went to the prayer room and got rid of the demons of depression and suicide. The Holy Spirit told me He's going to use my pain to comfort others. God couldn't use me because I was lukewarm – like in Revelations. But no more. I got new direction here. Your prayers aren't just words, so keep on praying. More people back here need it.

I wasn't a Christian, but you all gave me a spark, and I thank God for you.

The garden's been weeded here. We need your prayers to keep this garden clean.

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

KAIROS of COLORADO

We are Christians reaching out to inmates in Colorado prisons with the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, and new life, which are available to all who repent of their sin and submit to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

We are volunteers, with no paid staff, who depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. Please use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries, or write to the address on this newsletter.

"God's Special Time" is published quarterly at Colo. Spgs., CO. Postmaster: Address changes go to P. O. Box 25004, Colo. Spgs., CO 80936-5004.

Printing: Church of St Michael the Archangel (Episcopal) Colo Spgs

KAIROS KALENDAR

	1999		2000
Fremont	#34 Sep 16-19	#35	March
Women	#31 Oct 14-17	#36	April
Delta	#16 Oct 21-24	#17	April
Territorial	#28 Nov 18-21	#29	May

Team members, please remember and honor your commitment to Weekend follow-up events, especially the monthly Reunions. Remember,

Christ is counting on you.

OUTSIDE WEEKEND INFORMATION

Walk to Emmaus, E: Jim Lollar, 303-659-6108
Walk to Emmaus, W: Janet Keenan, 970-963-1030
Cath Crsl, Den: Francisco Mondragon, 303-429-3464
Cath Cursillo, Colo Spgs: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404
Episcopal Crsl, E: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448
Episcopal Cursillo, W: Jan Smith, 970-325-4409
Via de Cristo, Luth: Mark Carnes, 303-924-7192
Koinonia, Denver: Tom Starnes, 303-421-9305
Koinonia, North: Julie Wilson, 970-226-5925

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Moses Archuleta, Duane Medina, Jane Merritt,
Gerri Quintana, Kathy Lucero, A.J. Luckey, Bill
Tipton, Ted Van Horn, and Chuck Weida.

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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Editors: Peggy and Jim Strub

"Spiritually Speaking" by Jim Strub

NEED VOLUNTEERS!

In our last issue we reported that the Board had a strategic planning exercise in March, led by Larry Boyd, and that one result was to establish the goal of beginning Kairos in two more facilities in Colorado within the next two years. This is on track and the intention still is to first consider Limon Men's and Denver Women's. Wherever we go, it will mean raising funds for additional equipment (tables, chairs, insulated food containers, etc). More important, we will need more active volunteers. To make Kairos in additional facilities a reality, we must see an increase in fulltime, dedicated volunteers. Know any? Be one! And recruit!!

AN INSIGHT

The "Tomorrow" talk is intentionally interactive. On the recent CTCF Kairos, a surprising insight came from one of the inmate responses. The speaker had discussed coming down off the mountain-top to go back into a world in which the other people will not have changed. An inmate then responded with: "No, that's not true. To us they will have changed. We have changed, so we will see them in a different light, from a new point of view. They will appear to be different." Was this the Holy Spirit telling us something?

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



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HELP NEEDED!

One of our long-time Kairos volunteers, Gerri Quintana, has leukemia. When she found this out, she went into shock — as any of us would. Word spread rapidly and soon hundreds were praying. After a while her spirits lifted. Now she feels carried “on eagles’ wings” by God’s love and the prayers of His people.

Gerri has been active in Kairos since Women’s #1 in 1982. On June 6 her friends held a Benefit to assist the Quintanas financially. Gerri will be unable to work for at least a year. Her husband, Deacon Lloyd, will take a leave of absence to be her caregiver. They will need help with medical and living expenses.

The Benefit also helped raise awareness of the need for more people, especially minorities, to register with the Bone Marrow Transplant Bank. The Quintanas learned of that need several years ago when a friend’s son died of leukemia for lack of a donor match. Gerri is very blessed that her sister, Kathy, is a perfect match for her upcoming transplant. Transplant Bank personnel tested about 95 of the Benefit attendees as possible bone marrow donors. We pray many more will come forth to get tested.

About 500 people attended the Benefit. The club, food, music and raffle prizes were all donated. The fund-raising made a great start, but much more help will be needed.

Contributions are tax-deductible. Please send to: Gerri Quintana Transplant Fund % Bank One, P O Box 215002, Denver, CO 80221-9002 (for Acct #000000192240305) — and **keep on praying!**

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