

"God's Special Time"



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"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"
Volume 14 #2 Summer 1996

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

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

LISTEN, LISTEN, LOVE, LOVE!

LLLL. This is the golden rule of Kairos, usually applied to how a team should relate to the inmates. Recent events suggest that we might want to also look at how to apply LLLL to each other.

FIRST LL: Listening is so important that the Kairos Weekend (new, yellow manual) now includes a one-hour Lay Talk on "Listening." The purpose of the talk is to encourage the inmates to listen to each other, as a vital basis for being Christian sisters and brothers to each other -- to listen not only to actual words, but to "listen" also to body language and feelings. It is easy to get so involved in our ministry to the inmates that we forget to apply this LL to each other. There is also that inner self inside each of us; how many of us take time to listen that way to our inner self, to our spirit? And, of course, we know we are to listen to God -- to the Holy Spirit tugging at our hearts to draw us more and more into God's will for us and those whose lives we touch.

SECOND LL: Summarizing the Ten Commandments, Jesus said: "Love God with all you've got, and love your neighbor as your self" (Matthew 22:37,39). In this kind of love there is no room for private agendas, no room for noses out of joint. Elijah loved God and truly wanted to know God's agenda. The wind, earthquake, and fire could have caused Elijah to get his nose out of joint, but instead he listened -- and then heard the "still small voice" (I Kings 19:11-13).

Perhaps the next time any of us feels an out-of-jointness coming on, we will go to Jesus in prayer -- and then for God's reply we will listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen and love, love, love, love, love, love, love!

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING BY JIM STRUB

KAIROS of COLORADO

..... is a Christian prison ministry reaching out to inmates in several 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.

Our ministry is carried out by dedicated volunteers and has no paid staff. We depend entirely on tax-deductible donations from our volunteers, churches, and **YOU**, our generous supporters.

You may use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries, or write to the address on this newsletter.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

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KAIROS KALENDAR

	Fall 1996	Spring 1997
Fremont	#28 --- Sep 19-22	#29 --- March
Women's		#27 --- April
Delta	#10 --- Oct 24-27	#11 --- April
Territorial	#22 --- Nov 21-24	#23 --- May

Note that Women's #27 is postponed until next Spring. Please keep all weekends in your prayers and note dates on your calendar. We always need pray-ers, Closing guests, and team members. "Christ is counting on you!"

Outside weekend information:

Emmaus Walks, men: 9/26-9/29, 10/10-10/13, 10/24-10/27
 Emmaus Walks, women: 10/3-10/6, 10/17-10/20, 10/31-11/3

Call Registrar Ed Bollack, 303-978-1101

Catholic Cursillo: call Gerri Quintana, 303-469-9667

Episcopal Cursillo: call Art Wise, 303-526-9038

Thank you, Gerry Lam, --

-- for your years of devoted service. We're sure you join us as we pray for a new Women's Facility Coordinator.

FROM WOMEN'S #26 CLOSING ---

One lady really touched me, taking us into her rejection. God spoke to me through her. I had so much hatred, but no more. I can forgive but learned I don't have to stay in that hurtful relationship. I'm taking peace in my heart and I can sleep good at night now.

I cried from 8 am to 8:30 at night. I got angry at an Angel, but I was able to let it go and talk to her OK, and that felt soooo good -- first time in my life. My nationality or crime didn't matter. You just accepted me and loved me just as I am. I'm taking a fellowship of love and hope. I'm gonna call my Mom and tell her I finally did something right. I found I could let go of the ugliness inside and didn't have to show it to everyone.

All my life I've been abused physically, mentally I've never really felt love or like I belonged, or anyone cared. And you guys made me feel all of that. I'm giving all I am to the Lord and getting Baptized. I've put myself in a lot of bad situations. I realize now I can't do it alone. You guys finally, finally made me feel I belong somewhere.

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

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Editors: Peggy and Jim Strub

NEWS FLASH -- NEWS FLASH !! NO LETTERS TO INMATES !!

We regret to announce that due to policy changes and security concerns, the Colorado Department of Corrections no longer allows any prison volunteers to write letters to any inmate in DOC custody. That includes greeting cards, too -- any type of person to person correspondence. This applies to all volunteers and all DOC inmates.

We cannot overemphasize that it is essential that all Kairos volunteers honor this policy. To violate this will result in removing the violator's clearance as a volunteer, and might even jeopardize the Kairos ministry. So, for the good of the ministry and yourself, please remember

!! NO LETTERS TO INMATES !!

REMINDER: All team members, new and old, must attend DOC volunteer training before going into prison.

FROM TERRITORIAL #21 CLOSING ---

(from a Native American): I was a bow-legged bird who came in with a broken wing, doing my best to bring my brothers to the Lord -- through my own strength. But this approach pushed them away. Then I found these same brothers in the Kairos and they shared with me and they healed me through their love. Now I can leave like an eagle with spread wings.

I am finally realizing the power of the Holy Spirit. I am on fire, and have so much passion for Jesus Christ. I can love, I can cry again. I have no problem anymore with different denominations. There is so much acceptance here. I am taking away lots of forgiveness, things that were yammied down for years. I know that Jesus Christ is there and will not leave me.

We're not bad people, we just fell into bad things in the world. My uncle always told me that "when you get to prison" to get into the Kairos program. I thank the District Attorney or my lawyer for getting me here -- a sentence to get to know Jesus Christ.

FROM JULY NATIONAL CONFERENCE --

The annual Kairos National Summer Conference was held at Snow Mountain Ranch near Granby, CO. For those of us who attended, it was indeed a blessing to meet and fellowship with Kairos volunteers from all over the U.S., plus Canada. There were inspiring speakers, workshops, music and worship in a glorious setting. The following testimony is from one of the Kairos Outside women who came:

During the National meeting of the Kairos family many new friendships were formed and old acquaintances rekindled. The once a year gathering prompts us to reflect on the work we do for God, the blessings that wash over us because of it, and, as a result, a recommitment to our ministry.

Each of us has a different path to walk -- we all come from different places in our faith journey, as well as our own experiences. During the course of the meeting, people shared their most memorable moments working in Kairos. The perspective from which I come speaks to the parallel ministry of Kairos Outside. As I have journeyed since my weekend as a candidate, I have come to the realization that many people in our ministry do not see the need for a ministry for the families. People do not seem to understand that those on the outside are doing time, *just as surely as those on the inside!!*

I was invited to join in a (Kairos Outside) weekend in April of 1990. I came hesitant and reticent. Why in the world would anybody set up a weekend just for members of inmates' families? Suspicion was foremost in my mind. But I did go, because the chaplain at San Quentin told me that it would be a worthwhile event, and gave it credibility. As the weekend unfolded I was blessed, I was loved unconditionally, and I found out that we, as family members, were not judged as guilty by association, as we are so often in society, but most prominently inside the institutions by staff. I found out that I was not alone in my journey, there are many women who must walk this 'double' life, just as I do. The foresight of the ministry, the care with which the activities are put together, are unmatched.

Following that weekend, I shared with my husband what I had experienced. He was very anxious to attend one himself, but Kairos had not yet made it into Folsom. But as I continued to be involved working Kairos Outside teams, he shared in all of it, prompting him to work harder to get the ministry into his institution. Finally, two years later the groundwork was laid and he would be the inside liaison for the first Kairos weekend, as well as a candidate. He read that manual cover to cover. He just *knew* everything that would take place throughout the weekend. And I let him think that! As an aside, understand that even though we both were anxious for him to experience a weekend and we both delighted in my working (outside) teams, it still meant that we missed our visiting time, which is so very, very precious!! As he listened to all the activities of the weekends I had worked, and knew the process, I knew that he needed to have his own experience, and reading the manual was all fine and well. But in the end, he would be blown away by the awesome power of God!

It so happened that the Friday following his Kairos experience, we had a family (conjugal) visit. And for the first time in the years we had been married, I brought a box of Kleenex with me. It was usual for us to do the initial 'housekeeping' tasks when we first arrived, but this time we sat down at the kitchen table and talked about his weekend experience. We cried and we talked and we shared and we cried some more. "I ate my words all weekend," he told me. "I thought I knew everything that would go on, in the order it would occur," he said, with big tears rolling down his cheeks. "My God, Baby, now I understand what you were talking about! I really understand why you love this ministry so much." The fact that he and I could share that common bond in the family of God's children has connected us even more solidly than we were before. There are no words to express that can possibly relate to you the power of these parallel ministries.

Our marriage has always had three partners . . . my husband, myself and God. It is the God-glove that has kept us so firmly on our path together, but the sharing of the body of Christ in the persons of Kairos and Kairos Outside has blessed us ever so much.

So when you wonder sometimes if you have the energy and fortitude to work yet another weekend, know in your heart, mind and soul that the work you do in God's name is well worth every second. Remember people such as my husband and me, who have benefitted tremendously from all of your prayers and efforts. And perhaps most importantly, do not judge a ministry until you have researched it and you have educated yourself first hand. Each of you should be very proud of yourselves and the work that you do in 'His' name. God bless you all!

Kathy Lanphear, California

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KAIROS OUTSIDE --

We have known for years of the need for this ministry in Colorado, and are praying that God is raising up 'workers for the harvest' in this area of ministry. One of our Colorado volunteers attended the set of workshops presented by the Kairos Outside women from California. When the time comes for us to start organizing for this ministry, we will be sure to publicize that in this newsletter. In the meantime, if you sense that God may be calling you to this, please contact any District Board member, and we will put you in touch with others who are interested.

MAKE A FRIEND

BE A FRIEND

BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST

Budget Axe Falls on Prison Chaplains

As paid chaplains leave the scene, many local churches are stepping in to provide spiritual direction for prisoners

As the prison population in the United States grows, one group inside prisons—paid chaplains who minister to inmates—is finding its numbers on the decline. A combination of financial and legislative factors has caused a trend to eliminate their jobs.

Recent crime bills and the growing tendency toward eliminating parole account for at least a portion of the dramatic prison population growth occurring today. About 1.5 million people are in prisons in the United States—and this figure does not include the fluctuating population of inmates in local jails. James Austin, executive vice president of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, projects a prison population of 7.5 million within a generation if these reforms continue.

Partly to blame for the reduction in the number of paid chaplains is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, signed by President Clinton in November 1992. Originally designed to guarantee equal access to religion, the bill has caused some legislators to conclude that because they cannot afford to hire chaplains for all denominations, chaplaincy programs should be eliminated altogether.

An increasing number of correctional facilities around the country are also

slashing their chaplain corps to cope with shrinking budgets. Some are responding to public outrage over "soft" conditions in institutions. What are perceived as frills—televisions, computers, exercise equipment—are being eliminated. In some states, the fallout from this outrage has been drastic cuts in prison chaplaincy programs.

The elimination of prison chaplains presents both obstacles and opportunities, as chaplains in Colorado have learned. Three years ago, more than a dozen paid chaplains worked in the state's 19 state prisons; today there are none. Last year the state terminated its paid chaplaincy program.

One of the chaplains eliminated was Sheila Rollins, who says institutions have been seriously impacted by the loss of experienced people to work with inmates.

"The chaplains served an important function, not only in spiritual issues, but by providing a bridge between inmates and staff," Rollins told *Charisma*. "Chaplains were advocates on behalf of security to the inmates and representatives to staff in behalf of inmates' religious rights."

Rollins said volunteers attempting to fill the chaplaincy void in prisons are usually temporary: "They are not employees and can easily be eliminated by staff members who might be opposed to religion."

However, the positive aspect of the chaplaincy cuts is renewed interest in prison ministries in evangelical churches. Some displaced chaplains such as Rollins continue their work under the auspices of

the local church. Rollins is now employed by Heritage Christian Fellowship in Denver as director of its prison outreach, homeless shelter and food bank.

William Potter, who formerly served as a chaplain at Delta Prison Facility in Delta, Colo., now serves as director of volunteer services for the state with the responsibility of securing volunteers to fill the void left by paid chaplains. Potter believes a positive aspect of chaplaincy cuts is it gives "the local church a new opportunity to fulfill the spiritual mandate given in Matthew 25:36-44"—in part, the mandate to visit those in prison.

Organized prison ministries such as Prison Fellowship, Women's Aglow Prison Ministries and International Prison Ministries are responding by filling the chaplaincy void with trained volunteers. The prison outreach of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is one such group. Its Colorado director, Robert Schwarz, recruits volunteers for city and county jails and state prisons.

Schwarz and other FGBMFI volunteers minister regularly at institutions such as Delta State Correctional Center, which incarcerates 800 men. FGBMFI volunteers conduct regular services and provide Bibles and Christian literature for inmates. With the cessation of the chaplaincy program, there is also no longer any provision in the state budget for these materials.

Schwarz also works with Kairos International Ministry, whose members assist at Delta and at other Colorado

Inmates at Delta Prison Facility in Delta, Colo., rely on volunteer chaplains to conduct church services.

prisons. Kairos teams interact with inmates on an individual and small-group basis during weekend programs.

Schwarz and others believe the greatest need in prisons is not the reinstatement of the paid chaplaincy program.

"The chaplaincy void provides the church with an unprecedented opportunity to rise up and do what Christ commissioned us to do," Schwarz said. "These institutions need people who will go in with the love of God and share the message of relationship rather than religion. Inmates need to know they can be brand new in Christ—not just get a new start. They've done that before and failed."

Colorado's prisons will be without formal spiritual guidance for at least another year, however. The House State Affairs Committee, citing budget reasons, recently rejected a bill that would return chaplains to prison at a cost of \$300,000.

The average cost of incarcerating one inmate for a year is \$30,000. Says Andrew Kaminski, director of the FGBMFI prison ministries: "If a chaplain reaches only two men a year and they do not return to prison, his position is in essence funded." —Patricia Hulsey



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