

# GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Volume 20 #2

Summer 2002

## WHAT'S UP ?

### **STERLING SOUTH !**

A year ago we started a full Kairos program in the North Quadrant of Sterling Correctional Facility. The overall facility has two medium security quadrants, two minimum security quadrants and a maximum security isolation "hole" – an overall capacity of 2700, all surrounded by one high voltage electric fence.

For security reasons, and for discipline and reward, residents are moved regularly from quadrant to quadrant. Residents of one quadrant have no contact with residents of any other quadrant. Not long after starting Sterling North #1, the need to cover the other quadrants of the facility became evident as the strong resident Kairos community that had started in North was soon reduced significantly as Kairos graduates were transferred to other quadrants. By year's end the Sterling Advisory Council decided to expand into South, knowing this would require many more volunteers.

God provided. Sterling North #3 occurred as scheduled in May, and there was a full team for South #1 in June. The leader of the inside team for South was one of the Kairos community who had attended North #1 and had just been transferred to South. What was a painful separation for him became a blessing and challenge as he takes a lead role in organizing the new Kairos community in South.

At Sterling we are blessed with a warden, administration, and chaplains who work hard to support Kairos and make this growth possible. We are also blessed with an Advisory Council who have a vision of service and growth within God's grace. Give God the glory!

We encourage all of you to consider volunteering for the Sterling teams – especially if you live in the northeastern quadrant of the state. Please contact

### **DENVER WOMEN'S #1**

Kairos #1 in the Denver Women's Correctional Facility is now scheduled for 5 - 8 December 2002. PTL!

Many of the details are already known – such as the probable number of candidates (30), the maximum number of outside team members (35), the classroom to be used as our Community Room, and the type of meal service.

Jean Mares will serve as Rectora. We still need a Facility Coordinator. Ladies, please pray about this!

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### **20th ANNIVERSARY**

In the Fall of this year Kairos of Colorado will be 20 years old. We give God the glory and intend to mark the milestone with a "give thanks" celebration on Saturday, 28 September 2002. The where, what, and time of day are yet to be determined but the planners are said to be leaning toward a late afternoon to early evening event and meal somewhere in or near Summit County. If you want to help in any way, please contact Joan Potter at P.O.Box 766, Delta, CO 81416, or by phone at 970-240-3009, or by email at rev@montrose.net.

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### **ERIC LEE EVANS**

Many in our Kairos community, especially those serving on Fremont teams, know that for twenty six years Dick and Linda Evans loved and cared for a wonderfully loving son who was destined never to walk or talk or eat or do any of the things "ordinary" sons do. For twenty six years Eric loved them back mightily.

On 21 May the Lord took Eric home to Perfect Love. Our prayers are with the Evans family during this most special time of grieving and adjustment.

### **COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD**

Next meeting: 0900, Saturday 6 July 2002

### **COLORADO KAIROS BROCHURE**

An updated, redesigned brochure about Kairos in

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

# CLOSING COMMENTS

## CAÑON WOMEN'S #36

Wanda Sitler, Rectora

I have only one friend in this place, and that friend is me. All others have always let me down. I came to Kairos, yes, but I'm a hard person to get to. My bones ached. I prayed to God: "I can't sleep. Please Take this pain away." He did. A cover of love came over me and the pain was gone.

This is the first time I've ever had someone come up to me and ask me forgiveness.

I don't take constructive criticism very well. One person here I really, honestly hated. After last night, we are reconciled.

I came here loving the Lord. I found that am on the right path but have been wearing a mask. I have now laid down all my masks.

The person who encouraged me to come to Kairos told me "Jesus loves you" and I said "That's all I need: another invisible friend." Yes, I am capable of love, but I didn't think I could accept it. Now I know I can.

I am the doubter, easily bored. Here I learned a lot. I never had God in my life, but I do now. How do I know? I know.

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## TERRITORIAL #33

John Bengé, Rector

You leave religion outside the gate and bring in love.

If heaven is like this, I should have come to prison long ago. I got fed in heart, mind and, most important, spirit. I've flushed the four razor blades down the drain. Here is my family, men who care. God didn't create losers. I'm a winner today!

Others tell us to "do your time and keep your head down." What I found here is something to keep my head up for.

My Christian walk has been like a yo-yo. My life was in a million different pieces. Now the pieces have begun to come together. I have hope for the first time.

I hope you feel drained because I am taking all your strength with me!

My best friend is the Creator of the universe. A lot of memories are coming back. I let a lot go this weekend, a lot got washed away. I don't have to wear the mask anymore.

Hey, man, I'm a human. I'm a human! We struggle with that in here, but it took you to show us that.

I'm a 30-year-old gang banger from West Denver. I learned a lot from these cats. Thanks.

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## STERLING SOUTH #1

Ron Fullmer, Rector

We came to Kairos seeking... curious... dried up and dying...hungry. We found Jesus' unconditional love.

Some of us found that we were carrying unnecessary hate, including hate for ourselves. God took it away.

I feel like someone cares for the first time in my life.

Jesus broke down every wall there is this weekend.

After I put my paper in the water I felt so light, so forgiven, so clean! It felt so good to let some tears go. I hadn't cried since 1987.

I seen it with my own eyes: the Spirit of God move!

God has made me a farmer. He gave me seeds to sow and he wants me to tend them.

We are going to share this Kairos feeling with others, our families, and even the staff. They will know we are different.

What are we going to do with it? Take it to the yard!

Visitors are welcome at Kairos Closings which are usually the Sunday afternoon of each Kairos weekend. Contact the Facility Coordinator at least 40 days ahead to start the Department Of Corrections clearance process.

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

## COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

Bruce Carlson	President	719-531-7109	abcarlson@worldnet.att.net
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Chuck Weida	Territorial Coordinator	719-548-9102	weidacr@aol.com
(open)	Denver Women's Coordinator		

### KAIROS OF COLORADO

Our mission is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to incarcerated individuals, and to assist them in building up the body of Christ in each prison.

We are volunteers. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations from our team members, churches, and friends like yourselves. We encourage you to use our pre-addressed envelope for donations and other inquiries.

We publish "God's Special Time" quarterly. The Episcopal Church of St Michael the Archangel (Colo Spgs) prints it.. Jim and Peggy Strub are the editors.

### 2002 FALL WEEKENDS

Fremont	#40	Bob Ashida	Sep 19-22
Cañon Women	#37	Pat Romero	Oct 17-20
Delta	#22	Tim Ramsey	Oct 24-27
Sterling North	#4	José Hernandez	Oct 31-Nov 3
Territorial	#34	Bill Durfee	Nov 14-17
Denver Women	#1	Jean Mares	Dec 5-8
Sterling South	#2	Rick Stewart	Dec 5-8

To volunteer, please contact the Coordinator.  
(Phone numbers and emails are listed above.)

## TRUE? LOVING? NECESSARY?

Some of us are old enough to remember the WW II slogan, "Loose lips sink ships." I have no idea if whoever coined that slogan was Biblically grounded, but scripture has much to say on the subject of loose lips.

In James 3:5-12 we find: "Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. . . The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. . . But no one can tame the tongue. . . We praise our Lord. . . and curse human beings. . ." and more. And then there's gossip. Look up 1 Timothy 5:13, Proverbs, and others.

On a more positive note, see Ephesians 4:15, 29-32: "speaking the truth in love" and "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. . . Get rid of all bitterness . . . anger . . . slander. . . Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

There are many more scriptures teaching us the importance of being very, very careful with our mouths. About 25 years ago in a Christian class, I was taught a simple, yet profound, formula for guarding my tongue. I received a needed reminder of that formula in a recent meeting, and I believe it is worth sharing. It is this: I need to ask myself, before talking about something or someone, or even answering a well-meant question:

### Is it true? Is it loving? Is it necessary?

For me, the hardest of these to deal with is the last — "Is it necessary?" Even something that is clearly 'true', and may appear 'loving', still may not pass the test of 'necessary'. It may even be harmful, or at least not helpful, in building up each other, this ministry, and the body of Christ.

I expect I'll continue to fail many times in this regard, but I know I'm going to try harder, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to be more mindful of this formula. Will you join me?  
Peggy Strub

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



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GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

4th DAY SPEAKER

A respected inmate from a previous Kairos Weekend addressed those just completing CW-36 at the Closing:

- ◆ I see the face of the Lord in each of your faces.
- ◆ Your 4th day will not be a mountain-top experience.
- ◆ You've been through the Forgiveness Ceremony and the Commitment Service, so your plate is clean now, but it won't stay clean – because the devil now has 28 more people to pick on, I guarantee it.
- ◆ Be sure to come to the Kairos Reunion every month to get your refill.
- ◆ You can turn your back on the Lord, over and over; when you turn back around, He will still be there.

GOD'S JUSTICE SYSTEM

- ◆ **Justice** is when you get what you deserve.
- ◆ **Mercy** is when you don't get what you deserve.

TIME

Inmates “do “ time. On the outside, we “do” time. Usually we do it so fast that we don't have enough of it. Things get away from us. Patience falls through the cracks. The treadmill goes on. Soon our time has run out. We are either out of prison, or out of time. This is **chronos** time – clocks, calendars, quantitative.

We can also do **kairos** time – a qualitative concept. Kairos refers to the depth of time, rather than its length. Kairos happens when we focus on the presence of God and the needs of those around us.

The New Testament suggests that we should spend as much time as we can converting chronos to kairos, by inviting Christ to be with us as we go about our day. Turn off the car radio and pray! Ask yourself who you are helping (and how) as you set out on another errand.

The next time you feel pushed for time, ask God to join you and to help you convert chronos to kairos.

Partly from *The Anglican Digest*,  
Transfiguration AD 2001

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