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## FROM OUR CHAIR

### Building the Kairos Community - HELP WANTED

Kairos of Colorado is in a pitch battle with an ancient Enemy who does not like the successful way we build and maintain Our Lord's church in Colorado prisons. As the battle rages in all Colorado prisons, we are having to cut tables and even eliminate programs due to volunteer recruiting problems. We need to recruit reinforcements to open a new electronic front!

I believe it is time to form a committee of volunteers who wish to help build our Kairos Community numbers and resources on the web. This committee will work on expanding our community through the use of social networking tools (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other sites) to capture the attention of experienced and mature, but also more younger volunteers by going to where they live in great numbers – ONLINE. Please talk this up to those people among your family and church friends. This project can provide experience and resume material for those who aspire to digital media careers, so it may be suitable volunteer work for the underemployed or those looking to expand their career in this exciting new communications area that all are beginning to use. Free training in social networking tools will be provided to those who wish to help. Send applications to me.

Telling the story of our ministry so far has been done through our existing website and newsletter, but we need now to go to the next level, drawing more volunteers and resources. Other states are doing this already, providing good written and video content that we can use to illustrate what we do and how we do it. Good quality videos from across the country have been produced in formats compatible with Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Twitter, for example. Material in this newsletter can be used for the same purpose.

Besides committee members, I'd like to find a digital media coordinator to take this on. Qualifications? Writer, reader, editor, digital media expertise optional. We'll train you. Please apply by email to

[kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com)

and you will be sent a link to the training materials we will offer for committee members and coordinator.

**Kevin**

The only difference between a vocational Christian worker and the laity is how the ministry is funded.

*Walter Henrichsen*

## CLERGY CORNER: HOLY PRESENCE

I have become a regular attendee at the monthly reunions for what we've been calling Sterling West since participating in my first weekend there. As amazing as the weekends have been, the monthly reunions are amazing in their own way.

An important part of that difference is that the men who were often open about coming to the weekend for the food and break from their normal existence have followed through, and continued their own growth in Christ. We from the outside are welcomed as honored guests to the monthly reunions, and we take at least as much home with us as we might ever have thought we were bringing to them. God's grace can be mind blowing.

As weekend team members, we are often reminded of the "river banks" that we must honor. That is part of our covenant with the Department of Corrections, by which we are enabled to bring this valuable ministry to those who have been numbered among the "lost" of our society.

As I was taking part in this most recent monthly reunion, I was reminded once again that we (outside team members) may have planted the seeds of faith during the weekends, but God has most certainly given the growth.

Our role at reunions is much less active than that during the weekend; we bear almost silent witness to how the Spirit is moving within those harsh gray walls. We may be singing, rejoicing, and praying with these men, but our true role is simply to be present with and for them. The fact that each of us has come from some distance to be with them is not lost on those who cherish every visitor from the outside.

We are each called to be a Holy Presence with those to whom we minister in the name of Christ. We are not "selling" anything; we're sharing the "peace of God that passes understanding." We are there to listen, and not to fix. We need to be alert to the possibility that there are those who will attempt to "play us," but that does not alter our calling, which is to show God's love in all that we do.

As our training reminds us, "Listen, listen. Love, love." Every time we go inside, we should remember those words. From time to time, we should also consider how best we can provide a Holy Presence to those on the inside.

I rejoice each month as our "alumni" plan and execute meaningful reunions for their brothers on the inside. I think it is a great privilege for each of us from the outside to witness and participate in them, but I also realize that none of it is "about us" from the outside -- it's about God and God's work with the Kairos community on the inside.

Grace and Peace,  
Bill Kindel+

## UPCOMING 2012 EVENTS

	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>INFO CONTACT</u>
3rd Sundays, 6:00 pm	LA VISTA WOMEN'S REUNIONS	Sara Igyarto
3rd Sundays, 12:30 pm	HUDSON REUNIONS	Peter Kufeke
21 July	STATE COMMITTEE MEETING AT KEYSTONE	Kevin Condon
24-28 July	<b>KPMI SUMMER CONFERENCE</b> ( <a href="http://www.mykairos.org/kalendar.html">www.mykairos.org/kalendar.html</a> )	
11-14 October *	TERRITORIAL #53	Don Ferguson
21 October	STATE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE	Kevin Condon
25-28 October	DELTA #42	Terry Hastings
1-4 November	RIFLE #15	Ryan Pritchett
1-4 November	STERLING WEST #29	George Holling
29 Nov – 2 Dec	DENVER #18	Susan Moore

\* Requested, not confirmed

## REENTRY REPORT

The Kairos Re-entry (formerly Kairos Transition After-care) program is being revised, continuing to focus on inmates (Kairos graduates) who are scheduled for release from prisons served by Kairos and sent back into the free world. It is a volunteer program, currently implemented in Maryland, that depends on Kairos team members and other outside volunteers to assist residents in prison *prior to their release* and to mentor them *after their return to society*.

### Kairos Re-entry program - hot priority

At the Kairos Winter Conference in February, the Re-entry sub-committee was given full, permanent status and now reports directly to the Kairos Board of Directors. In addition, the Re-entry subcommittee has been tasked with developing a Re-entry program manual of "best practices" for states that choose to add the Re-entry program to their Kairos Inside program. The Re-entry program will be introduced at the KPMI Summer Conference in St. Louis in July. For more information about the KPMI Summer Conference, go to

[http://www.mykairos.org/conference\\_registration.html](http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html).

The KPMI Re-entry subcommittee is pleased that Chris Money – retired Warden of the Marion, Ohio men's prison and the beloved choir director in the "My Redeemer Lives Silent Choir" video – joined the KPMI Re-entry subcommittee. Chris is also a member on the KPMI Board of Directors. She totally understands the importance of the Re-entry program, and her experience and input is invaluable.

### CDOC Dual Mentoring Program

According to the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) Faith & Citizens Program Director Matt Winden, the draft "Dual Mentoring" Administrative Regulation (AR) has been revised several times since October 2011 and is once-again out for final CDOC approval. The Dual Mentoring AR allows CDOC specially-trained volunteers to mentor prisoners both inside the prison and when they are released. A networking conference with other Christian prison ministries who are interested in re-entry/aftercare is being planned for September 2012.

### HELP!!

The Kairos Re-entry program is a hot priority with the KPMI Board of Directors, and the Colorado State Committee's ad hoc **Re-entry subcommittee needs more volunteers to serve on this subcommittee**. Among our responsibilities, the subcommittee works closely with the KPMI Re-entry subcommittee; the Colorado Department of Corrections, Faith and Citizens department; and the Kairos Colorado State Committee.

Jim Strub, a vital member of our team, recently stepped down from serving on the Re-entry subcommittee. Currently, Kairos volunteers Kris Briggs (Chair) and Linda Stewart remain on the subcommittee. Kris also serves on the KPMI Board's Re-entry subcommittee.

If you would also like to serve on the Kairos Colorado Re-entry ad hoc subcommittee, contact Kris Briggs for more information by e-mail at [chaplainkris@hotmail.com](mailto:chaplainkris@hotmail.com) or by phone at 303-665-8476 (leave message).

*Submitted by Chaplain Kris Briggs, Chair, Colorado Ad Hoc Re-entry (formerly Aftercare) Subcommittee.*



Cross made by a successfully re-entered graduate of our Fremont Kairos program

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

(Below is an email message written by Karen Rayer, Leader of Denver Women's Kairos #17, to those who signed up to pray for the Weekend.)

Dear praying family members and friends,

I'm finally at the point in processing the weekend that I think perhaps I can put my impressions, emotions, and thoughts into words. At least, I'm going to try.

First of all, thank you so much for praying.

It was very evident to me and other team members the two weeks or so before the event began last Thursday evening that the enemy was quite agitated about our plans to take the love of Jesus into one of his favorite bastions of darkness. But God was faithful to see us through, and no one had to drop off the team (a not uncommon last-minute occurrence with these weekends).

And it was very evident from our first morning in the prison that God was working on our behalf. If you live in the Colorado Springs or Denver areas, you may remember that we had quite a rain and hailstorm Thursday night (for the second night in a row). Well, apparently the roof leaked right above the room where we hold our event, because when we went in Friday morning, water was dripping down through some of the ceiling panels.

The first word we got from prison officials was that they might have to shut the event down (worst case) or have us move to the gym (a huge job for us, and a less-than-ideal venue). Their concern was that the soggy panels could fall and injure someone. Happily, the officer who came to inspect the problem determined that the water had stopped coming into the ceiling. He removed the affected tiles, and that was that (all this over a period of a tense and prayerful couple of hours).

Oh, I forgot to mention that on Thursday night, during the early part of our time with the inmates, the drains in the two restrooms they use backed up, so we (all 60+ of us women!) had to use one restroom usually used only by the team. Thankfully, both inmate restrooms were fully functional on Friday morning, but we had no idea when we left Thursday night whether that would be the case.

We were asked to change the location of where we stored and assembled the food three different times, but the ladies on the kitchen team were great sports about it. (Did they get a workout!) There's a saying in Kairos that being *flexible* isn't good enough; you have to be *fluid*!

Well, enough about all that.

We saw real transformation in many of the 32 residents who participated in the weekend. I'd say one of the biggest areas of personal transformation, judging from what the women shared at two different "open mike" times toward the end of the weekend, was *forgiveness* – forgiving others and forgiving themselves. Many also commented on the love they felt from the team, from God, eventually from each other, and from the hundreds of people we told them were praying for them. (The information about people praying for them throughout the weekend really blew them away. These women feel rejected by society; many of them have truly been abandoned by their families since their incarceration. They can hardly fathom that people who don't even know them care enough about them to pray for them.)

There was much laughter. There were many tears. I'd like to say there were lots of hugs, but we're not allowed to hug. The residents knew we were hugging them in our hearts, though! And the singing – we blew what was left of the roof off the place! Only God will ever know the full impact of the weekend, but all indications were that it was a huge success by any standard.

I can't begin to thank you enough for your prayers. They made all the difference in our ability to face every challenge, in every heart that opened up, in beginning steps of healing, in the unity and grace of the team members toward each other. Thank you for standing with us. You played a hugely important role.

In Christ's love, Karen

The women of the Denver team are very pleased to announce completion of two professionally produced videos intended to tell the Kairos story in a women's setting – namely, right here in DWCF.

The videos (one 10-minute, one 20-minute) are posted on the KPMI website at

<http://www.mykairos.org/news.html>

## DENVER #17 CLOSING – 10 June

This was an awesome closing for an awesome weekend! The changes in these 32 women from their arrival on Thursday to the final celebration on Sunday was unbelievable. God's grace was so very apparent in their faces!

Each of the tables chose someone to give a short talk on what the weekend meant for the participants.

The Table of Mary said they came to Kairos lost, seeking, confused, unsure, and hungry. They were leaving the weekend with love, peace, confidence, and comfort. They had let their walls down with each other, and were planning to "not dig up their roosters!" And they were all feeling a boost of self esteem, love for God, and a renewed spirituality.

The Table of Priscilla arrived Thursday night excited, hungry, lost, empty, broken and scared. They found humility, a great thank you for Jesus, and a resounding Hallelujah! They were taking away with them openness, forgiveness, and new friendships.

The Table of Sarah were struggling with their faith and confused when they came to Kairos. They learned to reach out, to love and feel at peace. They said they found a safe place here. And they loved the word "agape". They summed up what they were taking away with them in one word: Everything.

The Table of Ruth came burned out, looking for clarity and forgiveness, curiosity about Kairos, and feeling unworthy. What they found was love and acceptance, answers, new families, forgiveness, and that God helps when He is asked. They learned that they need to pray and study more, and to trust each other and God. They left healing from past pains, with joy and motivation. "We are all loved, and we can love each other".

The Table of Esther came Thursday evening skeptical, in darkness, and looking for a path to follow. They discovered unconditional love, new family, peace, freedom, and spiritual growth. And they took away a new outlook on Christian life.

The Fourth Day speaker had attended the 16th Kairos weekend at DWCF. She was in prison for driving intoxicated and causing the deaths of two women and her best friend's baby. She could not forgive herself for her crime. She was accepted into Kairos on her first try, and when she heard the Rooster story, she was finally able to accept forgiveness. She has buried her rooster, never to dig it up again. She hopes to help others through God's grace. Her best friend even forgave her before she was able to forgive herself.

The entire weekend was wonderful. The closing, with all those people who came in Jesus' love, was a perfect ending.

*Submitted by Susan Moore*

## PRISON FELLOWSHIP BANQUET

Glenda Gay and I attended the annual Prison Fellowship banquet held for their Colorado program, partly in honor of the recent death of Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship founder. We learned more about this important prison program's activities in Colorado which some of our volunteers also staff in the prisons. Garland Hunt, the new President of Prison Fellowship spoke. He had attended the Colson memorial service that morning in Washington, DC at National Cathedral. Hunt began his tenure as president of Prison Fellowship in July 2011. Prior to joining Prison Fellowship, he served as the executive pastor of The Father's House and vice-president of a community ministry organization, both based in Atlanta. The other speaker was an ex-offender who participated in a year-long intense program to develop potential "deacon level" workers in the church behind walls at CSP. He admitted he took the program because he thought he could get out of prison faster to continue his life of crime. Poor planning. He has been transformed into an articulate spokesman for the power of Christian life behind prison walls...of course. Both made a wonderful plea for the ongoing success of Prison Fellowship in Colorado prisons, which we also pray for. Glenda Gay and I talked to them afterwards. Both are enthusiastic about Kairos as an ongoing partner in prison ministry. President Hunt is well-acquainted with KPMI leadership, nationally. I believe it is his wish to increase national partnership with Kairos at all levels. Let's hope our KPMI's new CEO, when chosen, will extend the relationship to help serve all prisons. Many Colorado Kairos volunteers, including me, have also served with Prison Fellowship programs.

It seems to me that Colorado Kairos might follow the lead of Chuck Colson's ministry in establishing an annual fund raising and awareness raising program supported by all the churches and Kairos community members who wish us well. In recent meetings with Grace church folks and Epiphany Mountain Boys, I believe we could offer a wonderful music program in doing so. The State Committee will be discussing that possibility at our July face-to-face meeting in Keystone.

*Submitted by Kevin Condon*

## KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL (KPMI)

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led Christian ministry which conducts a highly structured program designed for use in male and female correctional institutions. The Kairos program starts with a weekend event which allows participants to receive Christ's love through the servitude of Christian Kairos volunteers. During this event participants are given the opportunity to experience a spiritual renewal, accepting God's call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution, and beyond. Participants are encouraged to establish small, two-to-five-person "Fourth Day" Prayer and Share groups within the institution. The groups meet regularly to share their lives on a deep spiritual level and to pray for one another, other residents, and staff in the institution.

Kairos is currently in 36 states and nine other countries – Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. The course materials are available in English and Spanish. The ministry includes about 30,000 volunteers worldwide.

### COLORADO CHAPTER – STATE COMMITTEE

<b>Chair</b>	Kevin Condon	303-906-4532	kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com
<b>International Representative</b>	Wayne Park	970-577-1483	waynepark@aol.com
<b>Vice Chair</b>	(open)		
<b>Immediate Past Chair</b>	Randy Borden	303-469-7540	rjborden@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	John Parker	719-332-9233	jparkerrealtor@earthlink.net
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	RuthMary Lyons	970-330-6923	rm80620@hotmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Rayer	719-573-8308	kjrayer@gmail.com
<b>The Reverend</b>	Bill Kindel	720-255-3768	kindel@alum.mit.edu
<b>The Reverend</b>	(open)		

#### ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Delta	Tim Brady	970-241-6166	tkbradydc@aol.com
Denver Women's	Joan Borden	303-469-7540	rjborden@comcast.net
Hudson	Peter Kufeke	970-217-5419	pkufeke@msn.com
Kairos Outside	Angie Heid	303-909-4939	angieheid@yahoo.com
La Vista Women's	Ann Weida	719-548-9102	weidacr@aol.com
Limon	Brian Beattie	970-454-2069	bdeyes@mywdo.com
Rifle	Lloyd Strobeck	970-927-5295	jlstrobeck@wildblue.net
Sterling	Randy Weldon	303-358-2280	randymweldon@gmail.com
Territorial	Chuck Weida	719-548-9102	weidacr1@aol.com

#### SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Reentry	Kris Briggs	303-665-8476	chaplainkris@hotmail.com
Agape	Tim Brady	970-241-6166	tkbradydc@aol.com
Database/Website	Don Bates	720-494-9444	dbates34@comcast.net
Newsletter	Jim Strub	719-634-2821	jimpegstrub@msn.com
Outreach/Recruiting	(open)	303-906-4532	kevinpaulcondon@yahoo.com
Security	Jean Yanchek	719-599-8280	jmbyy@cs.com
Training	Randy Borden	303-469-7540	rjborden@comcast.net

#### EX OFFICIO

Chaplain	Jack Olafson	719-590-9639	jolafson7@msn.com
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