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**"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"**

Volume 16 #1

Lent 1998

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

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

***LIFE ACCORDING TO ACTS 2:42***

Acts 2:42 gives us four elements of the Christian life: "They [the early Christians] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." If it was good for them and a growing church, it should be very good for us.

**The Apostles' Teaching** -- The apostles used existing scripture (the "Old Testament" and then their letters and "gospels") in their teaching that Jesus was truly the long-expected Messiah and the ultimate fulfillment of the Law and the prophecies. Budding Christians slaked their spiritual hunger by feeding on the Word of God, by reading the "scriptures." We **study the Bible**.

**Fellowship** -- Fellowship is one with the other, and between each of us and God. "If we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 Jn 1:7) Each of us is a vital part of the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12: 12-27) "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another" (Heb 10:24-25). Especially on Sunday, let us go to Church -- not just Sunday School or a Kairos meeting or for The Sermon, but to **Worship** and **Praise** God as a vital part of His Body.

**Breaking of bread** -- Early Christians often broke bread together as part of their regular gatherings and their carrying out of Jesus' mandate to bring His life into them by partaking of His body and blood. This practice became known as the Eucharist -- the Holy Communion, the Mass. Jesus said: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." (John 6:53,54) If it was good for the early Christians, it should be good for us. Let us make our **Communion**s often. Without Communion we have no Life.

**Prayers** -- Jesus told us to pray. Why? To get better acquainted with God, to discern God's will for us and for those for whom we pray. We need the grace of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, in order to obey God's will for us. Prayer deepens our respect for and awe of God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov 1:7). Through prayer we come to recognize the central role of Jesus in our lives, to abide in the vine and to bear fruit that lasts (John 15:4,16). Let us **pray**.

BIBLE QUOTES FROM NRSV    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING    BY JIM STRUB

**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 entirely volunteer. There is no paid staff. We depend on God to meet expenses through donations by 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.

*Thank you for your prayers and support!*

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Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub

**KAIROS KALENDAR ---**

	Spring 1998		Fall 1998	
<b>Fremont</b>	#31	--- Mar 19-22	#32	--- Sep 17-20
<b>Women's</b>	#28	--- Apr 23-26	#29	--- Oct 15-18
<b>Delta</b>	#13	--- Apr 23-26	#14	--- Oct 22-25
<b>Territorial</b>	#25	--- May 14-17	#26	--- Nov 19-22

Please keep the Kairos weekends in your prayers and on your calendars. We always need pray-ers, Closing guests, and team members. *"Christ is counting on you!"*

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ---**

Kairos is always in need of more team members, especially men. Whether new or experienced, please pray about volunteering to share God's love with our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

You can call the Facility Coordinator (see list at top) for the prison you are interested in, or you can use the enclosed envelope. Fill in the name, phone, and address spaces, and check the line which says "\_\_\_I'd like to volunteer...." Men need to specify *which prison* they are volunteering for, so we can notify the appropriate Facility Coordinator.

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**OUTSIDE WEEKEND INFORMATION ---**

- Walk to Emmaus, east: Jim Lollar, 303-659-6108
- Walk to Emmaus, west: Janet Keenan, 970-963-1030
- Catholic Cursillo, Den: Fransisco Mondragon, 303-429-3464
- Catholic Cursillo, Colo Spgs: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404
- Episcopal Cursillo, East: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448
- Episcopal Cursillo, West: Jan Smith, 970-325-4409

*Please pray about sponsoring Kairos team prospects.*

**BOARD NOTES ---**

The Colorado District Committee, aka "the Board," met on 12 February 1998. Art Wise reported on the Kairos National Winter Board Meeting held in Orlando the previous weekend. There will now be two "tracks" for the Kairos Weekend Sunday programs and for the continuing ministry. Colorado and several other districts will be on Sunday "Track A" for which the talks will be "Tomorrow," "Listening," and "Hang in There." We will also be on the continuing ministry "Track A" which will consist of the one-day Instructional Reunion, monthly Reunions, and the two-day Retreat. This is pretty much what we're currently doing except for the "Journey" talk being modified to the "Tomorrow" talk. The Sunday "Track B" is as given in the Yellow Manual, and the continuing ministry "Track B" is the "Journey Program" which some districts now have in operation. Each district can choose AA, AB, BA, or BB. We are AA. New manuals (color?) will be printed and distributed in time for next Fall's weekends. The next National Board Meeting will be in conjunction with the Summer Conference, to which everyone is invited, at the Marine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine, 22-26 July.

After several years of faithful service as Delta Coordinator, Darrell Corlett has passed the baton to Bill Bennett. The Board expresses its appreciation to Darrell and all those who have worked with him. Thank you, Darrell, and welcome aboard, Bill!

**WOMEN'S CHAPEL UPDATE ---**

Work continues on the enlarging and remodeling of an existing building within the secure area of the prison, in order to make Chapel activities more accessible to higher security level inmates who cannot go freely to the current Chapel. The addition still needs finishing work.

The prison hopes to dedicate the new Chapel on Easter Sunday. We will also plan something special during women's Kairos #28, much as we dedicated the current Chapel during Kairos #10 in 1988.

"Here I am, Lord, is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.  
 "I will tend the poor and lame...Finest bread I will provide,  
 till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them.  
 Here I am, Lord."

(Sung at the Dave Jones "Celebration of Life" service on 29 January 1998)

This was the song of Dave's heart...and of "Deacon Dave's" heart...and of "Father Dave's" heart, through all those Kairos years. Dave was on the beginning Kairos teams at Women's and Fremont, and was one of the few who would always show up for the monthly Ultreyas (reunions). In the administrative department, Dave served for many years as our representative to the National Kairos, and also as the Head Spiritual Director for Kairos of Colorado. He was well known and respected throughout the larger Kairos community and among prison officialdom here in Colorado. His life touched many lives in many ways -- including inmates, former inmates (see separate article, "Dave Jones, My Spiritual Father"), and Kairos team members. The editors of this newsletter received considerable inspiration from Dave, including his recommendation of the Pecos Benedictine Abbey's six-week Spiritual Direction course which profoundly influenced them in many ways. Dave's spirit departed for Heaven on 25 January.

At the "Celebration of Life" service, opportunity was given for testimony about Dave. His wife Nell recalled that Dave never had a real father. His childhood included 1½ years in an orphanage, a profound experience. He came to the University of Colorado on an NROTC scholarship in 1947. He and Nell Reed were engaged in 1949 and married in Boulder 1950. Dave aimed to be an engineer but was drafted in 1952 and served in the Army Corps of Engineers at Ft. Belvoir, VA. In 1954, he returned to CU and earned degrees in Geology, 1956, and Civil Engineering, 1957. Dave had various federal and state government positions in various places, during which he and Nell raised two sons and two daughters. In 1981 they "retired" to Reed Ranch (Nell's birthplace) northwest of Boulder, where Dave could be a rancher and study for the priesthood, to which he had known a calling for many years. Bill Frey, the Episcopal Bishop of Colorado, met with Dave from time to time to guide him through the process toward ordination (the Bishop's School, the Commission on Ministry, seminary, etc). Dave's calling was to be a "ministry priest" rather than a parish priest who would have to deal with parish "politics". Bishop Frey ordained him as Deacon in 1987, then as Priest in 1988, to the Jones' ministry known as "Rainbow Life Ministries." Nell concluded by telling us that their daughter, on her way to the hospital, "knew" the moment of Dave's passing. Upon seeing him, she had an instant vision of Dave proclaiming joyously, "I am Free!!"

Art Wise, our present representative to National Kairos, added some glimpses of Dave from a Kairos ministry point of view. Kairos saw Dave as a tall, lanky man, usually dressed in grey and black with that strange white collar -- always in the cowboy boots. He became Art's mentor and guide. Dave was there to share the life of Christ with those who think of themselves as the lowest of the low, those who have no hope except Jesus Christ. He was there to share Christ with them. He had that easy way about him, a way of comforting them. He took the Lord's love, made it his own, and gave it to everyone he met. Dave would say things like, "When we go to the prison, we go to see Jesus." Now Jesus is saying to Dave: "Here, take my inheritance. I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in...I was in prison and you came to visit me. Well done, good and faithful servant."

#### DAVE JONES

### MY SPIRITUAL FATHER

As a small child, I somehow knew deep within my heart how parents should be. I carried this vision with me for many years into adulthood. Throughout the turmoil of my childhood experiences, the vision of what parents should be never left me.

Through Kairos I met Dave and Nell Jones. The thing I wanted most of all as a child came to pass. I believe the Lord looked into my heart and saw what was there. The Lord gave me a new set of parents, the parents of my childhood dreams. Dave and Nell Jones became my SPIRITUAL PARENTS. The love people have for their parents, family and their own children, is the same love I have for Dave and Nell. They gave me love when my own family wouldn't give me the time of day.

Dave Jones is blessed with eyes that could look right into your soul. Always a song in his heart and a smile on his face. Always there for you, never judging, and accepting you as you are. I had no one and Dave freely became a father to me.

Dave devoted his life to the Lord, his wife and family and all of the many people God sent his way. Dave will be with the Lord always. It really hurts to know Dave won't be there to talk to anymore. I love you, Dave Jones.

Dave Kennedy, Fremont Kairos #4

[Used by permission of the author who for some years worked for the Joneses. For a while he and his family lived on Reed Ranch.]

## FROM TERRITORIAL #24 CLOSING ---

Our spiritual condition was pretty good, but we were needing a closer walk with the Lord. We found out what it takes to make a Kairos team -- a combination of Mickey Gilley, Ray Charles, three brown brothers, a couple of dope fiends, an alcoholic, a convict, and two Methodist preachers.

Our spiritual conditions were mixed -- some low, some didn't know. We found fellowship, guidance and Christ's community. We're taking love for all the brothers here. We're going to carry on the Kairos tradition here. We're never too old to learn. Our brother here is 86.

We came in a variety of spiritual conditions -- one so low it didn't even register. We found spiritual bonding through Jesus' sacrifice. We're taking a national brotherhood in prisons all over -- members of God's great family.

We came with various spiritual needs, but with a common thread -- we wanted to replenish our spirits. We found people here to replenish us with God's word. We're taking love and fellowship back with us.

Our spiritual conditions were fairly good. We were strengthened with love, fellowship, understanding, and no prejudice. We're taking more understanding, and we're going to pass it on.

I came at an all time low, didn't think I could be raised up. I found love here to raise me up out of the pits. I found a natural spiritual family right here when I need help. It's refreshing to find people who don't care what you're in here for. I'm taking a strong spiritual family back with me.

I thought I was in pretty good condition but on the low side. In DRDC I couldn't breathe or sleep. I found guardian angels here for me, and I slept well then. Then I found a Christian family here, beyond words. I'm taking love, fellowship, brothers inside and outside.

I recently found out the power of prayer really works. That bag of letters really showed me others cared. Walking with the Lord is gradual, daily learning. I know God exists and will help us in our needs.

I've been [in prison] here and in California since 1963. I found a lot of love here.

Those placemats from the kids really touched my heart.

(Fourth Day Speaker, inside team member) I was a former Islam, an Imam, and then made Kairos in 1987 in Fremont. I was a bigot, prejudiced and racist, but you can see that's all changed. I found the same love here today as I found in 1987. I thought it was a game at first, but it's not -- it's real!

## PLEASE PRAY FOR ---

Nell Jones, her family, and all those around them.

Duane Medina, for complete restoration of health.

Marj Rust, for mending of arm and wrist structure.

AJ and Mildred Luckey, for complete recovery.

Bill Tipton and Ted Van Horn, for sustained vitality.

Moses Archuleta, for vitality and freedom from discomfort.

Norm Fritzler, for diagnosis and healing of spinal column.

All those with ongoing infirmities and handicaps -- physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## KAIROS TIME ---

"As we acknowledge the passing of one year, inevitably we reflect on how quickly time passes. I am reminded of a verse from Job, 'My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle' (7:6, NRSV). More often than not, what appears to be the rapid progression of our days seems to make time an enemy, not a friend. This is especially true when we find ourselves viewing time as a limited commodity in our lives. Each day we have twenty-four hours, each week we have 168 hours, and each year we have 8760 hours. We use up those hours -- and we spend them -- by what we decide to do day by day. The ticking clock of the days and years reminds us of what is past, never to be relived.

"It is not surprising that we feel exhausted, as if we are racing against the clock to fill every moment with what seems important. Perhaps we can set aside this view of time and try another approach. What might it mean for you and me if each moment and hour were enough in itself? What might it mean if we saw each moment and hour as already filled with God's loving presence to which we are responding? Scripture describes this view of time as *kairos* time, time that is opportunity and fulfillment and encounter with God.

"We see all time from the perspective of our relationship with God. Kairos is the exact time of God's inbreaking revelation to us, the continuing work of God that is found in every moment. If we look at our days from this perspective, we dare not run unthinkingly from one experience to another because if we do so, we may miss what God is offering us in the here and now. In this new year, can we learn to be alert and expectant in the present moment for what it brings of new life and challenge as a gift of our loving Creator?"

By Janice J. Grana, Editor and Publisher of "The Upper Room," a daily devotional.