

+++++ "GOD'S SPECIAL TIME" +++++

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

STEWARDSHIP OF THE BODY

Once upon a time there was a man in this ministry who started each day with the prayer, "Good morning, Lord Jesus. Here I am. Use me!"

And God did use him – mightily. This man's spirit was in tune with God's Spirit. His mind was alert and ready. His body was healthy. He was totally ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus whenever and wherever needed.

We are His. We did not choose Him; He chose us, so we can bear good fruit, fruit that will last. (See John 15:16.) For us to bear the kind of fruit that lasts, He has to be able to use us. That means we have to be ready, we have to keep ourselves in good mental and physical condition, as well as good spiritual condition. In the Kairos closing we ask the question, "In what spiritual condition did you arrive at Kairos?" In everyday living, we also have to ask, "In what physical condition do I present myself to God today?"

Ah, you say, I am not in good health. God is not taking good care of me. But ask yourself this question: "Am I doing my part?"

God does His part, but He expects us to do our part. Yes, God has total control of every fiber and microbe in our body – He alone made it all and He, ultimately, is the One who keeps it functioning. But we have to do our part, too – like paying attention to what we eat, getting the right kind and amount of exercise, getting enough good sleep, having physical checkups, etc.

While out hiking the other day, I found myself praying for complete recovery for a Christian brother who had just had emergency heart surgery. I was giving thanks that he is one who pays attention to God's signals, and that by the grace of God he got to the hospital in time to get surgery before there was any significant damage. He is recovering without complications, but all of this got me thinking about just what it is

that we are supposed to do, routinely, to minimize the occurrences of surprises such as this.

What are we supposed to do? What is our part?

- Get regular checkups, especially as we get older, and especially if we have family histories of life threatening problems, such as heart disease, strokes, diabetes, etc. Think of it as "preventive maintenance."
- Exercise regularly, in some way suitable for our age and capability.
- Eat a healthy diet, suitable for our particular needs.
- Do whatever else our doctors tell us to do for our physical well being.
- Make sure not to neglect our spiritual and mental needs.

In I Corinthians 6:19, Paul tells us that our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit and that we belong to God, not to ourselves. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us to be good stewards of whatever God has given us. There are other messages in these passages, too, but the point for us here is to take care of these God-given bodies so the Spirit of God can use us completely.

In Galatians 5:14, Paul quotes Jesus and Moses when he says: "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39, and Mark 12:31) In other words, we can't give away what we don't have. If we don't love ourselves with a nurturing love, God's love will not be able to flow through us to His other children. We have to love ourselves, including our bodies, at least well enough to take good care of them and to be sensitive to God's signals about them.

Why? So we will be ready, so the Spirit of Christ can use our hands and feet, so we can say to the Lord each morning, "Good morning, my gracious and awesome God! Here I am. Help yourself to my body today. Use me, I pray!"

BY JIM STRUB.... WITH ALL QUOTES FROM THE NRSV

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

We welcome the formation of a new Advisory Council for the Kairos women's ministry. They are still in the process of organizing and distributing the various responsibilities. They ask us to be supporting them in prayer as they seek God's will and guidance.

The members of the Council are: Chair Gloria Abeyta, Facility Coordinator Gerri Quintana, Josie Costello, Lorraine Huard, Wanda Sitler, Vicki Thorson, and Jean Yancheck.

These ladies are truly dedicated to serving our Lord Jesus Christ through their advisory role. We know that our Rectoras will be greatly blessed by their assistance.

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

FREMONT #34 CLOSING –

Our family came like a race car into a pit stop. We had low tires and fuel, a killer spirit, and were angry at God – lots wrong with us. We found a Joseph coat of the many colors of God's love with the blood of Christ all over it. We found hugs, encouragement, peace, righteousness. Most of all, we got to see Jesus. We're taking earthen vessels full of treasure, lots of encouragement, hope, the great love that the body of Christ has. Also, we won't forget the jalapeñas.

We came wondering what Kairos was all about and found true blessings. We found incredible amounts of love. Those letters were unbelievable, the love indescribable. We're taking a new-found Spirit of Christ from the outside team members and love that has grown. I've always known hate and anger till now. This was a truly indescribable blessing.

God arranged the tables exactly like He wanted. Some of us were drug here, were angry and didn't want to come back. Some were distrusting, feeling need, pain, loneliness, with walls. We found lots of love, hugs, letters, hugs. Now we have people down the hall we can go to. We hope to open doors. We found joy and sincerity. We're taking Christ on the inside, the real Jesus, a forgiving, alive Jesus, and answers to important questions.

We were all in different places spiritually. Some knew God a little, some were more spiritual. Some came like a doubting Thomas, some doubting the brothers. We found tremendous sharing – almost overwhelming sharing. We all know now what God looks like. We made friends, found a safe haven. We found so much love. It's real punishment here, but healing has started. We're taking the knowledge that we're not alone. We came from terrible backgrounds, but we can change. We're taking a positive message and a picture to help us remember, even in prison. Some just have to have everything taken away and hit bottom to wake up. We had a wake up call here.

Some came in good condition because of Bible study. Some were about to go down the drain, wondering who is God. We found love, sharing, acceptance, structure for our lives, direction. We're taking renewed strength to continue our Christian walk and knowledge of how much love there is in this world. My hugger is working overtime.

Some came strong, some weak. Some lacked understanding or faith. We found a lot: love, sharing, caring, hugs, strength, joy, direction – that there's only one way: through God almighty and fellowship. We're taking this gift to pass it on – to respect our brothers. We're going to show the light of God in each of us back in the cells and brothers to share with in my unit. We have the knowledge that we can function as a body, not just solo. We're all grateful for this

Kairos. It's very special to me. Sometimes I can't hold it – it just floods out through my tears.

I found a piece of heaven in this hell. I didn't know I'd find the face of Jesus here. I thank God for you.

I learned a lot. I was born again in 1988, and have been backsliding ever since. There weren't many Christians around to help me. I forgave that Christian brother who drove me away. I flushed all that unforgiveness down the toilet last night.

This has been a marvelous four days that brought me closer to God. I found a new family here – my family is in Mexico. These four days I could forget that I was in prison. A guard asked why I was smiling. I said I was just happy because I'm going to Kairos. I learned many things. When I get out, I want to teach my wife and children about God.

I brought lots of anger and hatred. When I put that paper in that water, all that dissolved. I found love, especially in those letters. I saw brothers crying while we were reading them. God blessed us so abundantly with the Holy spirit.

I was with the Lord for years, but a doubting Thomas. I found so much love from the brothers outside and inside. I had bitterness in my heart, but God's helping with that.

I came with a weak heart. I had put the Lord on the back shelf – What's he done for me? Now I know He died for me and I have a chance for eternal life.

I thought this would be just some boring religious lectures. I came and saw the body of Christ. This is what Jesus wants us to do (hugging his table family), to love one another.

I've been "asleep" ever since I got to prison and put on these green pajamas (inmate uniform) – just ate, went to work, back to my cell.... This weekend woke me up. These can be dangerous men. I believe we made the choice to change this weekend. I won't be sleepwalking anymore, though I'll still be wearing the green pajamas.

There are no words to express the love I see in your faces. Like that song, I was "seeking love in all the wrong places". I never thought I'd find it in prison, but I did.

Then the Associate Warden spoke to the men, telling them the joke about a man who fell off of a very high cliff and finally grabbed on to a branch. When he yelled for help, a voice answered, "Let go." He yelled again. The voice said again, "Let go. This is God." After a moment, the man cried out, "Is anybody else up there?" Then the Warden told the men that, "No, there isn't. God's the only one up there to help you."

"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.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

"God's Special Time" is published quarterly at Colorado Springs, CO. Postmaster: Please send all address changes to P. O. Box 25004, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5004.

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

KAIROS KALENDAR —

	Fall 1998		Spring 1999	
Fremont	#32	<i>completed</i>	#33	March
Women	#29	Oct 15-18	#30	April
Delta	#14	Oct 22-25	#15	April
Territorial	#26	Nov 19-22	#27	May

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

+++++

OUTSIDE WEEKEND INFORMATION

- Walk to Emmaus, east: Jim Lollar, 303-65559-6108
- Walk to Emmaus, west: Janet Keenan, 970-963-1030
- Cath Cursillo, Den: Fransisco Mondragon, 303-429-3464
- Cath Cursillo, Colo Spgs: Dan Furzi, 719-392-8404
- Episcopal Cursillo, east: Marge Humphrey, 303-973-5448
- Episcopal Cursillo, west: Jan Smith, 970-325-4409
- Via de Cristo, Lutheran: Mark Carnes, 303-924-7192
- Koinonia of Colorado: Cindy Swindell, 970-203-1665

*Please pray about sponsoring
Kairos team prospects.*

COLORADO DISTRICT BOARD

PRESIDENT:	Dave Tillack	303-753-1529
VICE PRESIDENT:	Jack Burson	303-499-3024
SECRETARY:	Donna Wood	970-686-1158
TREASURER:	Jim Strub	719-634-2821
NATIONAL REP:	Art Wise	303-526-9038
SPIRITUAL DIR:	Bishop Bill Davidson	970-667-7274
SPIRITUAL DIR:	Rev. Bill Cooper	970-407-1520
SUPPLIES:	Paul Garcia	303-433-3115
TRAINING:	Ken Grosse	719-598-3508
FACILITY COORDINATORS:		
WOMEN:	Gerri Quintana	303-469-9667
FREMONT:	Dick Evans	719-597-6726
TERRITORIAL:	Norm Fritzler	719-597-7205
DELTA:	Bill Bennett	970-626-3855

Editors: Jim and Peggy Strub

TEAM TRAINING —

Having well-trained team members is a vital element in the success of a Kairos Weekend and all aspects of Kairos Continuing Ministry.

Ken Grosse, our Training Coordinator, has organized a leadership training session for November 13 and 14. The session will begin on Friday evening and continue through Saturday. It will be held at the John Wesley Ranch near Divide, CO.

This training is mandatory for all Rectors, but many other volunteers will also benefit, as you can see by the list of topics to be covered.

- Observing Rector — not just a timekeeper
- Rector — involving both Observing and Advising Rectors
- Advising Rector — the continuity of the program.
- Relationship of Facility Coordinator to Rector
- Review of the Weekend Schedule
- Instructional Reunion
- Two-day Retreat
- Importance of team member commitment to residents during ongoing Kairos Continuing Ministry

The session includes the option of staying on for a mini retreat, to be led by Bishop Bill Davidson, one of our Board Spiritual Directors, starting Saturday evening and continuing on Sunday, Nov 15.

All or part of this valuable weekend, including both overnights and meals, is available for only \$25 per person. For further information, please contact Ken at home, 719-598-3508, or at work, 719-333-2311.

Come join us for great weekend!

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



NON PROFIT
ORGN
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLO. SPGS., CO
PERMIT #878

KAIROS OF COLORADO, INC.

P.O. Box 25004, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5004

"GOD'S SPECIAL TIME"
Volume 16 #3 Fall 1998

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HOUSE OF EMMANUEL

We have previously told our readers about the Christian Aftercare home in Denver which is operated by Joseph Mares, an ex-inmate who attended Kairos while he was in the Fremont Correctional Facility many years ago. Joseph also serves the Lord on many men's Kairos teams. We would like to share with you a recent update from him about House of Emmanuel.

What's happening at our house? I'm glad you asked. Since we last talked to you, House of Emmanuel has had several new residents come and go. It is such a joy and a blessing to see God at work in my brothers' lives when He remains first in their lives. With each new resident new challenges and new obstacles are met with much enthusiasm.

In the last three months we have had three men complete their stays here and one has stayed on as the house manager. God is so good! We are now preparing to receive five new residents before the end of the year.

We are extremely excited to take in all new residents but God has truly blessed House of Emmanuel with a Kairos graduate who is paroling to us after serving over twenty-two years in prison. Praise God!

House of Emmanuel is in its final stage of raising \$25,000 to meet a matching grant that will enable us to complete the construction of our brand new ten bedroom home that will give us the capability to assist thirty to forty more residents annually. God willing, we will be in our second home the first part of 1999.

By winter 1999 we will start our interview process for the first women residents who will have their own home. So, as you can see, God is on the move.

Pray for us, and better yet I invite all of you to come join in on the blessings. I encourage each of you to ask God how you might get involved. You know with God there is always more.

In closing, on behalf of all my brothers, "Thank you for coming to prison and visiting us."

For more information about House of Emmanuel you can write to Joseph at P. O. Box 19730, Denver, CO 80219.

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