

More about Wings in India

One of the villages visited by the Wings team in March was the Bommakka tribe. Wings was the first group to bring Christ to these Hindu people. It was really amazing to visit these primitive people who did not know Christ.

The Rev. Glory Dhas told us that the "Bommakka" or Thotty Nayakar people came from the north to settle in the State of Tamil Nadu about 350 years ago. In Salem there are more than 70 villages, but in other districts there are even more. They speak in Tami, but it is very barbarian, and they also they speak in Telugu.

Five years ago, Rev. Glory first visited them. He says, "I was surprised to see such a group in a developed region of our country. When I asked about Jesus, they said He may be in next village, but not here. They did not know the cross at all. I took two sticks and made a cross for them. Our vision is to bring this whole community into eternal life."

- ◆ They are barbarians and not really fully civilized.
- ◆ They only worship darkness and dark plays a big role in their lives. For instance, they have their weddings at midnight in dark jungle areas, when a girl attends puberty stage they keep her in dark for 7 days, most of the men do black magic in the burial grounds in night, and they hunt in the mountains at night.
- ◆ They said they wish to have their god's name, so all male names are Bommayan and all female names are Bommakka.
- ◆ Women do not wear a blouse because they are afraid that their god will 'give them itching'. They hide their body with a sari.
- ◆ Children were not allowed to go to school until 5 years back because in schools they need to be given different names. (Today boys generally have started to go school. The girls usually do not.)
- ◆ Children as young as 5 or 6 become engaged to be married and sometimes live together.
- ◆ Traditional music and dances are their entertainment.
- ◆ Ladies in this community are not allowed to take food in hotels or other houses.
- ◆ Anyone who marries non-Bommakka is sent out from the villages and cannot return or communicate with villagers.
- ◆ A women can allow anyone to her bed. If a husband knows that his wife sleeps with anybody he will go away from the house for several hours and then come back.
- ◆ They do not arrange a wedding for just for one couple; usually at least 10 couples marry at a time.

For more information on Rev. Glory Dhas and Motherland Missionary Movement visit www.jmhammm.com.



Tribal singing and dancing



Women grinding grain together

Your Wings Board has been busy addressing the exciting issues raised by the awesome expansion of the ministry throughout the US and even potentially overseas. Revision of the ByLaws is underway. A dedicated group of board members updated the Wings Ministry Action Plan, which you can view at <http://www.wingsministry.org>.

New *Affiliate Guidelines* are being written. Wings Roswell, Wings Tennessee, Wings Las Cruces and Wings Ohio all have their own webpage now with calendars of upcoming events.

The board is also reviewing plans for mission trips and clarifying the vision of Wings as we look forward. You can see photos of many of your current board members on the web at <http://www.wingsministry.org/BoardMembers.htm>.

The Board is delighted to announce that we have received a grant from United Way of Central NM in the amount of \$851 to purchase equipment for Wings' use.

OPERATION STARTING LINE



Wings has become an *Associate Collaborator* with Operation Starting Line (OSL). OSL is a ministry of Prison Fellowship that links the resources of collaborating Christian organizations with believers from local churches to saturate prisons with the message of Christ's forgiveness and power. Over time, with specially-developed materials, trained volunteers disciple, teach, and mentor to spiritual maturity prisoners who commit their lives to Christ. Some will focus on ministry to the families of prisoners, and others will assist ex-prisoners with aftercare needs and issues.

Prison Fellowship Ministries has been developing an in-prison evangelistic program since 1991. OSL developed out of one ex-prisoner's vision of Billy Graham preaching the gospel to all prisoners in America simultaneously. Out of that vision developed a once-a-lifetime collaboration between Christian ministries and the local church which has become Operation Starting Line.

Having made a commitment to Christ at the event, the new-believer prisoner is then helped to reorder priorities, learn basic spiritual disciplines, and function as a believer in the church-behind-the-walls. Encouraged, taught and led by "outside" believers from local churches, these incarcerated Christians soon learn to depend on Christ in all areas of their life. A starting line is just that—the start of a marathon run through life with all its loops and bends, its smooth pavements and potholes. Through OSL, prisoners learn to come under a new "coach"—the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—Who alone can transform their hearts and set them free from bondage to sin and crime.

Operation Starting Line has partnered with Wings this summer for the Wings Party on August 12 in Ohio. We look forward to further collaboration elsewhere.

Goodman's Eye for the Good Guy Contest

Wings Ministry was honored to have been nominated as a "Good Guy" in Goodmans Interior Structures 2006 contest. Even though we did not win this year, we will try again next time they have the Eye for the Good Guy Contest. Wings Ministry was **first in the popular vote**, thanks to all of you who diligently voted every day! We pray that by next year we will have office space to be remodeled when we win! Here are just a few of the wonderful comments from around the world shared with Goodmans:



◆ *Ann's words and actions through her Wings Ministry for the past eleven years are clear demonstrations that she is committed to making a difference for the long haul in the lives of children with incarcerated parents. Ann's compassionate heart and organizational networking skills provide a very important resource to our community in its desire to not forget the "forgotten victims of crime".*

Homer Gonzales—NM Corrections Department Coordinator of Faith-Based Programs

◆ *Wings Ministry removes the stigma and shame that family members feel when their loved ones are incarcerated.*

Rev. Pablo R. Diaz—VP of Ministries, Guideposts Magazine

◆ *Wings Ministry is a very important ministry to the 850 residents of Penitentiary of New Mexico who look forward to it every year.*

Andy Dimas, Chaplain—Santa Fe, NM

◆ *Dear Rev. Ann, I am glad to inform you almost everyday we are voting for you.*

Rev. Glory Dhas—Salem, INDIA

◆ *Jan and I are praying for God's mercy and provision in your life and in His blessings through "Wings". In a democracy each vote counts. Yet it is better if God nods His head in approval.*

Dale and Jan—Khabarovsk, Russian Far East

◆ *The message of the Wings Ministry is that incarceration attacks, diminishes the basic fabric of society...the family. The Wings Ministry provides a unique opportunity to convert this attack into a spiritual awakening. This message resonates in New Mexico, in New Jersey, in the United States and throughout the world. It is a message of hope, of love and of redemption.*

Bud Scully, Community Partnership Coordinator—NJ Probation and Parole Board

Visit our website: <http://www.wingsministry.org> to view all the comments.

New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy

The New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy (the NG is capitalized to reference their affiliation with the National Guard) provides alternative Education in a quasi-Military environment for High School dropouts 16-18 years of age. It is a preventive rather than remedial at-risk youth program that targets participants who are unemployed, drug-free and law-free high-school dropouts. Experienced Military Staff provide cadets with training and guidance. Cadets learn self discipline and motivational skills which will reward them through the remainder of their adult lives.

The mission of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth to produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.

Core components of the program are:

- citizenship
- academic excellence (GED/high school diploma attainment)
- life-coping skills
- service to community
- health and hygiene
- job skills training
- leadership/followership
- and physical training.

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is one of the most successful programs designed to serve at-risk youth. Over 62,000 corpsmembers have graduated from 30 programs in the past 12 years. At this time there are 30 ChalleNGe programs in 25 states and Puerto Rico.

Wings Ministry has teamed up with New Mexico Youth ChalleNGe Academy to have a Wings Party for the cadets in Roswell, New Mexico every semester. The next party will be held on August 13. Cadets also have the opportunity to attend Wings for L.I.F.E. all semester.



Shelly Currier and a Youth ChalleNGe/Wings participant.



Animated discussion in Roswell at a Wings for L.I.F.E. Youth ChalleNGe meeting.



Teens getting to know one another. Building relationships between teens and adults is an important component of both Wings for L.I.F.E. and Youth ChalleNGe.

Wings for L.I.F.E.

Life-skills for Inmate Families & Education



VISION: Imparting Life-skills for Inmate Families & Education
WHO: Inmate Family Members & Former Inmates
WHAT: Discussion, Mentoring, Empowerment, Support



In Las Cruces

WHEN: Twice a Month-Tuesdays 6-8 PM

WHERE: Holy Cross Catholic Church
 1327 N. Miranda, Las Cruces, NM

CONTACT: Olga Granado
 (505) 524-1746, OlgaGranado@WingsMinistry.org

DATES

August 8 Sept. 12 Oct. 10 Nov. 14
 August 22 Sept. 26 Oct. 24 Nov. 28

Wings for Life Christmas Party, December 19



In Albuquerque

WHEN: Twice a Month-Sundays 6:30—8PM

WHERE: Catholic Center—Sandia Room
 4000 St. Josephs Place, NW, Albuquerque, NM

(I-40 W to N Coors, right on St. Josephs Place to Catholic Center—by St. Pius High School)

CONTACT: Ann Edenfield Sweet
 (505) 291-6412, AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org

DATES

August 6 Sept. 24 Oct. 29 Dec. 3
 Sept. 10 Oct. 8 Nov. 12

Wings Back-To-School Party, August 26, Destiny Center (see back page)

Wings Christmas Party, December 9, Holy Family Catholic Church Archbishop Michael Sheehan will be in attendance



In Roswell

WHEN: Twice a month—Sundays 6:30-8PM

WHERE: St. Peter's Catholic Church
 113 E. Deming, Roswell, NM

CONTACT: Shelly Carrier
 (505) 317-2042, ShellyCarrier@WingsMinistry.org

DATES Aug. 20 Oct. 1 Nov. 5
 Sept. 10 Oct. 15 Nov. 19

Youth Challenge Wings Party: Aug. 13

Roswell Correctional Facility Wings Party: Oct. 7

Beginning in Tennessee

CONTACT: MaryAnn Gay
 (931) 474-3732, MaryAnnGay@WingsMinistry.org



Wings for L.I.F.E. Mission Statement:

Building relationships with families, probationers, and former inmates through discussion, mentoring, empowerment, and support by:

- ◆ Teaching life-skills and addressing unique needs of family members of incarcerated individuals,
- ◆ Strengthening families by building Search Institute'sSM 40 Developmental AssetsTM and,
- ◆ Mobilizing and networking community stakeholders to identify and reach families in need. Stakeholders include congregations, Corrections, school systems, the Justice System, and community programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters.

www.WingsMinistry.org

The Wings Ministry is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Christ's unconditional love shared with all families of prisoners.

Vision:

Wings Ministry

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PERMIT NO 68

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WINGS BACK-TO-SCHOOL PARTY

Saturday, August 26, 2006

2:00 – 4:00 Set-up Party 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Destiny Center 792-7999

2003 Southern Blvd SE Suite 132, Rio Rancho, NM

1-25 N, exit W. Alameda Blvd (SR-528) cross the river, take ramp (right) onto SR-528 (Coors Blvd Byp NW 2.2 mi) turn left W. onto Meadowlark Lane SE, road changes to Southern Blvd SW, go 2.2 mile.

Fun for the whole family!

Games - Crafts - Singing - Dinner - FUN!

Special Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors:
Guideposts Magazine - Zanios Foods



It is fun getting ready for a Wings party. Volunteers pitch in before last year's Back-To-School Wings Party. During the party it's fun to make friends and create crafts.

WISH LIST

- Office space for Wings
- Volunteer office assistance
- Mentors/tutors for children & youth
- Yarn, plastic knitting needles & plastic crochet hooks
- Computer for Las Cruces
- Digital & Overhead projector
- Arts and crafts, toys, games, books and magazines, & musical instruments for prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities
- Toddler toys, 2 plastic tables & 8 plastic chairs for toddler visits to MDC in Albuquerque
- Colored and white paper, 8x11, 8x14, 11x17
- Small envelopes
- Computer and video equipment such as: Wireless microphones, audio mixer, multiplexor, walkie-talkies, lighting equipment