



The WINGS Flyer #7

Spreading our Wings

WINGS Ministry
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The WINGS Flyer Summer 2005

A SWEET FRAGRANCE

By Children's Judge John Romero, Jr.

Daily we are witness to heartbreak, tragedy, and despair. Some, only by virtue of the evening news or the morning paper. Others, such as law enforcement officers, health care providers, criminal justice professionals, and social workers rub elbows with the fragile and helpless humanity directly impacted by life's blows.

WINGS volunteers are among those who frequently come face-to-face with parents and children who are on the receiving end of misperceptions and outright bias simply because a loved one is incarcerated. Many in our society are quick to judge and condemn, yet unwilling to walk a few steps in the other person's shoes.

WINGS offers an opportunity not only to walk with, but also to extend your hand and heart to those who are in need of uplifting. The experience of the recent Wings Back-To-School Party underscores the value and joy of putting a sparkle in a child's eyes and a smile on a mother's face.

WINGS volunteers are servants who through

their actions demonstrate the love and compassion of our Heavenly Father. We are God's instruments of hope and encouragement. Yet we must give thanks to God for the opportunity to be used by Him. 2 Corinthians 2:14 says it best:

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.

WINGS is an opportunity to bless others with hope, encouragement, and God's love. But, as God would have it, in blessing others, we are doubly blessed.

Springer Boys School Wings Party—July 16, 2005



1) Chaplain
Jake McLeroy

2) Tracey &
Tim Meisenheimer & Jake

3) Wings'
"Family Photo
Team" & Gerry
Ward, Springer
Staff



Wings for L.I.F.E.

Life-skills for Inmate Families & Education
Catholic Center— Sandia Room

4000 St. Josephs Place, NW

St. Pius High School

I-40 W to N Coors, right on St. Josephs Place to Catholic Center

Sundays 6:30—8:00 PM Albuquerque

Sept. 11 **Tough Love – Loving a Child in Prison**; Lisa Harmon

Sept. 25 **Basic Cents**; Tracey Meisenheimer

Oct. 9 **A View from the Bench**; Judge John Romero, Jr.

Oct. 23 **ABQ "Make a Difference Day"**; Comm. Outreach

Nov. 6 **Holidays & Family Traditions**; Ann Edenfield Sweet

Nov. 20 **Time Together – Building Family**

Strengths; Dick Long

Dec. 11 **Everything You Never Wanted to Have to Know about Probation/Parole**; Darryl Rice, P/P Director

Upcoming Dates & Events:

- ◆Sept. 12—Centerforce Convention—San Francisco
- ◆Sept. 17— Santa Rosa Prison Wings Party
- ◆Sept. 22-25—Guideposts National Advisory Cabinet Meeting—Houston, TX
- ◆Sept. 28-30—NM Criminal Justice Association Convention—Angel Fire, NM
- ◆Oct. 15—Youth Challenge Wings Party—Roswell, NM
- ◆Oct. 22—Wings Board Retreat—Albuquerque
- ◆Nov. 5—Springer Boys School Wings Party—Springer, NM
- ◆Nov. 21—Guideposts Thanksgiving Day of Prayer—Pawling, NY
- ◆Dec. 3—Christmas Party Southeastern Correctional Facility—Lancaster, OH
- ◆Dec. 10—ABQ Christmas Party, Holy Family Catholic Church
- ◆Jan. 31—American Correctional Association (ACA) Convention—Nashville, TN

Website Updates:

- ◆2005 Calendar of events
- ◆Invitations to upcoming parties to download for church groups & guests
- ◆New photos
- ◆American Jail Association—Article March/April 2005 Issue
- ◆Past newsletters

First Marriage Seminar Held in Prison

Southeastern Correctional Facility, Lancaster, Ohio



L to R — Marriage Seminar team members: Bruce Bridgham, Teresa Bridgham, Ann Edenfield Sweet, Doug Sweet, Jorge Rossi, & Kathy Rossi.

By Ann Edenfield Sweet

I was very excited to be given an opportunity to lead my first marriage seminar for 20 inmates and their wives at the Southeastern Correctional Facility in Lancaster, OH July 29-30, 2005. The title of the 2-day seminar was **Marriage & Incarceration: Keeping Love Alive**.

I was blessed to have my new husband Doug, a pastor, help with this workshop, along with four Prison Fellowship volunteers Bruce and Teresa Bridgham and Jorge and Kathy Rossi, and the caring and dedicated **Prison Chaplain Bill Akridge** who said:

"Thank you for providing the leadership for our Marriage Seminar held July 29 – 30, 2005 at Southeastern Correctional Institution. Your combination of sharing your personal experience as to how you dealt with your husband's incarceration and your sense of caring for those attending the seminar communicated a positive message of hope that a marriage can indeed survive incarceration.

*Your presentation exemplified Henri Nouwen's thesis of his book, **The Wounded Healer**, in that we should not waste the pain in our own life but that we should use it for the redemptive purpose of helping others.*

I would enthusiastically recommend your Marriage Seminar to any prison that is interested in the welfare of inmates and their families, not only during incarceration, but also after the inmates have gone home. Your sharing and handout on "Homecoming" has been mentioned as especially helpful.

Thank you again for helping to make our Marriage Seminar a huge success."

The wives were all given copies of my book, **Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One**. One inmate's words that particularly touched me were, "Our loved ones are often the most affected by the crimes we have committed...The opportunity to attend the seminar and interact with my wife, discussing issues that we have truly been searching for the answer to, was the most encouraging and uplifting experience I have been able to be involved in while at this institution...I truly feel these seminars are beneficial in the strengthening of the marriage commitment and the hope that future seminars will be endorsed to open new avenues of reassuring rehabilitation to inmates who otherwise may not receive the counseling required to help maintain a healthy relationship with their wives and children."

Please contact me if you would like more information about marriage seminars in a prison. Ann Edenfield Sweet—1-505-291-6412.

Special THANKS to all our donors!

Wings can accept United Way contributions from anywhere in the U.S. as well as all gifts including property, stocks, jewelry, & vehicles.

We are thankful for the recent gifts of donated used vehicles from:

Dr. Sameer Roy, MD

Optihealth Inc.

&

LaVonna and Buff Ohnhaus

The proceeds will help fund future Wings events.

Volunteers are needed for upcoming parties—

Santa Rosa—Sept. 17

Youth Challenge—Oct. 15

Springer Boys School—Nov. 5

Southeastern Correctional Facility—Lancaster, Ohio
Dec. 3

Christmas Party—Dec. 10
Albuquerque

Imprisoned Geographies

Dutch Researchers Choose New Mexico & Wings Ministry

The Wings Ministry was pleased to host geographer Inge Noback for five weeks this summer while she was in New Mexico conducting a case study within a prison system in the United States. The study is part of a wider project led by Dr. Bettina van Hoven, a cultural geographer from the Faculty of Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. For this project, studies are being done in The Netherlands, the United States, and Germany. Dr. van Hoven was on maternity leave so Inge was employed as her research assistant to prepare and conduct interviews with inmates, family members, and staff at the Los Lunas Correctional Facility near Albuquerque.

Geographers are curious about special places and what people think/feel/know about them. Because prisons are confined places structured by rules and regulations, they are an interesting place to study. Inge was especially interested in the experiences of the inmates, family members, and staff, and what it means for them to be incarcerated, to have a loved one in prison, or to work there. Inge also examined opportunities and limitations of prison architecture and use of space in achieving correctional aims and objectives.

To conduct this study Inge and Dr. van Hoven visited the 2005 American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference in Phoenix to get acquainted with the people working in corrections and learn more about the American correctional system. One of the workshops they attended was led by Ann Edenfield and Joe Williams, NM Secretary of Corrections. With the help of the Wings Ministry and the NM Corrections Department they had the opportunity to get a unique insight into the American prison system from the perspective of inmates and their families. Inge also found the Wings Ministry experiences with inmates and their families a useful and stimulating resource for their project.



1) L to R—Secretary of Corrections Joe Williams; Helen Carr, NM Corrections Family Services Director; & Inge Noback



2) Inge helping with crafts



3) Inge eating pizza with inmates



4) Inge with family members receiving Guideposts sweaters & magazines

ABQ Back-To-School Party
 Cross of Hope Lutheran 8/25/05

**1st Wings Party Held at
 Roswell Correctional Center
 Roswell, NM**

June 25, 2005 FATHER'S Day Party



Hockey



There were 62 inmates and their family members who attended the first Wings Party at the Roswell Correctional Facility. Dozens of volunteers from numerous churches and many different denominations came from Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Roswell, Artesia, Dexter, and The Netherlands (Holland). There were also 20+ prison staff in attendance. A church van transported 3 volunteers and 6 family members to the party from Albuquerque. For some of the family members it was their first visit to see their loved one in prison. (See 3 photos below.) ↓

- 1) The WHOLE family!
- 2) Games & new friends.
- 3) Look at all the new "band members"!
- 4) GREAT pizza & look at that necklace!
- 5) Secretary of Corrections Joe Williams enjoying pizza with volunteers & guests.



- 1) Families & new Guideposts sweaters & books
- 2) Look at those hats!
- 3) New friends





Roswell Wings Party 6/25/05

1. Florence Spohn, 96 years young & our oldest Wings volunteer to date, helps Father Bob Tally with music.
2. Photo frames for family photos.
3. Father Bob Tally & the inmate band members.
4. Deputy Warden Bill Hendrix thanking families & volunteers. THANKS to Bill for his support!
5. "Prodigal Son" Bible study & the cutest little pigs!
6. New Father's Day outfits designed by creative family members & friends!



God's Words

by Jay Anthony Zoccoli, Roswell Correctional Center

Love one another, while you still can,
That's why we're put here on Earth, that's God's plan...

God created us, just like Him,
God created us, not to sin...

Don't try to change God's words, to fit your own needs,
Jesus had to die on the cross, suffer, and bleed...

So obey God's words, and truly believe,
He'll send you the Holy Spirit, to dwell in your heart.

Then you'll be blessed, with a brand new start,
Give God all the glory, give Jesus the win, then you'll begin.



www.WingsMinistry.org

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

E-mail: AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org

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

Wings Ministry

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WINGS WISH LIST

- Website maintenance
- Paper shredder
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- Digital and Overhead projector
- Portable sound system
- Donations to the Wings Foundation —
- Selling property, stocks, cars or bonds?
- We can show you how to save money on taxes & help Wings!
- Arts & crafts, toys, games, books & magazines, & musical instruments for prisons, jails, & juvenile facilities
- Yarn, plastic knitting needles & plastic crochet hooks—for inmates to knit sweaters for Guideposts Magazine
- Buy **Family Arrested** books for inmates & family members
- \$50 feeds pizza to 40 people
- Colored & white paper—(11x17 & 8.5x11) — Small envelopes
- Mentors for children ages 6-18

Thanks!

We are thankful that so many family members and friends could join us in celebrating our joyous marriage in Albuquerque on July 2nd and in Danville, Ohio on July 31st.

Many generous contributions were made to the Wings Ministry in honor of our wedding and we are very appreciative of your love and support.



Ann Edenfield Sweet & Pastor Doug Sweet