Report from Kenya!

- We hosted 14 prison parties.
- We hosted 15 – 20 Wings Parties in schools/orphanages.
- We met & ministered to an estimated 15-20,000 people.
- We went to such remote places that we were the only white people that many people had seen in their lifetime.
- We went 2182 Kilometers, or 1,356 miles throughout Kenya. We especially thank our driver James for his safe driving. One day we drove 11 ½ hours from Meru to Kitale, through some of the roughest roads I’ve ever seen. James maneuvered potholes, indented pavement, dirt paths, cows, sheep, goats, chickens, motor bikes, people hauling bundles of sticks, produce, & a variety of items on their backs, wagons hauled by donkeys, & people everywhere.
- Major cities we visited were Nairobi, Meru, Nakuru, Kitale, Bungoma, Kisumu, Kisii, Homa Bay, & Migori.
- We went to cities that James, our driver, had never been to in his professional driving career since 1972.
- We met the most amazing inmates in every prison. We were always greeted in song by the inmates before we even started our party. Prison Chaplains/Duty Officers & staff always greeted us, & each time I was surprised by the faith expressed and the support & positive attitudes they had towards the inmates.
- The Kenyans we met were people of faith. It showed in their words & actions, and we were blessed to meet such lovely people.
- We were treated like honored guests everywhere we went. We were humbled by their love & caring.
- We deeply thank team member Amy Nelson who planned & coordinated the trip. Amy did a wonderful job and without her organizational skills the trip wouldn’t have happened.
- Lastly, THANKS to Wings Kenya Mission Team Members Cathy Pfefferle, Deney Perkins, Elaine Clark, & Amy Nelson who were caring, sensitive, fun, dedicated women of faith. They carried 50# suitcases up 66 stairs to our rooms. They traveled 50+ hours each way to Kenya & back without complaint. They went most days without lunch & ate snack bars & ramen noodles when our nights went so late that basically all we wanted to do was crawl into bed. They boiled water, took cold showers, bounced on roads that could make the most seasoned traveler sick, & laughed and took it all in stride. Even the Kenyan pastors praised us for our strength & fortitude. I’m SO proud to call each of the women dear friends & the most wonderful ambassadors for Wings Ministry!

In time I’ll get photo collages completed from each of the sites we visited. I hope you will continue to visit our website at www.WingsMinistry.org for updates. I took 2900+ photos alone on my camera, and the other team members took many photos too.

Thanks to everyone for your prayers. We felt them.

In His love,
Ann Edenfield Sweet, Wings Mission Team Leader
These are just a few of the thousands of photos that we took in Kenya. To see more photos & stories visit: https://www.wingsministry.org/International/International.htm.

SPECIAL THANKS to all our donors and sponsors.

Special thanks to:
• Seed and Light Ministry—25# seeds
• Faith Comes by Hearing—Hosanna Proclaimer for prison
• Blessings International—Medicines
• Guideposts—Devotionals & Books
Boxes of gifts—Seeds, devotionals, medicines, Proclaimer, crayons, etc.
I take a lot of pictures and put many in newsletters because I think the real stories are told in the photos. We see the faces and expressions, costumes, crafts, hugs, and interaction between people.

The photo to the left shows “spoon hangers” getting ready to hang a spoon on their nose. Winning the “Spoon Hanging Award” is silly, but so much fun, and brings recognition to someone who may otherwise never be recognized as a “CHAMP!”

Every photo here, or on our website, happens because of volunteers and donors who support Wings. The donors listed to the right, along with all the OSL collaborators (Operation Starting Line), Prison Fellowship, and Guideposts Magazine, are just a few of the sponsors who help support every prison party Wings hosts and every Wings for L.I.F.E. meeting.

I have the most blessed job, for I not only get to meet and work with so many loyal and dedicated volunteers and sponsors, but I get to meet inmates, their loved ones, and many caring people in corrections. We bring hope—laughter—reunite families who often have never honestly communicated with one another or had fun together. Often it is at a Wings Party they families pray together for the very first time with loved ones.

Every party we host we type up all the comments and we also create photo collages from each party. Often, the photos are the only ones a family has with an incarcerated loved one. To see and read more visit: http://www.wingsministry.org/Photos.php

12th Wings Valentine’s Party
Grants Women’s Prison
Grants, NM
2-9-13

Thanks to our Sponsors
Archie Archuleta Designs
Brycon Construction
Central United Methodist Church
Cornerstone Roofing
Cross of Hope Lutheran Koinonia
Don Chalmers Ford
First National Bank of Santa Fe
Four Humours Healthcare
Gary Marques
General Mills
Help-NM
High Noon Restaurant & Saloon
KFLQ 91.5 FM
McCune Foundation
Nicolas C. Nellos Memorial Fund for at-risk Children of the Albuquerque Community Foundation
PayDay, Inc.
PNM
Rotary Club Del Norte Foundation
Second Presbyterian Church
Starline Printing
St. Steven’s United Methodist
Thad Porch & Associates CPA
Trinity United Methodist Church
United Way of Central NM
Zanios, Jim, Patsy & family
Over the years Wings has received many thank you cards but the one below was recently received from a Grandpa who participated in the Santa Rosa Wings Prison Party on March 2, 2013. The simple poem tells it all—the father had not seen his 2 girls in 10 years. The girls really were not interested in visiting their dad but last year their Grandpa had attended the Wings Party and knew that it would be something special for his granddaughters and his incarcerated son. They consented; they went; and they were so happy they did. They did not expect a party where they could actually talk, visit, eat and laugh together and reconnect with their father.

Bible Trivia: How much time did Jonah spend in the belly of the whale?

Three days and three nights.

Support Wings Ministry & Wings for L.I.F.E. Programs

Wings is constantly finding new ways to empowering youth and families. Please help us make 2013 a GREAT year by a one-time gift or through monthly donations. Thank you!
An estimated 375+ guests and volunteers showed up to help and attend the Wings Christmas Party that was held at Sandia Valley Church of the Nazarene, December 8, 2012.

Wings had scheduled the 16th Annual Christmas Party there but unfortunately there had been a fire in their sanctuary so there was no space to hold the party. Now the sanctuary had been rebuilt and was a lovely place to hold the party. Pastor Fred Rodriguez and Associate Pastor Randy Paul and his wife helped in many ways to make this party successful.

Gifts were donated by many people and groups. The Four Hills Neighborhood Women’s Association 250+ members hosted their annual Christmas Party just in time to collect hundreds of gifts for our Wings families.


The New Yorker magazine wrote a profile on the Nashville comedian, Brad Stine, and referred to him as “God’s Comic” and I believe everyone in attendance would agree.

The “entrance fee” was a new toy for the children who would attend the Wings Christmas Party the following day. Several hundred people attended this concert and the truck was full of balls, dolls, stuffed animals, board games, and many more wonderful toys for the children. Thanks to the New Covenant Church for hosting this concert and for their volunteers who helped in so many ways. Pastor Paul and his wife from Sandia Valley Church of the Nazarene drove their church truck to pick up the donations.


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Wardens Duffey shocks Ann with a $1000 donation from inmates!
Upcoming Prison & Wings Parties

Donations of cookies, paper supplies, crafts and money for pizza are appreciated for all parties!

04-13-13 Tennessee Prison for Women – Nashville, TN
05-18-13 Women’s Recovery Academy – Albuquerque, NM
06-08-13 Solid Rock Church, Crownpoint – Navajo Nation
06-15-13 Lorain Correctional Institute – Grafton, OH
06-20-13 Grafton Correctional Institute – Camp – Grafton, OH
08-10-13 Albuquerque Back-To-School Party – Christ the King Anglican
08-17-13 Denver Prison for Women – Denver, CO
09-21-13 The Farm – Los Lunas, NM
11-02-13 Springer Correctional Facility – Springer, NM
12-07-13 Southeastern Correctional Institute – Lancaster, OH

Meet the Wings Staff

Starting with this newsletter we will introduce you to our Wings Staff, one at a time. This issue you’ll meet Debbie Diaz. Her official title is “Office Coordinator” but in reality she is the “Go-to-Person” for almost everything.

After reading an article in the Albuquerque Journal, Debbie decided to attend a Wings for L.I.F.E. Monday night meeting. She was so impressed with the high energy that was displayed and the love and understanding that were offered that evening that when a Wings job opening became available four years ago, Debbie applied in a heart-beat and was hired.

She doesn’t hide the fact that she has a brother who is incarcerated. With the strong support system that Wings offers, Debbie believes families who have relatives or loved ones in prison can be more honest among themselves and their community. Overcoming the stigmatism that is associated with incarceration and prison is so important.

Debbie has three children and three grandchildren, enjoys working with arts and crafts, and something you may not know—she has a twin sister!

The Spotlight is on Wings Ministry

18th Anniversary Banquet
Friday, May 3, 2013
St. John’s United Methodist church, 2626 Arizona St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87

Silent Auction will begin at 5 pm—Program & Dinner 6 to 9 pm. Tickets: Early Bird Special $20 till April 15 then $25. Please call 505-291-6412 to become a Table Sponsor and/or if you have items to donate for the Auction!

EXCITING NEWS:
The Silent Auction will offer Prison Art to bid on!

2013 Prison Art Dates for NM:

April 5 — Paradise Hills Community Center
5901 Paradise Blvd. NW - Albuquerque

June 7 — Los Vecinos Community Center
478 ½ NM 333 - Tijeras, NM 87059

Aug. 2 — Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center
9800 4th St. NW - Albuquerque

Oct. 4 — Vista Grande Community Center
#15 La Madera Rd. - Sandia Park, NM 87047

Prison Art

Albuquerque’s Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) invites you to an exciting opportunity to view and purchase one-of-a-kind pieces of art from the Paño Connection ARTSHOW. You will be amazed at the talent from prisoners and returning citizens on display.

Wings Ministry is proud to be part of this worthwhile project. We can use donations for art supplies that include: Bic Cristal Bold Ball Point Pens (assorted colors), colored pencils, artist paper, white poster board, and also white cotton material for paños.

Please call 505-291-6412 for more information in learning how you can help and/or participate with the MDC Art Collection project.

Great music
Family & new friends
Crafts: Cheerio necklaces, cards
Spoon Hanging Contest & FUN

Hours:
4-8 pm

Upcoming Prison & Wings Parties

Donations of cookies, paper supplies, crafts and money for pizza are appreciated for all parties!

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Volunteers are needed for all prison parties.

Security clearances are required usually 4-6 weeks before the date of the party.
Christ's unconditional love shared with all families of prisoners.

**Spring 2013**

Find us on Facebook at Wings-Ministry

www.WingsMinistry.org

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**WISH LIST**

1. Food for Wings for L.I.F.E.
2. Storage area—empty garage?
3. Cookie bakers for parties and Wings for L.I.F.E.
4. Grant writers
5. Office help
6. HS/college student—Help/website
7. Desserts—Veggies—Salads

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**Now Available**

Wings for L.I.F.E. Leader’s Guide

Consider helping families of prisoners in your community. For congregations, community programs, corrections departments, etc. Order on-line www.WingsMinistry.org

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**Memorial & Designated Gifts**

Honor Loved Ones

One of the many ways that our ministry partners can honor a loved one or reflect the care that a loved one displayed during his or her lifetime is to make a Memorial Gift to Wings Ministry. We appreciate these gifts and wish to acknowledge them and the loved ones on whose behalf they were given.

In honor of: Barbara Ellena
By Gerald & Susie Biehl

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**Wings Ministry**

Reunites Families & Restores Hope

**A child of a prisoner is faced with a daunting future.**

**Children of inmates have a 70% chance of ending up in prison themselves!**

**But this does not have to be!**

**Your gift can make a difference in the life of a child!**

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift for:

☐ $500  ☐ $250  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ Other $__________

☐ I would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities in my area.

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Wings Ministry is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization.
Wings accepts United Way & company matching fund contributions from anywhere in the U.S.

Thank You!

*Bureau of Justice Statistics