



UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

September 25, 2003

NM American Correctional State Convention – Ann presents a workshop on the Wings Ministry

October 4, 2003

Chillicothe, Ohio – Ann presents a day-long workshop on the Wings Ministry and FAMILY ARRESTED for chaplains from the 42 Ohio prisons, Ohio corrections department leaders, and congregational leaders

October 25, 2003

Search Institute's National Convention – Ann presents a workshop on the Wings Ministry

November 15, 2003

Las Cruces Wings Party - Sage LaTorra's Eagle Scout Project

Time and place TBA

December 13, 2003

Albuquerque Wings Christmas Party

December 20, 2003

Detroit Wings Christmas Party

January 12, 2004

New Orleans – National American Correctional Association Convention – NM Secretary of Corrections Joe Williams and Ann lead a workshop on the Wings Ministry

WINGS

Vol. 1 #1

Wings Ministry Newsletter

September, 2003

FAMILY ARRESTED NOW AVAILABLE

Ann Edenfield

Americana Publishing, Inc. published my book, **FAMILY ARRESTED: HOW TO SURVIVE THE INCARCERATION OF A LOVED ONE**, in November 2002. It took me 15 years to write and I had to go to work for the publisher to get it published. Therefore, it took me by surprise when my boss and CEO announced in June that after carrying it for six months, they would no longer do so. An agreement was reached where I purchased the remaining 3000+ print books and about 89 audiobooks. 5500 books were printed and 500 audiobooks published.

I couldn't imagine why I was so calm when I was told of this decision, but I just knew it would be a blessing. Several days later I shared with the Wings Board of Directors this decision and requested their help in selling the books. I now own all the rights for the book and can do anything with them that I wish.

Three days later I received an email from the American Correctional Association - ACA, saying, "Congratulations, we have decided to list your book in our next catalog." I was thrilled. I

quickly called their VP of Sales and discovered that over 83,000 catalogs were already in the mail! 24 hours later I got another email from Prison Fellowship. They indicated that they were creating a new manual for inmates that would soon be released. They wanted to include my book as a reference. They also notified me that were creating a new manual for inmate family members and wanted to list my book in this resource as well! I couldn't believe it! In less than a week of my book's release from Americana, new doors had opened! Four days later I was greatly honored to be nominated for two *Golden Headset Award Nominations for 2003* for my audiobook – *Best Read Book by an Author* and *Most Inspirational Book*. The winners will be announced November 1, 2003.

Now that I own the rights to my book, I can be very creative with sales, but I could use your help.

These books would be helpful for:

1. Pastors.
2. Church and community libraries.

3. Shelters, halfway houses, and prisons.

4. Books can be given to inmates and their family members.

5. Public defenders and attorneys will also find the book helpful, as **FAMILY ARRESTED** addresses many issues that attorneys do not deal – the issues family members encounter during incarceration and after the homecoming.

6. Tax deductible donations can be made to the Wings Ministry and books and/or audiobooks will be donated to the prison of your choice, or prisons, prisoners, or family members in need.

The reason the audiobook was produced is because over 50% of the inmates in U.S. prisons can't read. 15% of all Americans can't read and a much higher percentage of prisoners' family members can't read.

Please contact Ann Edenfield at: AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org about discount prices and bulk discounts.

DONORS SPECIAL THANKS!

Karen and Ed Bramlitt
Debbie Foster & Alf Reeb
Jim and Lisa Harmon
Tom and Joy Hayes
Wes Hubbard
Los Lunas Inmates –
Crossings Unit
Tim and Tracey
Meisenheimer
Maribel Mullins
Cathy Pfefferle

ANGEL “WINGS” FACES –

VP – Tracey Meisenheimer



Secretary - Cathy Pfefferle



Look for more ANGEL WINGS
FACES in future newsletters.

OUR WINGS ARE SPREADING...

Santa Fe

The first Wings Party in Santa Fe, NM was held on May 10, 2003. St. John's United Methodist Church hosted this special "Mother's Day Party". Guests came from Santa Fe and northern New Mexico. The youth praise band from St. John's provided the music and they sang uplifting, energetic songs. These teenagers provided positive leadership and we hope they will provide music for future Wings events.

Las Cruces

Sage LaTorra, a Boy Scout from Las Cruces, NM, plans to earn his Eagle Scout Badge by establishing the Wings Ministry in southern New Mexico! We can't imagine a more worthwhile project. Dates will be announced shortly.

Detroit

The first Wings Party in Detroit will be held Saturday, December 20, at St. James Catholic Church in Ferndale, Michigan. Beth LeAnnais is the Detroit Wings Director. Beth works with youth and adults from over 130 churches in the Detroit area. She also hopes to involve some of the thousands of families who receive meals from the Capuchin Kitchen in downtown Detroit. We know Beth will provide strong leadership for this Detroit Wings Chapter! A live nativity will be part of this first Wings event in Detroit.

Wings Events in Prisons

Ann Edenfield

Three Wings Parties/Events have been held in New Mexico Prisons at the invitation of the corrections department.

Los Lunas Minimum Restrict Facility Las Lunas, NM

The first ever Wings Party/Event in a prison was on October 19, 2002. Inmates from the Crossings Unit, a special Christian unit for



inmates, invited their family members to join them in this historic event. Chaplain Paul Collins led us in a providential Bible study – building our faith on a firm foundation. One of the most powerful comments from one of the inmates was, "The highlight of the party was having my family see me worship and pray to God for the first time!" He had become a Christian in prison and his wife and children had never seen him pray before. Everyone present that day had his or her lives forever touched in a special way. But we never dreamt that those inmates would touch the Wings Ministry even more profoundly.

A few weeks ago we received a call from Helen Carr, the NM Corrections Family Liaison Director. She had met with inmates from the Los Lunas Prison Crossings Division. The inmates had collected \$350 amongst themselves and they wanted to make a donation to an organization(s). Helen suggested several worthy organizations and yet when the men got back to her she said they had voted to donate all \$350 to the Wings Ministry!

This is a VERY large amount of money for inmates to donate, as inmates only earn \$.11 per hour. \$350 took at least 3,182 hours of labor, or if one inmate worked 8 hours per day it would have taken him 398 days to earn \$350! Those same 3,182 hours of labor at minimum wage of \$5.15/hour would have been equivalent to a gift of \$16,388.00! I was brought to tears by their generosity and

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Santa Fe Minimum Restrict Prison - Santa Fe, NM

A Father's Day Wings Party was held at the Santa Fe prison on Saturday, June 14. This was a wonderful day, filled with love, fellowship, food and fun. We are grateful to have been allowed this opportunity. Top officials from the New Mexico Corrections Department were there, including Secretary of Corrections Joe Williams. **Helen Carr, New Mexico Corrections Department Family Liaison Director**, was also in attendance and has this to say – "The Wings Ministry provides a tremendous support system for inmates and their families. By promoting 'family reunification', it helps to build and reinforce the existing family structure. Observing families participating in activities together has been overwhelming. It's amazing to see how a 'Wings' gathering can be so effective and bring so much happiness to everyone involved."

positive endorsement of the Wings Ministry. Apparently we have made a difference in their lives and they showed their belief and support of Wings through their generous donation!

On September 16, 2003, ten volunteers from the Wings Ministry Team in Albuquerque visited the men in the Los Lunas Minimum Restrict Crossings Unit. A photo collage was presented as a gift to the men in the unit. Warden Art Murphy accepted the photo on behalf of the men. The collage, featuring a photocopy of their #350 check and photos taken at the October 18, 2002 Wings Party, will be framed and permanently mounted in the Crossings Unit. It will serve as a reminder to future inmates that even though they are in prison, they can make positive choices that influence not only their loved ones but the community as well. Over a 100 dozen cookies were baked by Wings volunteers and cookies were distributed to every inmate and staff member at the prison.

Grants Women's Prison – Grants, NM

The Valentine's Day Wings Party/Event at the Women's Prison in Grants, NM was filled with love. For the first time ever, Wings volunteers drove inmates' family members to the prison for the party. The party was so well received that we were invited back to host another Valentine's Day Party in 2004 before we even left that day.

We have been blessed to have **Homer Gonzales, New Mexico Corrections Department Director of Faith-based Programs**, involved in the Wings Ministry from its beginning 9 years ago. Homer says, "Ann and her four sons have 'been there' when it comes to understanding the plight of inmate families after their loved one is incarcerated. Not only does Ann have a unique empathy toward inmate families, but she also has the unique ability to communicate with those same families as well as communicating with correction's staff and faith community volunteers. The Wings Ministry provides a model and training resources for the faith community to become involved with inmate families who are the 'forgotten victims in the shadow of crime'."

Rev.. Dr. Paul C. Collins, former prison Chaplain says, "The Wing's Ministry is making a difference in the lives of the families of those who have loved ones in the prisons and jails around the country and need a touch of God's love."

WINGS PUBLISHING

Wings Publishing was established in August as I needed a publisher to carry my book. Again, I see this as a blessing because I hope to write and publish other books in the future. I plan to create a workshop and/or book called *Parenting for Inmate's Children*. I would also like to write a book called *How To Maintain a Marriage While in Prison*, because I feel called to these issues in particular.

Wings Wish List

- ◆ Portable laptop computer
- ◆ Graphic artist
- ◆ Website assistance
- ◆ Typists
- ◆ Copy machine
- ◆ Airplane ticket to Detroit for Wings Christmas Party

- ◆ Donated "FAMILY ARRESTED" books for inmates and their family members

Wings Blessings List

- ◆ Endowment Fund Started
- ◆ New Wing's brochure
- ◆ First Newsletter
- ◆ Wing's Business Plan created



Ann Edenfield

Vision Statement:

To share Christ's unconditional love with all families of prisoners.

Erma Sedillo, Deputy Secretary of Operations; Tim Le Master, Warden Santa Fe Prison; Ann Edenfield, Wings Ministry Executive Director; Lawrence Trujillo, Deputy Secretary of Administration; Joe Williams, New Mexico Cabinet Secretary of Corrections; Helen Carr, New Mexico Corrections Family Liaison Director at the Santa Fe Prison Event in June.



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Wings Endowment Fund

The inmates from Los Lunas donated \$350 to the Wings Ministry and it will be the first money donated to the Wings Endowment Fund. Those inmates, believing in something that made a difference in their lives, will now support the firm foundation of a ministry that is beginning to grow and expand. Interest earned from their money will allow us to purchase pizza for future parties in the prisons and in various communities wherever we are called. We will use interest from their money for brochures to help spread the vision of Wings around the country, and to attend future training events and

conventions and produce workshop materials.

Only God knew that the Bible study about "building a firm foundation" shared in October with the inmates would now be the first building block to the Wings Endowment Fund. With a grateful and humble heart I thank each of the Los Lunas inmates for their support. Their belief in Wings encourages, lifts us up, and helps us to continue to proclaim the Good News that Christ is here for ALL of us!

Art Murphy, Warden, has this to say about the Wings Ministry. "There is an on-going effort to develop positive and beneficial programs in every corrections

facility. This is not an easy task. Such efforts are even more difficult when combined with the need to integrate family members into the rehabilitative philosophy and strategies of corrections. The Wings Ministry offers (such) a

program through their faith-based approach, bringing inmates and their families together to enjoy each others company in the spirit of faith. It is one of the best programs designed to maintain the family unit of an incarcerated parent!"



President of the Crossings Unit, Warden Art Murphy and Ann Edenfield shown with the photo collage presented to the Unit on 9/18/03.

Wings Ministry is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Please mail all donations to:
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