

COMMENTS

Wings FATHER'S Day Party - Santa Fe Prison

June 14, 2003

I came to the Wings Party today because:

PRISON STAFF Comments

1. To show support for inmate programming.
2. Monitor event.
3. I was asked to provide security.
4. It is an effective ministry that is enjoyable.

INMATE Comments

1. To visit my son and the first time to eat with my son.
2. I have not been to an event like this in a long time.
3. To spend time with my family for Father's Day. Seeing my kids and holding them.
4. They told me that Wings was having a Father's Day Party for the inmates and families.
5. I wanted to see what it was about.
6. I could spend quality time with my wife and kids.
7. My family came to visit me on Father's Day.
8. It's a good opportunity to spend time with my family.
9. I was invited by the chaplain.
10. I wanted to fellowship with my family.

FAMILY MEMBER Comments

1. To have my children spend this time and share this with their father.
2. To see my dad.
3. My husband is an inmate in the State Pen. He invited myself and his boys to a special Father's Day visit.
4. My son wrote to me and told me to come see him.
5. I wanted to visit my dad and spend time with him for Father's Day.
6. To see and spend time with my brother.
7. To spend time with our dad.
8. I was invited to the Father's Day Party to visit my husband. I also wanted to bring my youngest daughter because she hardly gets to come see her father.
9. My husband invited our children and me very enthusiastically.

VOLUNTEER Comments

1. I wanted to be a part of what to me seemed a special time in community.
2. I thought I might be able to share God's love with someone.
3. My heart goes out to these kids.
4. To interact and be of help.
5. To help families of prisoners.
6. I wanted to show God's love and I enjoy doing these kinds of parties.
7. I believe in bringing inmate families into our church.
8. It is always an exciting experience.
9. I wanted to help people and kids.
10. I felt that it's a good ministry and that in my trying to minister or help I might also be touched myself.
11. I work in the "kitchen".
12. Enjoy sharing music with inmate families.
13. It fills the need I have. I gotta do Wings!

14. It's a great way to model Christ's love for all people.
15. I feel this is a great way to minister to prisoners and their families.
16. I come to all of them!
17. I want to be a part of this very special mission.
18. I'm a volunteer and go to most of them. It's a great opportunity for ministry.
19. As a volunteer I see this as a chance to show the love of Christ to men and families who may be needing the Christ light.
20. My first experience with prison ministry was about 10 years ago and it was a very positive, joyful, and fulfilling experience. Some of my greatest moments of love and peace are when I am participating in this.
21. I wanted to celebrate Jesus with the inmates!

The highlights of the party for me were:

PRISON STAFF Comments

1. Interaction between inmates and volunteers.
2. This is another program attempt to give inmate's alternatives and strengthening of family ties.
3. Inmates and family participation.
4. Inmate having extra time with their family and food.
5. See the inmates and their respective families interact with each other.

INMATE Comments

1. Singing praises to our Lord and watching the children have fun and pizza.
2. Praying and activities and family pictures.
3. The way Wings was so welcoming to me and the way they did things with us.
4. The entertainment, games, and pizza.
5. To visit with my family and meet with other people.
6. I liked the photos that we took.
7. Everything was great. It is very important for me to have my family close to me.
8. Eating with my son. Taking the picture with my son.
9. Seeing my family, fellowshiping with my family and other inmates and their families.

FAMILY MEMBER Comments

1. Talking to others that are similar to me who understand the difficulties and way of life when you have a dad in prison.
2. Everything was wonderful. I enjoyed the pictures, pizza, game, and prayers and sharing.
3. Getting to spend time with my son.
4. The music and I enjoyed the play and prayers. My children had fun doing arts and crafts.
5. To see my dad.
6. Everything!
7. Getting to eat with our dad.
8. Playing games.
9. Frames. (The children decorated frames for their family photos.) Seeing my dad.
10. Watching my boys spend time with their father and listening to the hope that the ministry had to offer us.
11. All the pictures and welcome to this party.
12. Everything! What a wonderful experience – everyone was outgoing and friendly.
13. Pizza and seeing my dad.
14. My father is in prison and it's Father's Day. So I came to spend the day with him. I appreciated the time I had to spend with him in such a fun way.
15. Seeing my brother and eating with him.
16. The family pictures, the games, the people talking, and especially spending time with my kids and husband.

VOLUNTEER Comments

1. Hearing an inmate share his story and new vision for himself.
2. Talking to Ray and his son Ray.
3. Reading the little kids Father's Day cards, i.e. "I prey that you will get out on my birthday. I loves you Dad!" Sarah – 18 year-old teenager
4. Pizza! & Ministry!
5. I think it is a wonderful way for the prisoners and their families to fellowship and feel God's love in an amazing way.
6. The music and watching the dads encourage their children playing instruments.
7. Singing.
8. Observing the loving family groups together.
9. An inmate shared that it was the first time that his family was able to see him worship and praise God.
10. Bible study. Pizza and fellowship time during dinner.
11. Singing and the dancing (in the Bible study.)
11. Sitting down for dinner and getting to know the families and inmates a little more.
12. Speaking with inmates, guards, and chaplain.
13. Watching the families get their pictures (taken).
14. Listening to family members during group time. Seeing children participate in the Bible story.
15. Having Ann ask questions at the breakout session and "hearing" the inmates speak up!
16. Playing with the kids – watching them open up. Watching the men (inmates) playing their parts in the Prodigal Son skit.
17. Bible story, time to get to know each other.
18. Seeing the kids work hard on the crafts and being proud of their family pictures.
19. Pictures of families. Cowboy outfits and the Bible story!
20. Families clapping and smiling together; seeing the staff of the prison relaxing and seeming to enjoy the party.
21. Seeing fathers and children laughing together.
22. Adult discussion time.
23. Meeting the men and their families.
24. The worship songs were great and so was the sermon/skit, as well as helping the children at crafts.
25. The cowboys and the group talk time.

Wings Parties should continue in prisons because:

PRISON STAFF Comments

1. So as to encourage family interaction with inmates and their family.
2. Faith-based programs like these strengthen the rehabilitative process.
3. It allows for other choices for inmates to help them rehabilitate themselves and to know people on the outside care.
4. They support inmates in hard times.
5. It is a blessing to the criminal justice system.

INMATE Comments

1. Socialize and to feel alive amongst everyone.
2. It is a positive way to maintain family ties and a good environment.
3. It brings unity to family and friends.
4. It helps the families realize they have people out there who care and would like to help them get through their hard times.
5. They are good for the families to keep them close.
6. It brings positive closure to keep families together.
7. They bring the family closer together.
8. I think this should continue because this is a good opportunity to get to know the people and to know God.

9. It gave me the opportunity to have a special visit with my family. It was very nice.
10. It's a great opportunity for inmates to meet each other's families and fellowship with each other and meet people who really care about us, such as those involved in "Wings".

FAMILY MEMBER Comments

1. All the prayers and the singing.
2. They allow opportunities to see family and meet others like yourself with a dad in prison.
3. It brings God to the prison and we spend time with our loved ones.
5. Gives family this precious moment with each other and share the time.
6. It is fun!
7. Spend more time with my father.
8. So other kids can see their dads. It gives joy to people.
9. It offers hope to the inmates. It shows the families of inmates that there can be hope and happiness after prison.
10. They should continue. They're fun!
11. They are fun and make it very special for the prisoners.
12. Because the inmates should be able to spend more time with their family.
13. First of all we get to share God with one another and we get to spend time together (with my dad).
14. It is very eventful for the inmates and it helps the family spend time with inmates in a positive way.
15. It is good to be able to spend time like this with our dad and to be able to eat with him.
16. It allows families to take part, to be with an inmate. And because I think Wings really cares and gives support to the families as well as the inmate serving time.
17. It allows the inmates to share special moments with their families. And that's what is most important to the inmates – "Family".

VOLUNTEER Comments

1. It does make a difference.
2. Positive change is made not only in the inmates and their family members, but in the correctional staff as well.
3. How else will we change the course of the lives of these men and their families?
4. It really helps families get together.
5. It brings some hope (light) to the darkness there.
6. It's so special for the kids to see their parents together.
7. Of all the very meaningful interaction of the families.
8. It's a very effective ministry.
9. I am sure it must be helpful to be in more social circumstances together.
10. The family members get to play, sing, worship, share, and eat with one another. With the guidance of the Wings Ministry Team it seems like families are united together in a very positive way. These memories hopefully will give each person hope for the future and a fun shared family experience to reflect upon.
11. Great to have families together.
12. It sends out a good message of God throughout the prison and the families of prisoners.
13. What more can a church member do? Spread hope to prisoners, give to those in need, feed the hungry, protect the innocent, and fight the good fight...
14. Chance for families to be together.
15. Help families have fun time together and build positive memories.
16. The family needs to see dad/mum in a fun Christian setting!
17. It builds up families and provides them support.
18. It brings inmates and their families together under the caring "wings" of Christ's family of volunteers.
19. It allows families to visit in a Christian environment.
20. Families need to have positive experiences, especially when a parent has to be away from the family.
21. The time that families can spend together.
22. We need to break down the barriers between those inside the prison and those outside.
23. The families love them and we can share ideas and thoughts. We have an opportunity to reach people.

24. They minister to guests and volunteers. It's important to connect inmates and their families with the church.
25. Our Lord has directed us to visit those in prison. He knew that it would always be an important outreach.
26. By the end of the party the gloom has lifted and people are happy and relaxed.
27. What a joy – and they are fun. I love seeing the families together.

I appreciate the guidepost Magazines, Focus on the Family materials, delicious donated food, and want to tell them thanks and:

PRISON STAFF Comments

1. Refreshments, music, and games for the kids went well.
2. Keep up the hard work and commitment. Your service to the inmates and the people of this state is appreciated.
3. Keep up the good work.
4. They should continue to have these parties.

INMATE Comments

1. I love you my brothers and sisters and I hope you never lose faith in showing love to us incarcerated.
2. Thank you for unity and the joy of bringing family together.
3. I appreciate everything you have done on this day.
4. I appreciate them very much for making this possible for us.
5. I'll be praying for them and their family. Thank you very very much!
6. I would like to let you know I appreciate the food and everything. Thank you!
7. Thanks for the inspiration and prayers that you shared with me. It was great. I hope to do it again!
8. Please keep up the continued support of the inmates in prison and their families. We really appreciate all you do!

FAMILY MEMBER Comments

1. How we enjoyed spending this Father's Day with everyone. With the Wings Ministry and also my children have this special day to get together with their father.
2. I really appreciated this special time that I shared with my spouse and children. This gives us hope for the future. I know that this will be a special memory for my husband because it will give him strength and love to continue growing as a changed man, husband and father, son, brother, etc. Thanks again. GOD BLESS!
3. It is fun!
4. Thank you for allowing me to spend time with my father.
5. You are the best! God bless you!
6. Thank you and I want to come again.
7. Thanks and keep up the good work.
8. We appreciate it all!
9. I hope there will be more get togethers like this. I thought that this was a really neat visit!

VOLUNTEER Comments

1. God bless you all for this day!
2. Thank you again for caring enough to share with others who are less fortunate.
3. You are awesome for letting these kids have some good family time.
4. Couldn't have done it without you – Thanks!
5. Inspiring reading. Good food!
6. Keep up the good work.
7. Your support and encouragement of inmate families through the Wings Ministry is greatly appreciated.
8. I'm sure it gets read and the Word is received somehow/somewhere.

9. Thank you for nurturing both physical and spiritual needs.
10. You've blessed many people with your generosity.
11. You should see the impact these parties have on families – God uses this time and the items provided are great!
12. The cookies are always SO good and the pizza was tasty. Guidepost magazines are very comforting and inspiring.
13. The more people who participate and support the Wings Ministry, the more we can help families remain connected.
14. Great job – we will use the materials to work for the Lord.
15. Know this that your contributions are appreciated and your love is felt.
16. Please continue to love God's children with your gifts of love.
17. Keep up the wonderful giving work – we love you!!