

**Comments from the
1999 Easter *Wings* Party
Albuquerque, New Mexico
March 27, 1999
Central United Methodist Church**

There were about 170 people at this *Wings* Party. There were representatives (adults as well as youth) from at least 24 different churches. The guests included family members of inmates, youth from YDDC (the youth detention center in Albuquerque) and their families, as well as women and children from the *Women's Shelter* in Albuquerque.

I came to the *Wings* Party today because:

1. My husband is in jail and I think that this is good.
2. I believe an important part of jail ministry is reaching out to the families of those incarcerated.
3. My daughter (incarcerated) asked me to come and wanted to "give" an Easter present to me and her little brother. Thank you! From me – from her. God bless you!
4. I came today because it is very fun.
5. I wanted to help and let people know God is a miracle worker and He can change people's lives.
6. To hear the word of "God", that our son will seek "God".
7. I wanted to meet some new friends to invite to meet Christ.
8. I came to the *Wings* Party with my granddaughter.
9. I want to encourage folks to find the Lord and live close to him.
10. I saw a call for help in our church bulletin. My husband and I wanted to do volunteer work together and this was a perfect opportunity.
11. I thought the Christmas party was fun.
12. They told us it was a surprise and now we are here and it is a surprise.
13. It's cool.
14. Because I heard it was going to be very fun.
15. I wanted to meet people and try to get them closer to God.
16. A sense of obligation. I wasn't "in the mood" but I was blessed anyway!
17. I wanted to thank God and pray...also to celebrate Easter.
18. I wanted to attend church and it seemed like a good church to come to and also I wanted to come and pray for my family.
19. It is fun to meet new people and experience new things.
20. I wanted to share the love of Jesus.
21. I wanted to teach liturgical dance and because it is a lot of fun.
22. I want to give back to Jesus because He has done so much for me.
23. My cousin is in YDDC and I hadn't seen her in almost a year. I really missed her.
24. I wanted my youth group to participate because I have found it so powerful.
25. To seek help for our son in prison.
26. Need to.
27. To bring children and women from the local shelter to attend *Wings*.
28. I saw the notice of the meeting in our church bulletin asking for help. This is an excellent program and I hope it continues.

The highlights of the party for me were:

1. Hearing other testimony's, eating pizza and getting to know other people.
2. The story enactment – the pastor was great and did a good job. Very exciting!
3. God bless you all! You are doing a great thing for these families.
4. Singing and dying eggs.
5. Seeing my niece look happy and meeting other people.
6. Sharing with the other families (of those incarcerated) at the meal, seeing how the little kids had such joy in showing their parents their Easter goodies.
7. Loving energy, organization and abundance of activities and helpers.
8. The youth discussion and testimonies.
9. Helping the little ones.
10. Getting to sing, visit with all the good people of this program, and especially to visit with my daughter who is in YDDC.
11. Everything!
12. The storyteller.
13. Singing and dancing together with so many people. I have never attended before but will volunteer again in the future. Super program!
14. Making butterflies.
15. Meeting and talking with the other guests at our dinner table.
16. Doing eggs. It is my favorite thing to do.
17. The people were very friendly.
18. The Bible story done live.
19. Leader's enthusiasm, persistence, and e-mails. Singing, variety of people, Bible story, excellent green chili pizza and brownies.
20. Helping the kids do their cards.
21. Dinner – I was able to get people talking and participating together.
22. The time with the youth. Idea: wonder whether we might continue the "youth event" over supper – we didn't want to quit after 30 minutes!
23. I got to color eggs. I got to eat pizza, brownies and rink Pepsi, Root Beer, and Mountain Dew.
24. The people here are so nice.
25. The different people from different churches.
26. Hearing the youth speak to other youth.
27. The community outreach programs were very informative.
28. Great Bible study – the resurrection.
29. Very interesting and helpful information.
30. Meeting all the people and working together and the minister's presentation was wonderful.
31. I felt like I should be here because it is a work of God and because Pastor Chuck Aragon invited us to this wonderful place to get closer to God and get to know other people of God.
32. The highlights of the party for me were when people shared what has happened in their lives and told us that Jesus is with us and that you are not by yourself.
33. The testimonies given by the youth members of the church.
34. I wanted to bring people to Christ and make them feel loved and worthy of love.
I enjoy volunteering and learning from the guests that attend the *Wings* Party. God is always present.
35. I wanted to help and volunteer with the youth. A lot of the youth these days and times are lost, confused, and have no hope at all! The only one who can help these young adults is JESUS! Jesus says it Himself that, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE! There ain't no other way, but this way! The highlights of the party for me were getting to give my testimony to the youth, and just being part of what JESUS wants me to do for HIM!

Comments about gifts of *Guideposts* and *Guideposts for Kids*:

1. It is a very good book.
2. I like *Guidepost Magazine* because it offers me the opportunity to share different topics regarding God with my young brothers.
3. It is cool.
4. I enjoy the stories, advice, His Mysterious Ways. (From a youth.)
5. They have been a blessing.
6. They are applicable to everyday life, interesting and inspirational.
7. In the past (I) have taken leftover *Guideposts* to the prison to be distributed to prisoners.
8. I loved the *Guideposts for Kids*, the activities and wholesome stories.
9. Our participants sure used the fanny packs. They're very useful to them. (Gift received at a past *Wings Party*.)

Comments about Bibles received from American Bible Society:

1. Thank you for this Bible resource, it has been truly a blessing. (From a youth.)
2. I have not (received a Bible) but my daughter who was in jail did and that was very nice.
3. It has helped me.
4. I like the Bible I got.
5. (My Bible has) been a blessing.
6. Thank you for my new Bible!
7. Thanks for the book.
8. Every child should have a Bible. Thank you.
9. Thanks for the gifts.
10. Thank you for providing Bibles to those who cannot afford to purchase one. God Bless Your Efforts Sevenfold!

Comments from YDDC youth guests include:

- The highlights of the party for me were that there are people who care, and if we need to go to church, which we do need, it's nice to know that there are people who care.
- I came to the *Wings Party* today because my boyfriend is in YDDC. He invited me and my family to this great church. The highlights for me were the preaching and I also liked the activities for the children and how all us high school students got together as a group and talked as a group.
- My boyfriend is in the YDDC. This gave us a chance to visit with family and pray for each other. The highlights for me were the preaching and the environment!!!
- I am at YDDC. The reason I came is to be with my family and to pray for my family and get closer to God. The people here are so nice.
- The highlights were for me to be able to come and be here. Just the fact that I got to come from YDDC and come to a place like this.

An adult staff member from YDDC said, "I came to the *Wings Party* today as staff for YDDC (and to) escort 6 residents from YDDC to participate in the *Wings Easter Party*. Hopefully they can attend this Session when it's offered again. The highlights of the party for me were the importance of the events for the youth at YDDC, and to let them know that other people have been where they are today. Also, with this type of event, to me it helps their self-esteem also. Thank you."

Gene Allen, YDDC Ministry Volunteer: "I was at the party. I thought it was an act of God in the flesh."