

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12



On Wings
LIKE A DOVE
A MINISTRY TO LOVED ONES
OF PRODIGALS & PRISONERS

A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry October 2026 Vol. 22 Issue 10

ADDRESS

455 South Church St
Winston Salem, NC

WEBSITE

www.OnWingsLikeADove.com

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday
10 am-2 pm
or by appointment
336-829-5060

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We are beginning a new study
"Song of Songs"
By Lisa Harper



Upcoming Events

Join us for a Day Retreat
on Spiritual Gifts
October 10th
10 am - 3 pm
Home Moravian Church
Lunch will be provided



"Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily."

Hebrews 13:3

As I entered Piedmont Correctional Institute along with others from the Jumpstart Ministry, I realized I was returning after 20 years to the place we once visited our son. As I checked in and the doors clanged with a familiar sound my heart skipped a beat. I looked ahead and saw the visitation room where we previously visited him. But that didn't deter me. I walked with our group to the room where forty men were waiting, each with anticipation and with questions about who these people were and what they were about as they met us that first time.

We had four tables with a leader at each table. I am sure there was anxiousness on their part, but it didn't last long as we began talking. Most every man who began with this group will be graduating October 30. The men have been wonderful as they each participated in weekly homework discussions.

The leaders have developed a bond over the weeks that will not be broken. Each leader came with love in their hearts for these men and a desire to pour into them from their own experiences. The goal was to lead them into a deeper relationship with their Creator God. We prayed together and we prayed individually with our table mates, and our hearts will break to say goodbye. We know there is another gathering in Heaven where we will meet again. The team's greatest prayer is that each one we encountered will know they are loved by us and more importantly by God who is their Redeemer.

I thought about the prayer I prayed many years ago for our son, that someone would speak into his life in a way I couldn't and would lead him back to the Father. Now, here I was very likely fulfilling a similar prayer of a mother, father, or grandparent by sharing the love of Jesus with these men. What a privilege!

I applaud the efforts of Jumpstart in offering this program and impacting men and women with the truth of God's Word which is transforming the mind. Thank you, Jumpstart, for letting us be a part of what God is doing.

I find it interesting that God would fling the doors open at this season in my life and allow me to go on the inside like I desired to do 20 years ago at the start of On Wings ministry. Always be listening to His call.

~Sandra



REFRESHMENT

October brings refreshment to the worn out, tired spirit. The brutal hot days of summer have ebbed, and the cooler days of fall have finally arrived. It's good to be outside again, conversing with neighbors and raking endless leaves.

I love summer. I love seeing plants in bloom, the sun shining, the optimism of the season. The intense, humid heat – well, that can be a little too much. It leads me to look forward to cooler days and nights where I can sleep with the windows open and enjoy the cool, fresh evening air.

The changing weather always makes me think of our creative God. How good it is of Him to bring refreshment when the days have become hard.

How fun it is to see how He created leaves to change colors and how He changes the appearance of entire landscapes. How nice it feels to throw on a warm sweater and a favorite pair of cozy socks.

God didn't need to give us changing seasons, changing colors and changing rhythm, but out of His creative nature, He did. How sweet He is. Sometimes I need a change of season in my life, too. I need a new focus, a fresh breeze, a relief from the heat of my circumstances. I am thankful knowing that God provides that, too.

I recently have been looking at some of the Names of God. Knowing His Name helps me to remember His character. Whatever my need or my circumstance; God has a Name to meet it. When I am fearful; He is my Strong Tower, Yahweh Migdal Oz. When I am sad, He is my comfort, Yahweh Nacham. He is my Good Shepherd, Yahweh Raah; My peace, Yahweh Shalom and my provider, Yahweh Jireh. He is the most High God, El Elyon and everlasting, El Olam. He is with me, Emmanuel and He is there, Yahweh Shammah. He is the God who heals, Yahweh Rapha and the God who sees me, El Roi. One of my new favorites is, He is the Captain of the Angel Armies, Yahweh Sabaoth!

I am comforted, strengthened, renewed when I call on the Name of God. He is sufficient for my every need. He is always present, all powerful and totally capable. He is our all in all.

As the fall breeze blows; put on a sweater, grab a mug of hot tea and fill your lungs with the fresh wind of the Spirit. Our faithful God is wanting to surprise and delight you, and to meet your every need. He is the refreshment we need for our souls – always.

“Oh LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth!” – Psalm 8:1



Prayer Thoughts

SOWING IN FAITH AND WAITING WITH HOPE

“Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest” (Psalm 126:5-6).

In the ancient land of Israel, farming was an act of faith. A farmer would prepare the soil, scattering precious seed across the ground, knowing that everything depended on what he could not control. There were no irrigation systems to guarantee water. No forecasts to predict the rain. Only the hope that God would send the rains in their proper time.

Every seed planted carried risk. If the rains delayed, the seed could dry out and die. If that happened, the farmer would have to take from what was meant to feed his family and sow again. The process was costly, uncertain, and often filled with anxiety. It is no wonder the psalmist described sowing as something done “in tears.”

And yet, they planted. They walked their fields, looking at the dry soil, praying that clouds would gather and rain would fall. Their dependence on God was not theoretical. It was daily and urgent. They knew that without Him, there would be no harvest.

But even when the rains came, the waiting did not end. Growth takes time. Seeds buried in the ground do not sprout overnight. Day after day, the farmer had to trust that something unseen was happening beneath the surface. He had to wait, not with certainty of outcome, but with hope rooted in God's faithfulness.

This rhythm of sowing, waiting, and harvesting mirrors our spiritual lives. There are seasons when we sow in tears. We pray, we serve, we give, we trust, often without seeing immediate results. We ask God to move, to provide, to heal, to restore. And then we wait.

Waiting can be one of the hardest parts of faith. We live in a world that values speed and instant results. We expect answers quickly and solutions immediately. But God often works in ways that require patience. He grows things slowly, deeply, and intentionally.

The psalmist reminds us that tears are not wasted. They are part of the process. What is sown in sorrow can be reaped in joy. God sees every prayer. He honors every act of faith. And in His timing, He brings a harvest. The challenge is to trust Him in the waiting.

Do we recognize our dependence on God as clearly as those ancient farmers did? Do we continue to sow faithfully, even when the ground seems dry? Do we trust that He is working, even when we cannot yet see the fruit?

The promise remains. There will be a harvest. And when it comes, the same hands that sowed in tears will gather in joy.

Taken from CBN Israel, July 2026



In August, it was a privilege for us to bless the Rolling Hills and Piedmont Circle Communities with 125 book bags, hygiene products, food, clothes, and shoes. They were very appreciative as they each received their bags. Thank you to New Friendship Baptist Church, Friends Baptist Church, The Good Shepherd Church, and Calvary Baptist Church for supplying the book bags and to The Crossings Church for bringing food. We are especially grateful for the record number of volunteers who helped us distribute the supplies this year. Resulting in the event running more smoothly and allowed us to give residents individual attention. We had been saving a bicycle for a child in need, and a young man approached us asking for a bike we gave it to him, and it made his day! God is always so good to supply the need..





NO MILK WITHOUT MANURE

From the Desk of
Dr. Kent Oviatt

“Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest.” — Proverbs 14:4 (NCV)

There is an old farm saying: “No milk without manure.” It may sound a little crude, but there is truth behind it. Anything productive usually comes with some difficulty. Proverbs 14:4 gives us a similar picture. An empty barn is easy to keep clean. There are no animals to care for and fewer problems to deal with.

But there is also no strength available to produce a harvest. A clean barn may be

easier, but a working barn produces something of value. Families can be like that. We would like our relationships to be peaceful and predictable. We want our children and loved ones to make wise choices. We pray that they will walk with God and stay close to the family. But sometimes life becomes painfully complicated. A son or daughter walks away. Poor choices create consequences. Communication becomes difficult or stops completely. There may be anger, disappointment, embarrassment, or years of unanswered questions. We wanted the joy of family without the heartbreak, the closeness without the conflict, and the harvest without the struggle.

If you love a prodigal, you may be living in that struggle right now. You may have prayed for a long time and seen very little change. Perhaps you have been hurt by words that were spoken or by the silence of someone who no longer wants a relationship with you. It is easy for disappointment to slowly become bitterness. We can replay conversations, rehearse the wrongs that were done, and begin carrying anger everywhere we go. Before long, the prodigal may be living far away, but the hurt is still living with us every day.

Christ offers us another way. He offers healing instead of bitterness. Healing does not mean pretending that nothing happened. Forgiveness does not require us to call wrong behavior acceptable, nor does it mean that healthy boundaries are unnecessary. Healing means that we refuse to allow another person's choices to determine the condition of our own heart. We bring our anger, grief, disappointment, and unanswered questions to Christ and ask Him to do in us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Joseph understood something about this. His own family betrayed him. His brothers sold him into slavery, and the consequences followed him for years. Yet eventually Joseph could say, “You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good” (Genesis 50:20, NCV). Joseph did not deny what his brothers had done. He simply discovered that their actions did not have the final word. God was able to bring something good out of something deeply painful.

That is a source of hope for the family of a prodigal. You cannot control the choices of the person you love. You cannot force repentance, restore a relationship by yourself, or determine when someone will come home. But you can trust Christ with that person, and you can trust Him with your own heart. While you are praying for God to work in your prodigal, ask Him to work in you as well. “Lord, protect me from bitterness. Heal what has been wounded in me. Help me love without trying to control. Teach me to wait without losing hope.”

Perhaps this difficult season can produce something you never expected. God may deepen your dependence upon Him. He may soften areas of your heart that have become hard. He may teach you how to forgive while still maintaining wise boundaries. He may even use your experience someday to encourage another parent, spouse, grandparent, or family member who is walking the same difficult road. The pain itself is not good, but God can still produce good through it.

No milk without manure. The saying may make us smile, but the principle is worth remembering. Family life can become messy, and sometimes the mess lasts much longer than we expected. Yet Christ remains present in the middle of it. Do not allow bitterness to become another casualty of your prodigal's choices. Bring the hurt to Christ. Keep praying. Keep your heart open to healing. And remember that the story is not finished simply because you cannot yet see the harvest. God is still at work—in the life of the prodigal you love and in you.

