

Family Connections Ministry Family Day

Roswell Correctional Center

Hagerman, NM

June 14, 2025



Family Connections Ministry held a Father's Day Family Day at the Roswell Correctional Center on June 14, 2025, in Hagerman, NM. 23 inmates were cleared to attend the Family Day, 60 family members were approved, 4 inmates were helpers, 4 inmate Chaplains were in attendance, and there were 18 volunteers who were able to attend the Family Day. The volunteers came from 6 different churches and were from Albuquerque and Church on the Move in Roswell.

The Chaplain and inmate volunteers at Roswell were waiting for us and helped us quickly enter the prison. The cars were driven around to the chapel to be unloaded. The volunteers did a great job of helping set up for the Family Day. Platters of homemade cookies were filled, and family members who arrived early were asked to help with the preparations, too. Craft tables were organized, and Church on the Move had donated soft drinks and bottles of water that were put on ice in coolers.

Ann led the family members and the volunteers in mixers, and everyone got to know one another, and she taught some of the songs. Everyone had a good time before the Family Day even started!

Chaplain Wayne Brazil opened the Family Day in prayer. Ann, along with some of the inmates, their children, and volunteers, helped lead the songs – "Praise Ye the Lord" and "Shake a Neighbor's Hand". Next Ann taught the motions to "Lord, I Lift Your Name in Prayer", followed by "Jesus Love me". We all enjoyed the music so much.

The Bible story was The Prodigal Son. One of the inmates was "The Prodigal Son", his own father was "The Father", another inmate was the "Older Son", and children and volunteers were card players, dancers, and pigs in the pig field. "The Father" was pushed in his wheelchair by Chaplain Brazil when he ran to his "Prodigal Son" and hugged him and welcomed him back home in the story. What a touching and memorable time that was!

Chaplain Brazil reflected on this powerful parable and how it related to so many of us in the audience. Many could identify with both the "Prodigal Son" and the "Older Son". Later, quite a few people shared that this parable now had much more meaning to them after seeing it acted out and being part of it.

Next, the men went with their children to do crafts. Volunteers were there to assist as needed, and everyone loved making Father's Day cards and bookmarkers with markers, beautiful, unique butterflies out of the "worthless" newspaper, and fun and tasty necklaces out of fruit loops and pretzels. It's amazing how beautiful those necklaces were!

Ann invited the adults and the inmates without children to join her group. She tied the Bible story into her personal story and shared that Family Connections is designed to share Christ's love with all families of prisoners and returning citizens and connect family members in meaningful ways. Church on the Move shared about their many programs at the prison, and the Chaplain talked about all the religious programming that takes place every week. We heard from other ministry leaders and volunteers, and one of the inmate chaplains talked about that program and how he had been an inmate Chaplain at every men's prison in New Mexico.

We gathered the groups back together and sat at tables with 8 people at each table. We ate pizza, enjoyed delicious homemade cookies, and talked and shared around the table. It was a special time as usually families can't talk to one another, and the informal atmosphere was welcomed by everyone.

Then the favorite part of each Family Connections Family Day arrived. A bag of recycled “junk” was used to decorate one dad from each table in a new “Father’s Day” outfit. Everyone participated in decorating their special “dad”, and soon the Chapel was filled with “dads” in the most fashionable Father’s Day outfits!😊 Great fun was had by all.

The Family Day closed with everyone holding hands in a large circle around the Chapel. The Chaplain asked everyone to bow in prayer and we were reminded that Christ was born and also died for each and every one of us. It was a special, uplifting party, where joyous hearts joined together for great fun and fellowship.

Church flyers, Guideposts magazines, books, and materials from the 1687 Foundation, The Vivian Foundation, and other organizations were also distributed to everyone.

The following comments came from the participants, and their words describe how meaningful the Family Day was for everyone. Duplicate comments were not repeated.

Special thanks to Church on the Move for all the pizza and drinks, and all the cookie bakers! Everyone loved the homemade cookies!

I came to the Family Connections Father’s Day Family Day today because:

1. Visit my son.
2. Visit my brother.
3. I wanted to visit with my family.
4. To spend some precious time with my son during this Family Day.
5. To see my son, who is serving time.
6. I came to see my dad.
7. I wanted to see my kids and parents.
8. So I can see my dad for Father’s Day.
9. To reunite my brother with my parents. My mother and father were very emotional for this visit, but yet excited for the visit.
10. Visit my son.
11. I came to spend time with my mom.
12. I am here for my son to see him. Thank God for this Day celebrating Father’s Day.
13. Visit my husband.
14. I wanted to see my dad!
15. Ver a mi hija.
16. It was Father’s Day.
17. These are fun events.
18. To be able to spend time with my daughters.
19. I wanted to visit my dad.
20. I came to spend time with my husband.
21. To spend time with my family.
22. I love my son!
23. I miss my dad.
24. I miss my son and want to spend time with him.
25. I’m a ministry volunteer. This is an opportunity to make the world better.
26. It’s a great time to get together and get to know everyone.
27. I love volunteering to see lives change and to see everyone having a good time.
28. I wanted to spend an event together with my family.
29. To spend some precious time with my son, who invited me.

30. I wanted to see my mother.
31. I need to see my family
32. Chapel worker.
33. To visit with my brother.
34. I love to volunteer and serve the inmates. It's special to me to be here for the families as well.
35. I wanted to spend time visiting my family member. I don't need to go to Sunday school.
36. To see my brother.
37. To see my dad.
38. I wanted to see my relative.
39. I was invited to attend so I came to enjoy my son's company and so he can explain the Book of Hosea!
40. To see my dad.
41. To spend time with family.'
42. For my son and to see him.
43. A bera mi neto Jaime.
44. To enjoy the time I can spend with my family.
45. To spend time with my grandson.
46. Visit a family member.
47. To spend time with my family in a fun setting.
48. I wanted to see my son.
49. My family came to see me 😊
50. To see my grandson.
51. It's time to spend with family and to share about Christ.
52. I wanted to see my brother/father figure.
53. God led me here.
54. I'm a volunteer and love to see families unite in a fun setting where they can create positive memories.

The highlights of the Family Connections Family Day for me were:

1. Not being in a small room.
2. Emotional.
3. Knowing that Jesus loves me.
4. I love the taste of a homemade cookie! They are just delicious!
5. Pizza and family.
6. Spending time with my son.
7. Was physically interacting with my son.
8. Making the butterflies.
9. Spending quality time with my dad.
10. Seeing them smile when they saw me and the smiles when they let us hug each other.
11. The play (The Prodigal Son) was very nice.
12. Fun – funny – happy – family
13. Lost son play. (The Prodigal Son)
14. Being here with my son.
15. Spending time together and having fun.
16. Playing with my dad.
17. I enjoyed all the activities and participating.
18. Meeting new people.
19. The skits and the Bible stories.
20. Getting to spend the day with my sister and dad.

21. Helpful. I got to spend time with my husband.
22. Laughing and having fun.
23. Was prayer and visiting.
24. The hugs dad gave me!
25. The moments we spent talking and laughing.
26. Hearing and seeing families spend time chatting and eating.
27. The Bible story, the time together, great fellowship, and singing together.
28. The Prodigal Son drama.
29. The food and quality time with family.
30. Seeing my son smile and hearing many people's testimony and their service for God.
31. I got to see my mother.
32. Seeing the emotions, the men with their kids and families, them showing their families their transformation.
33. Seeing smiles.
34. Seeing my family.
35. Spending time with my loved ones.
36. To spend time with my brother.
37. To see my dad.
38. Us getting time with our family.
39. Visiting my relative.
40. The engagement of all the people who showed up.
41. The activities I was able to do with my dad.
42. Spending time with family and pizza.
43. I love all the fun activities and how everyone gets engaged.
44. Being here with my son and seeing him happy.
45. Lo que ablaron de la religion.
46. Just to be around my loved ones.
47. Having fun with my grandson.
48. It helps us forget all of our problems.
49. My family.
50. To be next to my son.
51. Seeing my grandparents.
52. Seeing my grandson.
53. Spending time with my wife and all the other inmates and families.
54. When we got to see our family members.
55. Time with family.
56. This brought me closer to God.
57. We had better communication.
58. My family has been strengthened.
59. This has helped me work on forgiveness.

Correction officials should continue to allow Family Connections Family Days in prisons because:

1. It gives us an opportunity for face-to-face interactions.
2. Yes, it connects inmates and families.
3. It gives families more interaction with family serving time.
4. It's a way for families and inmates to get closer and learn about God!
5. So I can continue to see my grandson.
6. Family is important.
7. To see my family.

8. Keeps family together.
9. We enjoy time with our family.
10. It helps us forget all of our problems.
11. Makes inmates feel better and feel good about themselves.
12. It is good for us inmates to see and to enjoy our families with all the time we can.
13. Por que les ase bien.
14. It's good for them because we live far away, and it takes a long time, and we can't come for 4 hours for a small time of only 1 hour. This is a great time to be with them.
15. They benefit all our relationships.
16. It's better for everyone to meet and have family time.
17. It actually brings different people together.
18. We can see them for a longer amount of time and actually get to hug them.
19. Because I can see my dad.
20. It's special for the families to get together.
21. It brings us up when we are down.
22. I got to spend more time with my loved one.
23. It lets us bond with one another.
24. It's an important day for the inmates.
25. It keeps the family together.
26. Because it brings peace and joy to our hearts knowing God is always with us. I haven't seen my son for 2 years and 9 months. I am so grateful I could come and see him with the Lord at our side.
27. It's fun.
28. It changes lives.
29. It brings all of us together, and we know each other and learn about God.
30. To get to see and hug my family uninterrupted.
31. We all miss them and want to see them as much as possible.
32. Us kids want to keep seeing our dad.
33. Gives us hope to become better people.
34. It helps the inmates to connect with family.
35. That way, we get a chance to spend more time with our loved ones and to hear good things about church. And we got to meet a lot of good people.
36. It keeps family close and able to hug their kids.
37. It gives family time together and with God. I had so much fun with my dad.
38. It brings families together and begins to build bonds.
39. To see my family and my dad!
40. Connection with loved ones.
41. It's good for them and us.
42. Helps us get closer to family.
43. We should have one every 3 months.
44. Family and inmates get the opportunity to enjoy time together.
45. It keeps the family united.
46. See my family.
47. Families can rebuild relationships in a fun, non-threatening way.
48. So we can see our dads.
49. So more people can get a chance to see families.
50. It gives families the opportunity to spend time with their family members in a relaxing and not so restricting environment.
51. It is good for the kids, and especially my kids.
52. It gives us a great time with my son.
53. They really have a great impact on people's lives.

I would like to thank Church on the Move, Guideposts Magazine, 1687 Foundation, cookie bakers, and other sponsors by saying:

1. The pizza and cookies were great!
2. We appreciate this opportunity to connect with more people who have loved ones incarcerated.
3. Thank you! God bless you!
4. Thanks!
5. God bless you!
6. I really appreciate everything they do for everyone.
7. I appreciate all the love & everything you guys do.
8. Thank you.
9. Thank you SO much!
10. Me gusto las cuquis pizza.
11. Thank you for all the support.
12. God bless you!
13. I appreciate the foundation for letting me see my dad.
14. You are definitely a blessing to those who are truly grateful.
15. Thank you so much! The guys never get to have pizza and cookies we take for granted.
16. Thanks for the food.
17. God bless them.
18. Continue to do these ministries.
19. THANKS to everyone who contributed to this very special day. I am very grateful!
20. Love y'all.
21. I am grateful for the event.
22. I appreciate all their service, and may they all be blessed 10x more, and God bless everyone.
23. God Bless.
24. It feeds our bodies and our minds.
25. May the Lord bless each and every one of them, and may God continue to supply.
26. PLEASE do it again!!!
27. Thanks – this was great!
28. Love it!
29. Thanks for your support.
30. God bless you!!!
31. You make a difference.
32. I am so thankful for you guys because I wouldn't be able to do any of this if it wasn't for you.
Thank you so much!
33. God bless each and every one of you who helped. It was a blessing.
34. I appreciate you guys for giving me time with my dad.
35. Thank you for what you did so I could see my dad!!
36. Thank you all for what you do!
37. It was nice for the inmates and for us.
38. Thank you for everything.
39. Thank you for the time.
40. Thank you. We are very grateful for this great visit.
41. I appreciate everything.
42. Thank you for everything.
43. Thanks to the sponsors who allowed me to see my dad.
44. Thank you for the chance to see and interact with my son.
45. Thank you sponsors for the meal. A meal with a loved one is always a blessing.
46. Please do it again, soon!!!!

47. A huge thanks!

48. I really appreciate it, thanks.

How many miles did you drive one way to come to the Family Day?

20, 25, 30, 105, 110, 135, 150, 190, 280, 300, 310, 360, 390, 400, 450, 500, and 800 miles.

Others stated: 3.5 hours, 5 hours, 5.5 hours, a lot, and from Albuquerque,