

# giving

Manos de Dios



....a hand up to families in  
the barrios of Sonora, MX

## May 2007 Newsletter

This newsletter includes a recap of the medical clinic trip to the prison in Puerto Peñasco. Also, look for info about the upcoming June Barrio Outreach Trip & our current Needs List.

### First medical clinic in Puerto Peñasco prison provides long lasting benefits

Satan seems to always be trying to get in the way of the Lord's work and this short-term mission trip was no exception! But, we did NOT let anything or anyone deter us from serving the medical needs of the prisoners. Even when changes had to be made in our schedule, there was not any complaining, frustration or disappointment voiced from the volunteers that came to Peñasco to serve others and to be Samaritans to those in need!

Thursday morning, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the first group going to Peñasco arrived at our house for the to caravan to Mexico. We met at 8 am for prayer and to head out. We were joined for prayer by Lucy uno's dad (John), and Allen and Lucy tambien. A great way to start off a Mission trip! The inspection light was not working at the border, so we started to drive across when I saw the guard look at the red sticker (Manos de Dios) we had on the front windshield, and pull us over to check us out. When I got out of the truck he asked about the Manos de Dios emblem I had on my tee shirt. I explained that Manos de Dios is our Mission name in the United States, but

in Mexico we are "Christian Samaritans". As he looked into the back of my truck he saw a large metal thing and asked what it was. I tried to explain that it was a library book cart...without much success. He understood when I pulled out two bags of books, put some of them together and held them, as they would be if they were in the cart. I said we were going into the prison in Peñasco Saturday to provide care for the men and women and the Commandant had given us permission to start a library. He listened, smiled and said we could go on. ¡Gloria a Dios!

After arriving at Playa Bonita RV Park, Lucy immediately took off to deliver donations. The men put up the tent and secured the RV's on their spots. With the weather being sunny and hot we immediately started giving out bottles of water to the vendors (and their children) that sell their items along the beach and campground. This trip we brought four cases of water and had no problem giving them all away. The vendors are always so appreciative and we are blessed by being able to



Volunteers go into prison to provide medical care for the prisoners



Dr. Rod Flowers (above) & translator, Belinda Reyna (below) greet prisoner patients



For more information go to [www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org)

## May trip to Mexico provides medical care for prisoners and mentoring for prison doctor.....page 2

help them in this small way. (Ask Marie and Lee Hale about their experience with handing out water to the vendors!) Friday morning was spent visiting and delivering the rest of the donations to the local ministers and missionary friends in Peñasco. The donations included 3 bags of children's clothes (with baby bottles - car seat - crib sheets), 3 bags of men's clothing, 1 box of men and women's shoes, 4 bags of women's clothing, 2 bags of sheets and pillow cases, 1 bag of towels and wash cloths, 2 boxes of pots and pans, and 2 bags of food. Soon it was time to go to the prison for the men and women's Bible study program. A few of the people with us on this trip had never been in a prison, so Lucy and I spent some time explaining to them what it would be like inside. We also advised everyone to pray about their concerns and do whatever God put on their hearts to do. There was no requirement that they go inside the prison with us. After answering questions and praying, the group loaded up and headed for the prison. We checked in at the first building and were searched (men were patted down), had our packages inspected and to drop off our keys and driver's licenses. This guard was friendly, but carried an automatic rifle and a side arm. This day there was the most security I have ever seen since we started visiting the prisoners. Our ladies entered the women's area to the right and the men went into the main yard area to meet with the men. Most of the men prisoners come right up to us and shake our hand and say "Dios le Bendiga" (God bless you). They are happy to see us. We gather in a large group and pray, a testimony is given and then we sing praise songs (accompanied by a guitar). A new program has been started where the men break up into three groups after the songs. The first group is for non-believers and new believers. A message and testimony

is given and then there is an altar call. The men that come forward are individually prayed for and given a Bible. The second group is a study group for the men that are a little more secure in their faith and are studying the Bible in more detail. The third group is formed of men that are going to be the disciples and future Christian leaders in the prison. As these study groups were going on I walked around the area and prayed for each group. As the first group finished I listened to the altar call and saw the men come forward to accept Jesus into their lives and to be prayed over. As I watched, God put an idea in my heart. "Find out if the new believers are or can be baptized in prison. If not make it happen!" I immediately went to Pat (the prison ministry leader) and asked. He said they have no way to baptize them. I responded, "Let's make it happen!" I told him I would get something to baptize in, if he would get permission from the Commandant! Upon exiting the prison (we were all accounted for. Yeah!) there were smiles, sighs and a lot of conversation about the experiences that just happened. We all agreed that prison ministry is a rewarding experience but this ministry is not for everyone. Friday night we had a barbecue at our RV and got acquainted with a few new members to our group. Belinda (first time on a mission trip and one of our translators) and Dr. Jonah Yakel (first time on a mission trip and our Chiropractic Doctor) and his wife, Jeni. They wanted to know a little more about what they were getting into. The next activity was to be a medical clinic held at the prison on Saturday from 8 am to whenever Saturday evening. As usual there was a change in plans! FRIDAY Pat was told we could not start treating people until 1pm because Saturday was visitation day until noon and we would conflict with families visiting prisoners! SO, at noon Saturday all the volunteers met at the RV Park for the caravan to the prison. We loaded all the medical supplies

## A volunteer comments....

*It was truly a blessing. I know that the inmates were so appreciative, but I know that we were all just as blessed to be there. God was with us the whole time. I never felt threatened or scared. I am so grateful that I was able to be His voice! Thank you for having me. I would love to be able to help in any way again.*  
**Belinda Reyna, translator**

(and \$700.00 worth of drugs purchased in Peñasco), a cooler with snacks and beverages (once in the prison you can't go in and out) and our clipboards into the truck and we were off. There was quite a crew: two men from the Friday Bible Study Program (our intermediaries because Pat would not be there till about one thirty) Dr. Rod Flowers, Dr. Troy Tompkins, Dr. Jonah Yakel and Jeni Yakel (intake person), Eric Carlson (intake person), Belinda Reyna (translator), Gary Wheeler (translator), Miguel Torres (translator), Lucy uno (intake person) and I (intake person - mostly just trying to stay out of the way). As we entered the infirmary we found we would be using three rooms as our clinic. The first room was a waiting room, about 8 feet by 12 feet, with a few chairs that would serve as our intake room. The second room was the prison doctor's office, also about 8 by 12 feet, where Dr. Jonah put his two chiropractic tables and would treat patients. The third room was the examination room (it was divided into two exam rooms) where Dr. Rod and Dr. Troy would examine and treat the patients with the young prison doctor observing closely and taking notes.



**Dr. Jonah Yakel, Chiropractic doctor treats prisoner.**

**We need your help!**

Manos de Dios is making a difference in the lives of families, pastors and prisoners in Sonora. Please prayerfully consider making a monthly or one time financial contribution. We are available for speaking engagements for club, church group or business meetings. Contact us for details (520-975-7356). Donate on line at [www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org). Thank you!

**Dennis and Lucy Smith, Manos de Dios (translated: hands of God)**

We set up our stations and were ready to see patients. Guards took turns bringing in the prisoners and we usually had five or six prisoners in the room at the same time. The patients would come in and be asked to fill out a short form (you know that drill!). Some of them would just stare at the form with a confused look on their face. It did not take us long to figure out they could not read or write! Lucy, Eric and/or a translator would smile and fill it out for them. The prisoners were polite, some friendly, some very shy, but all very appreciative of the help and care they were receiving. Two of the women that were treated were very scared and nervous. They were reassured by the females in our group and made to be as comfortable as possible. One of the female prisoners even brought in her nine month old baby (that lives in the cell with her). The patients had the option to be seen by the Chiropractor for an exam and adjustment or wait to see the MD's. There was a variety of medical problems, mostly minor. Lots of infections, bruises, cuts, and rashes. The doctors treated many concerns and dispensed medications. The malnutrition and vitamin deficiency they could do nothing about! One man had experienced rectal bleeding for the past two years. Unfortunately, our doctors could not help him in this prison environment. We worked non-stop for about four hours and the Doctors continued on for another hour, consulting with and training the prison doctor. They left all the remaining medication for future treatments. God had a great plan ...treat patients that day AND mentor the prison doctor to assist him in providing future medical care! By the end of the day Dr. Jonah had adjusted most of the volunteers, the prison doctor, two guards and the baby. What a busy day! The clinic was not the only activity going on at the prison that day. A hotdog lunch was served, a soccer team from the outside came in and challenged the prisoners to a match and free haircuts were offered. Oh, I forgot to mention, in addition to the medical clinic we implemented the prison library that day! We enjoyed a delicious dinner out and completed a debrief covering the total medical clinic experience. We all learned a lot and hope to make this a tri-annual project. PS... We already have a stock water tank donated by a local feed store employee for the prison baptisms!

# Future trips to Sonora!

Saturday, June 23, 2007 Water Fun Day in "Invasion

Barrio" in Puerto Peñasco. Last day to sign up to go: June 10th! Camp or stay in a local motel. Come early for a beach day and/or stay for church on Sunday.

Sunday, July 1, 2007. Pastor Tim Coop to preach at

Pastor Ernesto's church, Grupo Unidad Cristianos

Saturday, September 1, 2007 Youth Concert in El

Diamante in partnership with the Rock Church of Sahuarita. Spend labor day weekend camping with us and assisting in this outreach to the teens of small towns 100 miles south of Peñasco.

For more info and to sign up to join us on any of these short term missions trips ...contact Dennis and Lucy Smith, [GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org), 975-7356.

**Sunday** started off with a great worship service at Peñasco Christian Fellowship, then lunch and most of the group heading back to Tucson.

**Monday** Eric, Pat and Gerry, and Lucy and I loaded our truck up with the \$250.00 worth of food for food banks and the rest of the donations (clothing, shoes and baby formula) and headed out to El Diamante and Desemboque. The wind had picked up on Sunday afternoon and was still blowing pretty hard as we made our way south. There was visiting and pastries with pastor Alfonso and wife Angelita in El Diamante. Stocking the food bank and prayers were next. Eric volunteered to go with Lucy, Gerry and Angelita to Desemboque to visit with the pastor and his family and deliver the food for their food bank. Lucy will tell you what they learned later in this newsletter. Pat and I stayed behind to work on cleaning up our property, recently named "ANIMO" (Spanish for encouragement). We made it safely back to Peñasco Monday night only to find our campsite rearranged by the wind.

*Even with all the adversity, changes in plans, not completing the goals we set,*

*and gale force winds it was a blessing to be in Mexico and serve our Lord and our brothers and sisters. It is also a blessing to be with a group of volunteers that can adjust and be flexible with all the changes that take place and not get discouraged or bent out of shape. Truly, the Lord was in our midst. Thank you, volunteers! We could not have been *manos de Dios* (hands of God) without you.*

*Que les vaya bien, Dennis*

## Theme verse for our prison

### medical clinic...

"I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Matthew 25:36

### y en español....

"necesité ropa, y me vistieron; estuve enfermo, y me atendieron; estuve en la cárcel, y me visitaron." Mateo 25:36

**Please join us in praying ...**

**For** the Barrio Outreach Water Fun day planned for Saturday, June 23rd 11am to 3:00 pm. Please join us in **praying the following scripture** for the children & families we will be reaching out to AND for the 17 people on this missions team.

*"How beautiful on the mountains <in the barrios> are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion <Mexico>, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion <Mexico>, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem <Peñasco>, for the LORD has comforted his people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God." Isaiah 52: 7-10 (NIV)*

*Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites <Mexican people> is that they may be saved.... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:1, 13-15 (NIV)*

**For** Dennis and Lucy as they spend two weeks in Mexico (June 17-July 2). They will be concentrating on strengthening the relationships they have with indigenous pastors, as well as leading the barrio outreach and accompanying Pastor Tim Coop as he provides ANIMO for local pastors.



For lots more info go to:

[www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org)

**Partner with us to offer hope...**

Manos de Dios is a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization that partners with local pastors and missionaries in Sonora, Mexico to assist the poor with immediate relief efforts and long-term self-sustaining projects. Work projects are staffed with volunteers from the Mexico Missions Life Group of Pantano Christian Church plus other volunteers. Please prayerfully consider supporting our work to help the poor in Mexico.

Go to our website for details:

[www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org)

**Open our eyes, Lord...**

We have been praying about how to come along side small churches to encourage them to offer Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs. Often, the pastor's wife is responsible for this area of ministry. While "chatting" with one pastor's wife about the need to begin offering Bible teaching to the children outside of the worship service (instead of having children of all ages in the sanctuary) we sensed a hesitancy. She repeatedly asked us to come and provide the program for them. We insisted on her using materials from a conference she could attend in a neighboring community. We provided gas money and assured her that some of us would meet her there the next Saturday. It was only then that she quietly admitted that she could not read or write...so it would be hard for her to use the materials. OH! We had totally missed it. A need that had gone un-noticed for the nine months we had been in relationship with this pastor's wife. Now I understood why she always asked me to work with the children...she knew I would read to them! She explained that she was the oldest child in her family and her parents were migrant camp workers, moving often to find work. She went to work at age ten and did not have the opportunity to go to school. With tears in her eyes, she expressed her desire to learn to read and write. Please join us in praying for this young pastor's wife and mother of two preschool children. We are collecting literacy materials in Spanish and praying for the right person to step forward in her small community to mentor her.



*Dios les siga bendiciendo, Lucy uno*



**Manos de Dios wish list:**

**immediately...for Water Fun outreach in the barrio June 23rd:**  
**Awnings and used beach /bath towels**  
**El Diamante church needs:**

- \*Cases of bottled water for Youth Concert
- \*Compact 4 cylinder **PICK UP TRUCK** in good working condition

**Manos de Dios is the sole support for two community/church food banks. Here are some of the much needed items:**

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Peanut butter                       | Cooking oil                          |
| Chocolate drink mix                 | Canned tuna in oil                   |
| Powdered laundry soap (with bleach) | Macaroni and cheese (the good stuff) |
| Mashed potato flakes                | Laundry softener                     |
| Coffee                              | Soup mixes                           |
| Beef Stew                           | Juice boxes for kids                 |
| Meat ravioli                        | Canned corn & beans                  |
| Vienna Sausage                      | Canned ham                           |
| Otter Pops                          | Canned milk                          |

You may provide these items or give a cash donation to Manos de Dios for a specific need. For donation drop off or pick up [GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org) 975-7356