

making a difference



ManosdeDios.org

....in the lives of families, pastors & prisoners in the barrios of Sonora, MX

In this newsletter read about:

- Prisoners receiving much needed medical care
- A cell group meeting weekly in a barrio that is without water or electricity
 - Mexican pastors helping small churches
 - How you can help Manos de Dios Missions

September 2007



Dr. Rod examines prisoner

Medical Clinic in the prison, Puerto Peñasco

We are happy to report that our second medical clinic at the prison in Peñasco this year was a success. Our volunteer doctor, Dr. Rod (his second visit to the prison) did an excellent job of ministering medically and spiritually to the men and women prisoners.

Saturday, September the 29th started off with beautiful sunshine, warm temperatures and safe travel for all the volunteers. Dr. Rod, George and Belinda drove down to Puerto Peñasco Saturday morning and planned to return to Tucson immediately after the clinic. It was to be a long day but one, they said, that would be worth it.

Lucy, Missionary Pat and I met them at the prison and after a prayer in the middle of the street in front of the prison, we were quickly checked in by the guards. We entered with \$250 worth of medicine (we had purchased there in Mexico) plus donated needles, syringes, anti-bacterial soap, gauze dressing pads, bandages, cortisone cream, iodine and other medical supplies. We each carried our Bible and Dr.

Rod had his medical bag. The only thing they did not allow us to bring in was our camera. It stayed in the guard office with our car keys.

Within five minutes after we arrived the guards started bringing in prisoners for treatment. George and Belinda took turns translating for Dr. Rod and working in the intake office with Lucy and me. The prison staff doctor was not available (he was on the Mexican version of National Guard duty) so we worked closely with the prison nurse (a male). For this, our second prison medical clinic, we added some new questions to our prisoner intake form that each prisoner completed. These included: Do any family members visit you? If so, how many adults/children? We also asked if they currently or in the past had been diagnosed with TB or Hepatitis. Some prisoners needed help completing the intake form, as they could not read or write. Lucy then took the prisoners one at a time into the adjoining room to take their blood pressure and heart rate. This



Lucy takes vitals of prisoner



Medical Clinic team and prison captain

More photos online at www.ManosdeDios.org

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gave her an opportunity to look over their form and chat with them. Even before reading the answers to the questions on the intake form, she could guess which men NEVER have visitors come to see them. They were VERY thin (they eat prison food only...family can bring in home cooked food to their family member); their clothes were very worn (no family to bring a change of clothes or shoes) and their eyes were painfully distant. Lucy spoke words of encouragement and asked questions of them to show care and concern. She silently prayed for each prisoner as they waited to see the doctor. Occasionally, it was apparent that a prisoner was high on drugs. (Yes, drugs are available for purchase in the prison!) It was then that George, Lucy and I huddled for a quiet prayer as we felt the presence of evil in the infirmary.

The men and the women prisoners were polite and appreciative, as usual. Some of them were repeat patients and needed continued treatment. Infections, foot fungus, high fever, depression, strokes and breathing problems were just a few of the illnesses Dr. Rod and the nurse were able to treat. We played Christian music in Spanish softly in the intake room and visited with our patients as much as we could. We also gave them a small bag with soap and shampoo as they left to return to their cell.

Shortly after getting set up, Pat asked the prison captain (second in command) if we could have our camera and take pictures inside the infirmary. He responded with, "I will get the camera and take pictures for you." He did a better job than we would have, or could have done. He was all over the place taking pictures of everything and everybody. He was with us all day and took numerous pictures of the prisoners! Toward the end of the day the guards advised us there would be a prisoner that would be personally escorted in for treatment. (Translation: this prisoner could be violent!) Two large-armed guards were holding him firmly when they brought him in. They bypassed the intake form and went straight into the doctor's office. Dr. Rod treated him without incident, Praise the Lord. He was psychotic and had not had his medication for some time (causing his violent outbreaks). The nurse gave us the names of the three medications this man

needs (that they did not have). We offered to go to the pharmacy and purchase them and return with them on Monday. (When we tried purchasing those meds there in Mexico, they were unavailable. We did purchase another \$250 worth of meds that Dr. Rod prescribed for some specific prisoners and some for the prison population in general. We dropped these meds off at the prison first thing Monday morning.)

After we saw the men, we had just enough time to **treat two women**, Josie and Denille. Lucy had a little time to visit and pray (which made her very happy) with these women who she knows and loves from our prison ministry. By the end of the day we were a little tired, a little dusty and not too hot (after they found a fan for us to use in the intake room). **But mostly we were very blessed by being able to serve those in prison.**

"I was in prison and you visited me" Matthew 25:36b

"estuve en la cárcel y vinieron a verme" Mateo 25:36

Dr Rod, Belinda and George then headed back to Tucson. It was a blessing for Lucy and me to be in the company of those dedicated servants, our medical team volunteers.

That night we both dreamed about the prisoners. Lucy said the faces of the men **who never have visitors** come to her mind often. We are praying about how we can help meet some of their needs in the future.

*...Dios estaba con nosotros
(God was with us)*

Dennis



Dennis (center) chatting with prison patients



Dr. Rod, treating prisoner. Belinda translating.

Prison Ministry Follow up:

Missionary Pat Rico, accompanied by Carlos (a former prisoner and brother in Christ) met with 50 prisoners for the first day of our new Amor Rico/Manos de Dios Bible Study in the prison, Monday, Oct. 8, 2007. They laid the groundwork for a weekly meeting. Pat took the opportunity, while he was there in the prison, to speak with the prison nurse. The nurse expressed how much he appreciated ALL our medical team did for them on September 29th. He was also impressed that we followed up by delivering additional needed medicine the next Monday morning. Pat told him Manos de Dios and Amor Rico Missions want to help the prisoners with their medical needs and can do that more easily if we receive a list of needed medications. As Pat was leaving the prison, the nurse handed him a list of needed meds! We are praying for additional funding for the necessary meds and are planning to have another medical clinic in January 2008 in the prison. We continue to be God's hands and feet where He would have us go. **Please pray** for this weekly Bible Study in the prison, scheduled for Mondays from 1-3pm. We hope to begin ministering to women again soon.

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. Donate online at www.ManosdeDios.org. Contact us to schedule Lucy to speak about "Four Women of Sonora, Mexico" for your church or community group. (520)-975-7356
Thank you! Dennis and Lucy Smith, Manos de Dios (translated: God's hands)

El Sembrador Iglesia reaches out

Pastor Lupe and his wife Rafaela go into Colonia



Puerto Peñasco (formerly called Invasión Nueva Peñasco) to hold a cell group in Fabiola's yard. Each Thursday evening 10 or more women and their young children gather. Rafaela lays out supplies for a craft...last week it was canvas and yarn for embroidering. The women gathered around the two tables set up in the front yard. They begin to embroider large flowers with bright colored yarn. As the sun set, Pastor Lupe pulled the church bus into Fabiola's front yard. He plugged an extension cord with a single light bulb into the bus and hung it from the house. Rafaela began to tell the story of Deborah from the Old Testament. The women listened attentively. Meanwhile, Pastor Lupe took the kids around to the back of the house.



Mom learns to embroider at cell group meeting

Upcoming Manos de Dios projects in Sonora

Los Niños-children's outreach as a part of the Pantano Christian Church Rocky Point Amor house building trip (November 8—11). Manos de Dios has arranged for four locations to hold mini Vacation Bible School programs with the theme of "Jesus is our Super Hero". A team of 40 volunteers will be sharing Jesus' love with the local children using music, games, crafts, and drama.

Christian Concert in Prison in Puerto Peñasco, Thursday, November 14, 2007. A Spanish speaking band from Alaska will be providing the music for this outreach sponsored by the weekly Prison Bible Study provided by Amor Rico Missions & Manos de Dios.

Pastors Leadership Conference in El Diamante : Friday and Saturday, November 30 & December 1. Pastor Tim Coop, Pastor Stan Tedrow and Pastor Alfonso Alvidrez are leading the instruction for 15 pastors and their wives. Manos de Dios volunteers will be providing and serving meals for the conference.

Christmas Posada in Prison in Puerto Peñasco. Saturday, December 15th. Funding needed for turkey dinner for 450 prisoners/guards.

2008 projects (dates to be announced):

- Children's vaccinations and medical clinic in El Diamante. *Doctors, nurses & funding needed*
- LifeWind Visions Conference for pastors and leaders
- Build a home! *Construction workers and funding needed!*

Watch for "short term mission team guidelines" to be listed on our website shortly

Women embroider at cell group meeting in barrio, Puerto Peñasco

He had mini bars of soap, a basin of water and a white towel. He taught the children (ages 2 to 8) how to wash their hands. After they enthusiastically washed their hands in the cool water, Pastor Lupe drew a connection between their clean hands and their clean hearts, when they invite Jesus in through prayer. The children enthusiastically sang songs about Jesus, complete with claps and hand motions. Games rounded out the evening for the children. After the story of Deborah, Fabiola began to serve fish soup to all the women and children gathered for the cell group. Wonderful fellowship followed.

Praise the Lord for local Pastors and their wives reaching out to bring the Good News to families in outlying neighborhoods!



FYI...the street in front of Fabiola's home (see photo to left) will be the location of one of the 4 "Los Niños" outreach programs during the Amor Rocky Point House Building Trip, November 8-11!

Prayer time for Mexico:

Each Thursday 11:00am to 1:00pm.
Join us in the spirit of prayer as we lift up the people in Mexico and the work of Manos de Dios.

Please join us in praying this scripture for unity & for the spread of the Gospel in Mexico...

John 17:20-27 (NIV)

Jesus Prays for All Believers.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” **AMEN!**

Manos de Dios wish list:

For our Mexico church partners:

- PROJECTOR to show Jesus film at migrant camp outreaches
- Compact 4 cylinder PICK UP TRUCK in good working condition
- Prescription GLASSES & readers
- TRAILER or RV for missions teams use



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
Canned milk
Multi-Vitamins

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 975-7356



For lots more info go to:

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 prayfully consider supporting our work to help the poor in Mexico.

Go to our website for details:

www.ManosdeDios.org

Praise the Lord!

He is the Creator of ALL!

He is our Jehovah Jireh...provider

- **For generous donations to provide medication for prisoners in Puerto Peñasco cárcel**
- **For a donation of one year of health insurance for Pat & Gerry, missionaries living in Peñasco**
- **For the plans He already has to give hope to the poor and oppressed in Mexico**
- **For the LifeWind program we are beginning to implement to assist the poor in helping themselves with community development**