



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

July/August 2018

Providing host families for Native students
and advocating for LIFE



***Beginning of the school year
Host Family gathering for pizza and
fellowship! ****

***This year we are blessed to have families with
young children as well as teens!***

Praise God for host families.

Front and center:

KK, Naomi, Thearsa and host sister, Emma

**** see page 3 for change in families***

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Past host family treats Thearsa & Naomi to summer trip!



**Thearsa & Naomi at airport
with Sharon**

Sharon and Dan (who have hosted girls from the White Mountain Apache Reservation for three years!) moved from Tucson to Huntsville, Alabama at the beginning of the summer. They offered to fly Thearsa and Naomi to visit them both in Alabama and Virginia where Dan needed to go to attend meetings for work. Sharon flew to Tucson to accompany the girls on their flight east as this was Thearsa's first time to fly. (The girls flew alone back to Tucson with a transfer of planes in Chicago!)

Highlights of their trip were kayaking behind Sharon and Dan's house, visiting Dollywood in Tennessee, and playing in the waves at the beach in Virginia. (See photos!)

Thank you, Sharon and Dan, for continuing to bless these girls and provide life-changing travel experiences!

**Thearsa and Naomi kayak
on the river behind Sharon
and Dan's new home
outside of Huntsville, AL**



**Thearsa and Naomi enjoy
playing in the waves at a
beach in Virginia.**

Sadly, KK returns to the Rez...by Lucy

We thought it was a match made in heaven...KK living with Headmaster Dr. Travis and his wife Tannia and daughter, Emma. A cross-cultural home filled with laughter and music! The families met and discussed guidelines well in advance of KK's move to Tucson in early August. Scholarships were applied for and placement tests were taken. Many prayers were lifted up!

In Tucson, tearful goodbyes were exchanged when KK's family left to return to the Reservation. We praised God for a close-knit family that loves each other so much!

KK started school and we arranged for violin lessons for her (one of her 'dreams!') But, we began to hear that she was 'homesick'. Thearsa and Naomi encouraged her that things would get better and KK spoke often on the phone with her family.

While in Show Low, Dennis and I met with KK's family twice. Once, we were under the understanding that all was OK. A second time we were told that KK wanted to move back home and go to school in the White Mountains. "*Oh, Lord! Is this Your will?*" I prayed. The Kessays checked with the high school that is closest to their home and it was full. They wanted to wait until a place opened up there for KK and then bring her home. We prayed together on the front porch of our home in Show Low.

I called Dr. Travis and heard from him that KK was not happy and not adapting to their home environment or to the school's learning process. KK missed her home, her family, her church and their way of worship.

After praying, Dennis and I decided that it would be best to have KK move home that weekend and not prolong her discomfort. We also didn't want her to influence Thearsa or Naomi into thinking they could simply move home when they were unhappy. We trusted that a place would open up for KK in a local high school, on or off the Reservation. She is now attending Alchesay HS in White River, on the White Mountain Apache Reservation.

This is a lot for a 14-year-old to process! *Please pray for KK to thrive at a Reservation school!*



KK on her first day of school at Desert Christian High School

Christians and the chokehold the world has on their lives... by Dennis

It is a fact. The world has some control on the lives of us as Christians. Some of us give in and allow the world to control us a little, while others submit to the world and fall victim to walking in the world to a greater extent. We are reminded over and over in scripture to fight against this pull; but sadly, many of us do not heed the Lord's warnings.

Our latest drama reflects these sentiments and is a good reminder for us to watch out and be firm in our faith.

Case in point. Our newest student to DCHS has appeared to allow the world and her feelings to direct her actions and reactions. She, "KK," came from the reservation to go to Desert Christian School (three weeks ago) and has already transferred out of DCHS and gone back to the Reservation. She stated she was homesick and did not fit in.

When she requested to come to school in Tucson she and her family were told what was expected of her educationally and the conditions for her living with a host family (including responsibility for her room, technology guidelines & punctuality).

Fast forward three weeks and we started hearing rumors that KK was not happy and wanted to go back to the Reservation. Lucy immediately contacted her to get the 'real' story. She assured Lucy that everything was fine and she did not want to go home. That was not an accurate answer.

KK was in fact VERY homesick, was not adapting to the regimen of the host parents or the school. Her Old Testament class challenged her with questions encouraging her to know what and why she believed. KK admitted that she wasn't ready for this type of Bible class. Another concern we found out was that a person on the Rez told her, before she moved to Tucson, that she would not make it and come back home. So one of the reasons KK came to Desert Christian was to prove that person wrong. Not a good reason to consider when making a major decision such as this!

So how does this tie in with how the world works negatively in our lives? The world tells us to stand our ground and prove others wrong (pride) and that is not a Biblical guideline. The world tells us to make decisions based on how we feel while scripture tells us to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us which it seems KK did not do. The world tells us we can be deceptive and not truthful, if necessary, while scripture tells us to be honorable and truthful. Biblically we are to seek wisdom and wise council to result in an honorable solution. And the world tells us we can disrespect authority if it offends us, so we really do not have to commit to honoring what we agreed upon. Jesus tells us to honor those in authority over us and honor our commitments.

Lesson learned in this latest drama: When you make a commitment, do so backed by sound advice, wise council, true commitment to making it work, perseverance, determination and open communication. These things were sadly missing in this transition from the Reservation to Desert Christian School and Tucson.

We are still praying for KK to grow in her walk with the Lord as we turn all this over to Him to handle.

We are so grateful for a Godly school with high standards!

The Mission of Desert Christian Schools is to:

- Pursue EXCELLENCE in Christian Education
- Foster CHRIST-CENTERED Relationships
- Endeavor to meet the UNIQUE Learning Needs of Every Student*

Theme Verse for the 2018-2019 school year:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.” Mark 12:30 (MEV)

****We are so grateful that Desert provides specialized learning for each student! Testing has determined that Thearsa needs accommodations academically. Praise God for the resources (financial and programming) that Thearsa is blessed with by Manos de Dios supporters and Desert Christian Schools!***

Drelyn gets advice from Dennis...and sends a reply!

Drelyn,

*I want to commend you for making it thru high school and moving on to NPC**. It was a challenge and, as you know, you had a few very tough times and obstacles to overcome. But you overcame them! I pray and hope you learned from these challenges and that knowledge will help you make better decisions when you face other challenges (as we all do).*

Remember to step out and try things even though you think you may fail. My definition of failure is not trying due to fear. And remember to ask questions, even if you think it may be a stupid question, for the only stupid question is the one you wish you would have asked.

I know I was hard on you sometimes but it was because I care about you and saw potential in you and I hated to see it wasted because of your stubbornness and strong will. Those can be good qualities if used correctly and I pray that as you grow you will continue to be able to use those qualities in the right manner.

I am proud of you and your accomplishments and hope to see more and more of them in the future. You can do it!

One last “remember” and I will close. Remember to constantly say thank you to all those who bless you, especially God, and show appreciation for all you are blessed with. And bless others!

I also want to thank you for continuing to stay in touch with Lucy. She loves you so much and your conversations with her warm her heart (and mine). As for me, I miss our conversations about all types of things and even our occasional arguments about things we disagreed on. You were challenging but you did listen and I hope I also listened to what you had to say.

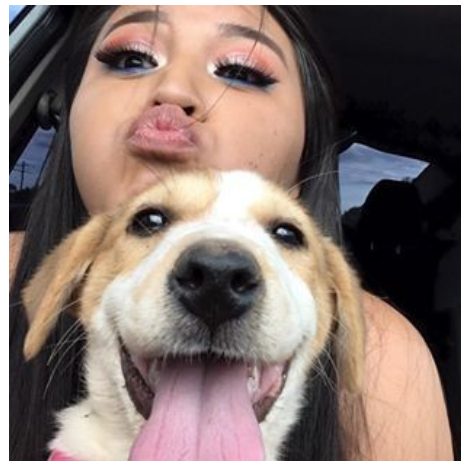
Stay strong, go to class and do the best you can and you will have succeeded.
Dennis

Dennis, Thank you so much for the encouraging words and reminder to keep on pushing to continue on my path to success. I appreciate the times you were tough on me. In the moment it didn't seem like anything more than nagging but I now understand that it is what a parent is supposed to do. It made me realize that there is someone that cares about me. You knew I needed to hear what you had to say in order to set me straight in my actions.

I have not forgotten to say my Thank You's. Thanks to you and Lucy. Haha! Although sometimes my mom says I say thank you too much, I will continue to say so. I realize the small gesture of appreciating something someone is doing for you can make a huge difference in their day or even a reminder to them to say thank you.

I miss you and Lucy so much, and Chaco! And the desserts we shared every night after dinner. Love you both so much! :)

Love, Drelyn



**Drelyn with her puppy
Sunshine**

****Drelyn is attending Northland Pioneer College in Whiteriver**



Nicole with daughter, Deleana

My friend Laura and I spent a day on the Reservation. Highlights of our day were visits with Nicole and with Jacy.

We waited at Nicole's boyfriend's grandmother's apartment for Nicole to get off the school bus from her day at high school. Her boyfriend, D'Angelo, had been watching their daughter, Deleana, while Nicole attended school. Life is hard, Nicole admitted. But she feels stuck with no where else to go. We prayed with her and Laura has stayed in touch with her. Laura is helping Nicole apply to the Hope Maternity Home in Show Low. Nicole was told that if there was an opening for her and Deleana, she would need to agree to abide by the rules which include: working and/or going to school, doing chores, staying pure, and avoiding drugs and alcohol. *Please join us in praying for God's will to be done in Nicole's life!* Thank you!



Lucy with Jacy and her daughter, Brielle

Jacy welcomed us into her boyfriend's mother's home to meet her daughter, Brielle. She shared that her boyfriend's mother is encouraging her to go back to school and Jacy hopes to enroll in Northland Pioneer (Community) College (NPC) in Whiteriver in January to begin her pursuit of a college degree. *Please pray that Jacy will find her strength in the Lord and make good choices for her future and the future of her daughter!* Thank you!

Good news from the sidewalk!

....by Lucy

God is at work in Tucson!

Within the past couple months there have been two huge changes that affect our Pro-Love sidewalk advocacy ministry.

Tucson Women's Center, Tucson's only remaining abortion clinic, has moved into the Planned Parenthood (PP) facility. This makes approaching clients so much easier! The public sidewalk is very close to their parking lot and all those entering this parking lot are intending to get services at that clinic!

Also, Hands of Hope, a faith-based pregnancy organization, has purchased an office in a medical complex very near this PP location. This will allow our sidewalk advocates to refer clients to this near-by facility for FREE services, including pregnancy tests and ultrasounds plus we can even accompany clients to Hands of Hope personally.

Wow, Lord! Thank you for these moves that open the door for us to share more of Your grace, love, truth and hope with those in an unplanned pregnancy situation or those participating in pre-martial sexual activity.

We're asking God for continued boldness to reach out to women and men, offering help, options, hope, Godly Truth and a listening ear. Please pray with us!

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Contact Manos de Dios Ministry!

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Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

**Manos de Dios, NFP
2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson
AZ 85715 or made on our website:
ManosdeDios.org**



***Lucy, Kerri & Jeannelle
Pro-Love volunteers stand in front
of new Hands of Hope pregnancy
clinic location***

***"For You formed my inward parts;
You knitted me together in my
mother's womb. I praise You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made. Won-
derful are Your works; my soul knows
it very well.***

***My frame was not hidden from You,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of
the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed
substance; in Your book were written,
every one of them, the days that were
formed for me, when as yet there was
none of them." Psalm 139:13-16 (ESV)***