



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

May/June 2018

*Providing host families for Native students
and advocating for LIFE*



Naomi is moving up to high school!

Praise God for a goal reached: Naomi was promoted from 8th grade to Desert Christian High School!

Naomi has attended Desert Christian School since 5th grade and has grown into a beautiful, confident, inspiring, cheerful, intelligent young lady. She cares deeply for her family, many of whom traveled from Whiteriver to celebrate this accomplishment with her. Naomi will continue her athletics and will also participate in Desert Christian High School's highly acclaimed theater program beginning with the fall Musical production of "The King and I"! (Let us know if you want ticket information for November 2018!) Naomi will once again be hosted by the Han family. Thank you, Lord!

"For He who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is His name." Luke 1:49



Naomi, attired in traditional Navajo dress, with very proud Dennis & Lucy



Naomi (center) with her Mom (Yosh), godparents, former host parents (Sharon & Dan), Thearsa, older sister (Tiera) with her boyfriend (Brandon) and their daughter (Delilah) at the 8th grade promotion ceremony

We praise God for the work

He has done in Naomi's heart and mind and look forward to seeing what He will do in her as she grows throughout High School! Thank you to all who have given to Manos de Dios in support of these beautiful young ladies!

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God provides a wonderful host family for KK!...by Lucy



**Israel (KK's brother) Tannia & Toby (new host parents),
Kenny (KK's dad) KK Shirl (KK's mom)**

“Have you been praying?” I questioned KK on the phone. She quietly answered, “Yes.” I said, “Well, God has answered our prayers in a BIG way! We have a wonderful host family for you!” “Really?” was her enthusiastic reply. “The only stipulation is that you need to be willing to be a big sister to a sweet 6-year-old,” I said. She answered, “I would love to be a big sister. I have always been the ‘little sister’ in my family!”

I told KK about her new host family, Toby, Tannia and Emma*. We planned for KK and her family to meet them when she came for her interview at Desert Christian High School on May 26th.

God is so good! Dennis and I had hesitated when Kenny and KK Kessay approached us, asking if we would help KK come to Desert Christian High School. Our hesitation was knowing how difficult it has been finding host families. We all prayed and left it in God's hands. *And God!....*provided a godly, strong, loving family to enable KK to come from the White Mountain Apache Reservation to attend Desert Christian High School in Tucson!

***“Now to Him who
is able to do far
more abundantly
than all that we
ask or think ...”
Ephesians 3:20***

Tannia and Emma are from Ecuador and will provide even more of a cross-cultural experience for KK.

Toby is a former music teacher (and the current Headmaster of Desert Christian Schools) and will be able to facilitate KK continuing to play her violin (in addition to encourage her in her studies!)



***Toby, Emma (6) & Tannia**

Thank you Lord, for your awesome faithfulness!

Drelyn graduates from Desert Christian High School!



Drelyn with Dennis and Lucy at her Baccalaureate

Wow! What a four years! At times we weren't sure Drelyn was going to make it...but she did! She has experienced so much love, support, and encouragement as she matured and was challenged through four years of high school! We are so grateful to Desert Christian School staff, her teachers and especially the host families who poured into Drelyn for these four

years. She would not be at this point in her life today without you! *May God bless you!*

Drelyn has a summer job working for The Tribe on her Reservation. She is enrolled at Northland Pioneer College (NPC) there in the White Mountains to begin her college education in the fall. *Please join us in praying that Drelyn will remember WHO she is in Christ and spread the LIGHT that she carries into her home, classes and her Reservation!*

"...that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world"
Philippians 2:15



Drelyn is congratulated by her older sister, Riscilla, at graduation

***Update on Riscilla or
You can tell them the truth but that does not mean they will listenby Dennis***

Riscilla started out at Desert Christian High School a little behind the average student but with hard work, tutoring and sound advice from her host families, her teachers and Lucy and me she blossomed and became an excellent student. Her grades were good, she had sweet friends and became active in sports and in her host families' lives. Her hard work paid off, she overcame missing her home on the Reservation, and gained confidence. She grew in her faith and knowledge of the Bible.

When she became a junior, Lucy and I started seriously reminding her of her upcoming graduation and going off to college where she would be "on her own." Along with Lucy and me she was given sound advice from a variety of people including host parents and Native American advisors at Northern Arizona University. She was warned many times of the dangers of being alone with no one to look over her shoulder to keep her on track, classmates that were more interested in partying or goofing off than studying, and the new freedom she would have that was a new experience for her.

This first year Riscilla was attending NAU we kept in contact with her (phone, texts, email and visits), tried to monitor her grades, health and emotional stability. The response was always "I am doing fine, classes are difficult but I am doing OK and I am studying a lot."

Then, a couple weeks after the end of NAU spring classes, we received a notice that Riscilla was not being invited back to NAU because her grade average was not up to standard! (She had a 1.89 and needed a 2.0) What a shock and a let-down! This was heart-breaking and disappointing news for not just Lucy and me, but for many that have been praying, supporting and rooting for her to succeed!

Riscilla says she does not know what happened; she thought she was doing OK! She was warned that it would be a difficult first year and to put all her effort into her studies. But just maybe if she would have spent her extra time studying, instead of spending time on FaceBook posts (some late at night) and taking road trips with her friends to see the sights around northern Arizona, she would have had a better grade average and returned to NAU this fall. "You can take a horse to water but you can't make them drink."

We are continuing to pray for Riscilla and to offer support and advice to her if she asks, however, Riscilla is in control of her future. What she does now is up to her. She can attend a community college, bring up her grades and re-apply to enroll at NAU again, if she chooses. At this point she says she will be enrolling at Northland Pioneer College (NPC) in Whiteriver to get a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certificate. We had asked her to get a full-time job this summer to begin contributing to her college housing expenses. We have not seen evidence of a job yet and have told her that we will not be financially supporting her education at this time. We need to see her investing personally into her own education and showing improved grades.

"Success takes determination, perseverance and sacrifice." If you don't have these three things in your heart, success is not usually in your future...Dennis

"Heavenly Father, we lift Riscilla up to You. We ask that You would impact her heart and mind with the seriousness of her decisions at this time. We ask that you protect her and alert her to the enemy's strategies to steal, kill and destroy...including dreams and goals. We pray that You strengthen her by Your Holy Spirit to make wise choices and work hard for her future! In Jesus' Name we pray! Amen!"

Some more sad news...by Lucy

Some of you may remember that when we brought Thearsa and Naomi to visit Desert Christian schools 4 years ago we also brought another young lady, Nicole, from the Reservation. Unfortunately, even though we had a wonderful host family lined up, Nicole chose not to come to Tucson. Her life has been a mess ever since. And now,



Nicole with one-day-old daughter, Deleana

at the age of 16, she gave birth to Deleana on June 9th in Show Low, AZ. I spent time in the hospital with Nicole and her 18-year-old boyfriend, D'Angelo, as they began to learn to parent their new baby. I spoke candidly with D'Angelo about his responsibility to now provide for these two precious women in his life. He is enrolled in (but hasn't started yet) a program to help him get off weed. He then needs to take online classes to get his GED and THEN get a job. I prayed with him and gave them a Bible.



Nicole and boyfriend, D'Angelo with their daughter Deleana

"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" I Peter 3:15



**ADOPTION
SOLUTIONS**
of ARIZONA

We referred Nicole to this ministry.

They have a love for Native Americans and a desire to help young moms make the best decision for themselves and their baby.

520-400-4775

When I followed up with Nicole after their release from the hospital she was struggling as they were living with relatives in over-crowded homes and combating bedbug-infested sleeping quarters. I asked Nicole to pray about whether it might be better for Deleana if she made a plan for adoption.

I spoke of the young women I know who loved their babies so much that they chose to give them a home, family, education and future they could never provide. Some have gone on to finish their own education, get married and THEN have children when they had a stable marriage and home. Nicole said she would consider and pray about it. I haven't heard from her in a couple weeks.

Please pray for Nicole, Deleana and D'Angelo.

Another teen having a baby!

....by Lucy

Jacy attended Desert Christian School for her 8th grade year. She began at the high school and then was caught breaking one of our 'no tolerance rules' and had to return to the Reservation. We offered the opportunity for Jacy to return to Desert with repentance and agreement to abide by the rules. She chose not to return. Jacy continued high school and graduated from Alchesay in Whiteriver in May. We have kept in touch with Jacy and recently heard that she was pregnant! Oh dear! I was able to meet with Jacy briefly in Whiteriver in June. She reported that she is living with her boyfriend, Brodrick, and his mother. Brodrick

"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness ." Psalm 86:15

dropped out of high school and does not have a job. She asked for prayer for him to break his addiction to drugs and get a job to support their baby.

Please join us in praying for Jacy, Brodrick and their baby girl!

I am once again impacted with the TRUTH of why God has put in place His standards of sexual purity until marriage! These girls, as well as so many whom I encounter when doing sidewalk advocacy with Pro-Love Tucson, ***find themselves in a desperate situation:*** Pregnant, no viable means of support, a rocky, unstable relationship with their baby's father, no home of their own, and a future of dependence on 'the system' or family.

God's plan? Chastity until marriage. A pure courtship between believers who share similar goals and beliefs. A covenant marriage before God and family, tying a couple together for a life time. A relationship, although not without ups and downs, where each can be known for who they truly are and share honestly emotionally, physically and spiritually with their spouse. Gladly welcoming children as a gift from the Lord. Trusting in God's timing and provision for safe, comfortable housing. Working to provide for your family and sharing of your blessings with others.

Oh Lord! Help us model and share God's principles with those around us!

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 with Jacy who is due with a baby girl this month

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:14