



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

## Winter 2019 Newsletter

### Facilitating education for Native youth and advocating for LIFE



## Naomi blossoms and matures!

*Be proud of this young lady. You have prayed for her, read about her, encouraged her and financially poured into her! Naomi, now a sophomore at Desert Christian High School, is a beautiful, self-confident young lady who is not hesitant to carry on a conversation about just about any topic with anyone! She smiles, looks one in the eye and asks challenging questions that she has been grappling with herself. Naomi is striving to keep her grades up in an ever-challenging, highly academic school while playing sports and participating in a rigorous musical program. Her host family gives her room to struggle and yet respects and*



**Naomi with host sisters Rachel and Anna after Desert Christian's "White Christmas" production.**



**Naomi models her early Christmas gift and beautiful smile!**

*cares for her in a way that truly demonstrates the love of Jesus! Naomi is working at her first job, has her motor vehicle learner's permit and some day wants to be an auto mechanic "after I get my associates degree." Her favorite subject is Biology, she loves pigeons and is interested in a fine Christian young man at her school. He challenges her to ask Jesus for His input when she is struggling and prays for her when she is having a down day.*

*Like many of us, Naomi desires to have healthy boundaries and is intentionally working on how to put those in place in a variety of her relationships.*

***You can take a person out of an environment.  
But can you take the environment out of the person?...by Dennis***

Bringing Apache young people from the White Mountain Apache Reservation to go to school in Tucson was in itself a major challenge. Lucy and I had total support from the girls' mothers who believed the stability, opportunity for a better academic and Christian-worldview education, and wholesome environment where they would get to know Jesus in a deeper sense would all be a blessing to them. This drastic change in the environment came with many challenges for the young ladies, their host families and Lucy and me as their facilitators. It was also a time when Jesus was relied on heavily for guidance, patience, perseverance, and grace on all sides.

In the seven years we have sponsored students attending Desert Christian Schools, two of the young ladies had to go back to the Reservation because of poor choices and one went back voluntarily. We were blessed to facilitate Riscilla attending Desert Christian High School for four years plus one year at Northern Arizona University. Drelyn also spent four years at Desert, graduated and has gone on to attend Northland Pioneer Community College in Whiteriver. Naomi has been at Desert for six years and is a sophomore with hopes of attending a university or a technical trade school to learn auto mechanics. We are extremely proud of these young ladies and the dedication and perseverance they showed in all they have accomplished.

What does this have to do with environment? A lot. The girls who did not graduate from high school in Tucson are not to be condemned or criticized. It just did not work out for them and their personality. They had struggles that they did not know how to handle.

Thearsa, our last student who had to return to the Reservation, really tried to make it work. She knew the problems she faced and she was mature enough to tell us and to request help in handling those concerns. There were prayers, counseling, tutoring, medical intervention and love infused into her life by all around her. However, she still struggled immensely. In addition to these struggles, she admitted that she strongly desired to return to the Reservation and her family. After prayers and communicating with her mother, her counselor and her host family it was decided that for the best interest of Thearsa it was time for her to go home. We are happy to say that she is doing well at the Reservation school and her mother and extended family are there to help her with her struggles.



**Naomi, Lucy, Dennis & Thearsa (taken in September, the day before Thearsa went back to the Reservation).**

Native American people, even with all their diversity, have a strong desire to have a close knit family unit. We have been told that sometimes when a person goes off to college for four years and returns home there is a stigma attached to them because they left their family and the Reservation. Even Natives who are trying to leave a dysfunctional family environment encounter that inner drive to stay close to their family. Now that we understand this, we can look back at the students who returned to the Reservation and see that just maybe this removal from their familiar environment had an impact on how they acted (unconsciously) and the choices they made.

It should be easier for adults to change their environment and be able to handle it because of their maturity, experience, and knowledge of how life works. But these young students do not have those benefits. They are just children and have not had the time to learn and understand.

Staying to continue their education or going home, these girls should be commended for trying.



## Thank you, Lord, for sending more workers (sidewalk advocates)!...by Lucy

I love reading and applying prayers from the Bible. One I have prayed throughout our years in ministry is found in Matthew 9: 37-38 (and also in Luke 10:2) ***“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefor pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”***

Being a “worker” on the Pro-Love Tucson\* team is not easy. We talk with strangers about their unexpected pregnancy and the decision of whether to abort their unborn child or not. We dialog with single clients about sexual integrity as they come for birth control and/or STI (sexually transmitted infections) testing or treatment. We mourn with those who have already made an abortion decision. Persecution comes in the form of shouts, obscenities, gestures and threats. We pray for (and often with) the clients and workers at the local Planned Parenthood facility.

So...we are praising the Lord of the Harvest for calling and gifting new and old volunteers! Pro-Love Tucson teams of 3-4 trained volunteers are currently ‘on the sidewalk’ three 3-hour shifts a week. With newly trained volunteers we will be adding one or two more shifts in 2020. The more time our prayerful, peaceful presence is on the sidewalk the more opportunities there are for lives to be impacted by God’s grace and truth.

Thank you for your prayers and support of Pro-Love Tucson life-saving ministry facilitated by Manos de Dios, NFP. For more information go to \* <https://www.ProLoveTucson.com/> To be added to our weekly prayer email list send a request to [Lucy4ProLove@gmail.com](mailto:Lucy4ProLove@gmail.com)



**Pro-Love Tucson volunteer gathering at Dennis and Lucy’s home.**



**Pro-Love baby, Olivia!  
Now 6 months old!**

## Taking a back seat ....by Dennis

There is nothing like taking the back seat to improve your position of humility! And that is what I have been doing lately.

Struggling with severe back pain and treatment (including the implantation and later removal of stimulators and my 5th back surgery in May) keeps me from getting involved in many physical activities in our personal and mission life. ***But that has not kept me from serving.***

I help my 93-year-old father-in-law in his daily activities and even stabilize him so he can play 9 holes of golf occasionally! I do limited yard work (sometimes not so limited but then I pay for it) and transport and cook for our student, Naomi. I also am Lucy's roadie, helping her set up for trainings for Pro-Love Tucson volunteers. Another thing I do, which I love, is cook for and provide hospitality for the BBQ's and meals we provide for Pro-Love volunteers and host families at our home. They all seem to appreciate being well-fed!

I also keep up with what is happening in the Christian world by reading books and internet articles. To help me process and learn, I write concerning what is going on and post on my blog page and on our

Manos de Dios website. (If you would like to receive my articles directly, send your email address and I will add you to my list.)

Since our mission is involved with our Native American brothers and sisters, I have been reading non-fiction books about their history and their varied cultures so I can better understand our students' personalities and ways of thinking. Even though we all live in the same country, theirs is a different culture and way of life which many of us know little about. I am convinced it is nothing like the media or most books portray. If you are interested in real history, you may want to read: The Apache Wars by Paul Andrew Hutton, Empire of the Summer Moon by S.C. Gwynne (giving a look at the violence portrayed on both sides), Geronimo by Angie Debo, A Clash of Cultures by Robert M. Utley, and for an in-depth look at the political and environmental side of how the western Indians lived in the sixteenth through eighteenth century read Comanche Empire by Pekka Hamalainen.

Christian books I have read recently and recommend are: The Gospel According to the Apostles and Twelve Ordinary Men by John MacArthur, New Evangelicalism by Paul Smith, and I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek. I also recommend following Frank Turek on his website ( <https://crossexamined.org/> ) and Facebook page to see his Q and A with non-believers and seekers.

I hope to be able to become more physically involved in missions in the near future but it will have to be up to God and my doctors to make that call.

*Blessings, Dennis*

([Dennis@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Dennis@ManosdeDios.org))

*"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

*Philippians 2:3-4*



**Dennis reads scripture and prays at a Pro-Love Tucson volunteer gathering. "One of my highest honors is to be my wife's prayer support as she goes to the front lines of the battle for human life"- Dennis**



## ***Dennis and Lucy attend National Sidewalk Advocates Conference in Dallas***

*What a blessing to be surrounded by over 200 fellow sidewalk advocates at this annual conference! We learned new strategies from training sessions, interacted with Pro-Life support ministry representatives and met former abortion clinic workers including Abby Johnson ([Unplanned](#) book and movie) and Mayra Rodriquez. They, along with over 300 former clinic workers, are now Pro-Life and helping other abortion facility workers leave and find new employment through “And Then There Were None” ministry (see [www.AbortionWorker.com](http://www.AbortionWorker.com)). Mayra, a former Arizona Planned Parenthood clinic director, gave us valuable suggestions for reaching out to clients and abortion workers here in Arizona.*

*We brought back helpful strategies to our Pro-Love Tucson volunteers to help us all reach more clients with truth, resources and life-saving conversations.*



**Lucy with Mayra Rodriquez, former AZ Planned Parenthood employee**



**Dennis and Lucy enjoy sightseeing in Texas**

**Lucy's brother came to stay with 93-year-old Dad so we could go to the conference and enjoy a couple extra days away! Caregivers need a break and it was so refreshing to travel, sleep and sightsee on our own schedule! What a blessing to enjoy each other so much after 33 years of marriage!**

***"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." I Corinthians 13:4-7***

***Praising God for the most wonderful 'unexpected' pregnancy!***

***Praying that the miracle of Jesus being born as a human impacts us all with God's loving plan and life-saving mission!***



***What a miracle! Mary's unexpected pregnancy was nothing but planned! Jesus chose to be born as a baby, experience all the human condition (except sin) and model for us how to walk in righteousness and surrender to the Father. And most of all, He came to die for our sins and be raised to life everlasting! Let us all join in singing "O Come Let us Adore Him!"***



Please consider making a year-end tax-deductible contribution to Manos de Dios. Funds go to support our Apache student in her Christian education, outreach in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico and facilitate Pro-Love Tucson sidewalk advocates. Pro-Love Tucson uses gift bags filled with resources, love letters, a gift necklace and referrals to reach clients coming to Planned Parenthood. Your financial support provides the much needed resources for this life-saving ministry.

Thank you! *Dennis and Lucy*

**Contact us!**

**520.404.5045 (Lucy)**  
**520.245.2039 (Dennis)**

**[GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org) or**  
**[Lucy4ProLove@gmail.com](mailto:Lucy4ProLove@gmail.com)**

***Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:***

**Manos de Dios, NFP**  
**2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson, AZ**  
**85715**



**or made on either website:**  
**[ManosdeDios.org](http://ManosdeDios.org)**  
**[ProLoveTucson.com](http://ProLoveTucson.com)**  
***Like us on Facebook!***