



... Partnering with the Holy Spirit to empower Mexican people to grasp all of God's full purpose

*Dennis and Lucy Smith, missionaries to Mexico*

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

**April 2009 Newsletter**

**This Newsletter includes...**

- *Donation to assist micro business*
- *Praying in Mexico*
- *Update on Pastor Manuel and Metodista Libre Iglesia*
- *Needs list, praise report, prayer request*

### **Pantano Quilters are "Sew" helpful to Margarita's Seamstress Business**

If you are a follower of Manos de Dios newsletters, you are familiar with Margarita and Alejandra of Puerto Peñasco. We love this single mom and her 8 year old daughter. We have assisted them in traveling to LA for Alejandra's Shriners Hospital appointments and in coming to Tucson for Margarita's hernia operation. Margarita desired to start a home based seamstress business to support herself and her daughter. Last summer Marge, a Manos de Dios supporter, helped Margarita start her business, **Creaciones Maggy**, by giving her a sewing machine. Margarita



**Margarita with her new industrial sewing machine in her casita, Puerto Peñasco, MX.**



**Members of Pantano Church's Quilters group meet Margarita and Alejandra while they visited Tucson.**

began sewing for friends, church members and the clients who see her business sign outside her casita. Then, last fall the Tuesday Night Quilters of Pantano Christian Church contacted Manos de Dios. They wanted to assist an entrepreneur in Mexico. We all prayed about who would receive their assistance. They loved the idea of teaming up with a fellow seamstress. This group of Quilters raised enough money to purchase an industrial sewing machine by selling

tickets to win a quilt that was donated by one of the quilters. With the gift of this industrial sewing machine, Margarita is now able to expand her capabilities to large projects (such as table cloths, and curtains), work easily with thick or difficult fabric, and complete large projects quickly. (This industrial machine is FAST!) *Thank you, Tuesday night Quilters, for blessing Margarita and Alejandra. We are all blessed to be a blessing.*

*Jan, a member of the quilter's group, reports, "We were blessed to be able to meet Maggy recently and we found her to be a very special lady, as well as a great Mom to Alejandra. We all fell in love with her and were taken with her joyful spirit. We are continuing to support Maggy each month and provide needed sewing items. Last month we collected a variety of cutting implements and this month we are concentrating on elastic, zippers, buttons, threads and pins. She is in awe that we care enough to do this, that we have faith in her, and most of all, that we believe in her! She has blessed us more, by giving us the opportunity to give and be a small part of her and Alejandra's life. She is family now and we care about her, pray for her and love her."*



**Renaldo and Cecelia lead "Alabanzas"  
(Praise and Worship) at Metodista Libre Iglesia**

### **Listening to God's prompting**

Renaldo and Cecelia Rios love the Lord with all their hearts. They feel called to reach out with their gifts of evangelism and music to those in the barrios and at church gatherings. They can be found setting up their electric keyboard and singing out "ranchero" style praise music in neighborhoods, in front of stores, and in a variety of churches. Renaldo has such a passion for telling others about Jesus and His saving love that he can't keep quiet! We met Renaldo and Cecelia when they were leading the Praise and Worship at Metodista Libre church one Sunday morning. Renaldo enthusiastically played the keyboard and periodically interjected words of adoration to Jesus and words of exclamation about how wonderful is His gift of salvation. Cecilia sang beautifully and somewhat shyly. We found out they have eight (8!) children, with seven still living at home. We hoped we would see them again soon.

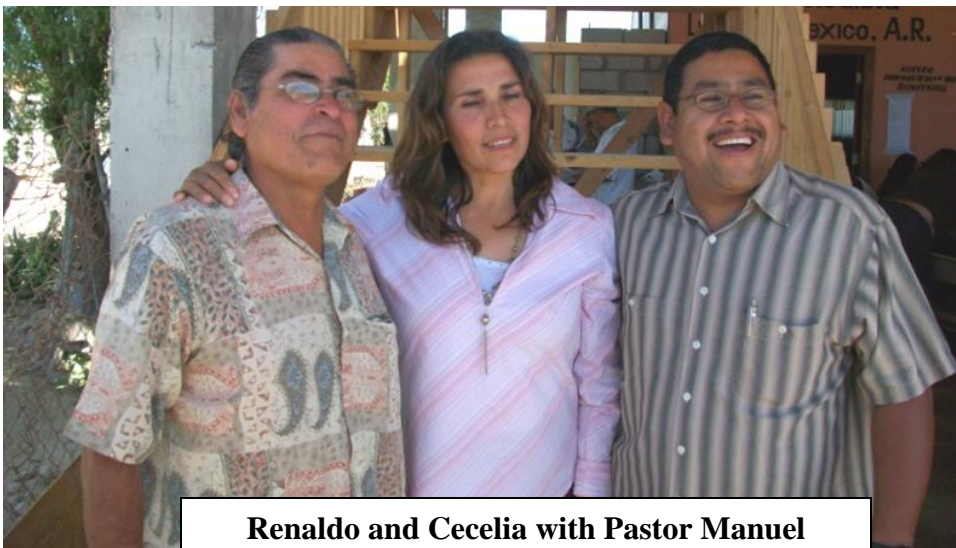
That Sunday afternoon we were driving out to visit another family in the barrio area. We were pleasantly surprised to come across the



Rios Family home and stopped to visit for a few minutes. They live in the area that is without electric power lines (yet) in a home built by a short term missions group from the US. As we were leaving, I mentioned to Dennis that I sensed a sadness in Cecelia.

At least once a week when we are in Mexico, I commit to go out to pray with whoever God lays on my heart to pray with. That Wednesday morning, Gloria (local Christian sister) and I drove out to visit families in the barrio. We had asked that the Holy Spirit would reveal exactly the people we were to encourage and pray with that day. Our last stop was the Rios Family home. Renaldo and Cecilia were thrilled to see us and delighted to meet Gloria. After Renaldo enthusiastically told us about a recent outreach and the great response to the Gospel message, I said, "We have come to pray with your wife." "Great! Thank you!" was his response. I moved over close to Cecelia who was sitting on the couch with her two young daughters. I said that I didn't know what I was suppose to pray for, but I felt that we were to pray for her today. I began to say I was going to pray for her in English. (Note: Until about a month ago I had only prayed in English. When I pray for people, I try to listen to the Holy Spirit. I desire to pray what He is leading me to pray. And, I hear His guidance in English! I have been hoping that people understand the gist of what I am praying for them and that the Holy Spirit would communicate to them. Just recently I have started praying in Spanish. It is difficult and I pray very simply, but I can see the benefit. Those I am praying for hear what I am praying for them and are encouraged.) Gloria shook her head and told me to pray in Spanish as Cecelia does not understand any English. She said she would pray for me while I prayed for Cecelia. OK, Lord, it's all about You, I whispered! So I prayed all that I sensed God's Spirit leading me to pray...in Spanish. I looked at Cecelia and she was weeping quietly. The two daughters next to her were crying, too (because their mom was crying!). Renaldo was weeping as he prayed on his knees on the other side of the room. Gloria, standing behind me, had tears running down her cheeks. I got out the anointing oil I carry in my Bible and anointed Cecelia's feet and hands. I knew that this mother of eight uses her feet and hands for many things each day and is a hard worker. We finally said in conclusion, "Gracias, Jesucristo! Amen." I quietly asked Cecelia if she wanted to share anything of what she felt. She said, "Paz" (peace)! I replied that peace must be what the Lord knew you needed! After saying our goodbyes we left to pick up Gloria's kids at school. We thanked the Lord for this opportunity to encourage some special people that day.

The next Saturday, Dennis and I visited the "Dia de los Niños" celebration at Metodista Libre Iglesia. Renaldo and Cecelia had volunteered to provide music for the worship service. When I caught Renaldo's eye, he immediately came over to me and gave me a big hug. He said, "Thank you for coming to pray with my wife on Wednesday. She had been in a depression for 6 months and that day it broke!" Cecelia hugged me also and I noticed a bright sparkle in her eyes I had not seen before. (I thought, "Wow, Lord! Thank you for stepping into Cecelia's life and breaking the bonds of depression. Thank you, for alerting me to this need and prompting me to 'stand in the gap' and pray for this precious sister in Christ. You are so awesome, Jesus. Wow!") I am in awe of how God prompts us to be aware of the needs of others...and how powerfully God steps in when we say, "Lord, I am available to you today. Use me in other's lives. Open my eyes and ears to see and hear what you would show me."



Renaldo and Cecelia with Pastor Manuel

Humbled by His Presence, Lucy  
[Lucy@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Lucy@ManosdeDios.org)

**"let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:22-25**

## Snapshot: Pastor Manuel



**Cross in front of Pastor Manuel's church**

About four years ago Lucy and I were at an “all churches” pastors’ breakfast meeting in Peñasco and had an opportunity to speak. For some unknown reasons there had not been many homes built for local Mexican Indians by the many short term mission groups that come to Peñasco. With that in mind I mentioned that Manos de Dios Missions would like to build a house for an Indian family that was in need of one. Immediately I saw a hand shoot up in the air. The hand belonged to Pastor Manuel. He said loud and clear (in Spanish) “I am an Indian and I need a house.” Needless to say, we talked and got to know him and his family’s needs. After discernment and prayer, a Manos de Dios team built a home for his family (in spring of 2007). This house has been the home for another

family (that was temporarily without a home), a church, and then pastor Manuel and his family moved back in. Eighteen months ago a church building was added to the back side of his house by a team from Michigan) and then in February of this year a second story was added (by a team from California) above the church for Sunday school and meeting rooms.

Pastor Manuel loves to tell the story of how he first was blessed with this house and its history of change and growth. And tells it to anyone who will listen.



**2<sup>nd</sup> story Sunday School building added to church**

A big screen TV and the sound mixer were donated to his church this month. These donations fit right into his plans of education, growth, and expansion of praise and worship music planned for the near future. He said he is confident that the Lord will answer his prayers for the additional musical instruments and equipment his church needs. He says, “Why doubt? The Lord has already provided many things.” He is living in faith.

Dennis

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**Lucy & Pastor Manuel stand on 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition to his church**



## Snapshot: A Praying people

Praying was important to Jesus and so it is to the Mexican Christians. Praying is a common practice and it is practiced often. Peñasco Christian Fellowship Church (Compañerismo



**6 am prayer time on the hill above Peñasco**

Cristiano de Peñasco) encourages prayer! They come together to pray every Friday morning at 6am on "El Cerro" (the hill), the mountain above the port area. This is a wonderful place to look out over the entire community of Puerto Peñasco, the beaches, the ocean, and the desert beyond the community. Pastor Stan and his wife Becky join with many (from 15-40) members of their church to pray individually or in small groups. They pray for the city of Peñasco, the state of Sonora, and their country of Mexico. They also include prayer for

those that struggle with drug and alcohol addiction and for the sick, the lost, missionaries, and the worldwide Church. Special emphasis is put on prayers to spare their city of the violence that has plagued other parts of Mexico. They conclude the hour with a joint prayer time, lifting up concerns that are shared. We have spent many mornings celebrating a new day and praying at the top of this mountain. This church also provides an open prayer time at the church from 6am to 8am Monday through Thursday. People can come to pray any time and stay for however long they desire. Often 6 and 7 year old children can be seen kneeling in the front of the church next to their parents and grandparents as they pray. What a wonderful example and role model for these children.

The evangelical churches in Puerto Peñasco come together to pray every Saturday morning at 6am. They meet at one of the churches or at the Malecón, near the port. This weekly time is open to everyone who wants to lift up prayers to Jesus. This prayer service is a corporate prayer time. Pastors and church leaders are asked to come forward and lead a prayer for specific needs. Members then pray vocally or silently as they see fit. Prayers are always lifted up for the city, state and country, for the leaders and the president, for unity of the Church, and for an end to violence and drug/alcohol addiction. Other things are prayed for as they come up. Often praise songs are incorporated into the prayer time.



**Pastors lead prayer time on Saturday morning**

In the community of Peñasco and its churches the people are adamant about praying for others, for the rejection of evil, for salvation of the lost, for the community, for the entire country of Mexico, and for its leaders to govern with Christian spirit. This is a lesson that many of us could follow. The Mexican people pray with passion, conviction and determination. And to that I say AMEN!

***Paz y bendiciones de Jesús a usted, Dennis***



# Dia de los Niños photo gallery

## April 26th Puerto Peñasco



## Snapshot: Crossing the border with donations

Two months ago one of our friends and Manos de Dios supporter, Eric, donated his 2007 6X10 foot enclosed trailer. For the life of me I can't figure out how we got along without it! It has been such a blessing and we are able to deliver more supplies and donations with this gift of an enclosed trailer. Thanks again, Eric!. Another blessing that I am so thankful for is the new program we have set up with the Mayor of Peñasco and the Commandant of the Border Station at Sonoyta to bring donations across the border in a legal manner and without hassle, PTL!

As usual our trailer was overloaded. In addition to the normal donations of food and clothing there were some items that had been prayed for specifically. A 36 inch TV (to be used for training and in the children's room) and a Yamaha sound board mixer (from the Rock of Sahuarita Church) were donated to Pastor Manuel. He had been praying for electronic equipment, however he did not expect something this nice. Several pastors needed supplies and toys for the children to help celebrate "Día de Los Niños." Those needs were also fulfilled. Summer work clothes for the men and women that work in the fields were requested and our supporters responded with donations, as usual. We do not keep track of the donations and who they go to all the time. We trust in God and trust that our pastor friends give the donated items to exactly the right people who need them. And because of the way we distribute the donations, we are not able to hear 'thank you' from the recipients. That is ok; we don't do it for a thank you or for the recognition. We know the people and their hearts; we know they are thankful and appreciate the assistance. And if the Lord is pleased with us, that is enough.

I do have to admit that I get a little satisfaction from knowing that I (we) are able to help God's people. Especially when I am driving past a grape field or olive grove and I see the people working there in the blazing sun protected by a hat, long sleeve shirt and Levis that possibly could have been provided by our mission team. I think that is an appropriate feeling of satisfaction and pride I have. Not because what I have done, but because what is accomplished was accomplished by God's people following the calling of Jesus with unconditional love to strangers. That's what matters! Thank you team, you make Lucy and my job so easy to do!

**Dennis**

### **April 2009 Donations:**

Donations given to pastors in Puerto Peñasco, Desemboque and El Diamante; the prison ministry; Esperanza men and women's rehab centers in Peñasco; and a few private individual families that are personally known by us.

Women's clothing; 1 large box  
Office supplies; 4 boxes  
TV's; 3  
Men's clothing; 3 large boxes, 8 large bags  
Bed sheets; 50  
Bar soap/shampoo; 4 bag  
Shampoo; 3 bags  
Bicycles; 3 (2 adult, a child)  
Uniforms; 40 (pants and shirt) for security personnel  
Toys; 3 large boxes  
School supplies; 10 bags  
Children's clothes; 4 large bags  
Toilet; 1 (for house in Desemboque)  
Diabetes medicine and supplies; 9 boxes  
Feminine hygiene supplies; 2 boxes  
Sewing supplies; 1 bag  
Shoes; 1 bag  
Misc. tools; 1 box  
School supply gift boxes; 225 (each contain; scissors, ruler, glue, crayons, pencil, sharpener, eraser)  
Sound mixer; 1  
Chair; 1

Delivered to Pastores Julio and Lucy, Iglesia Nueva Creación in Sonoyta:

Men and women's clothing; 3 large bags  
Pillow cases; 40  
Sheets; 10  
Toys; 2 boxes

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" Colossians 3: 23-24



# Needs List:

(bring donations to Pantano Church on Sundays or drop off at Smith's home before June 15th)

## For Estudio Veranos (Vacation Bible Schools):

- ✓ Foamy (thin foam paper, colors: pink, yellow, lilac, blue, green, red)
- ✓ glue stick silicon
- ✓ plastic grid
- ✓ princess dress up items (tiaras, dress up clothes, diadem's, diamond and glitter decorations for theme story "ESTER")
- ✓ snack items (cookies, granola bars, 100% juice boxes, otter pops)

## for others:

- ✓ Portable (boom box) C D players
- ✓ Fans (for churches, homes and prison cells. It is HOT in Mexico!)
- ✓ Window air conditioners (It is sooo hot!)
- ✓ 3-wheel child's jogger stroller
- ✓ Gently used school uniform pants, skirts and shirts
- ✓ Solar lights (for homes in areas without power lines)
- ✓ Portable sound system for outreaches in barrios
- ✓ Paint (left over or full cans)



(Dennis and Jose de la Cruz )

# Praise Report/Prayer Request

Esperanza Men's and Women's Rehab new Directors: Ana Krause and Jose de la Cruz (husband and wife). **Praise God** for the wisdom, experience and energy they bring to these rehab centers and living quarters! **Please pray** for them as they come along side men and women who need help breaking the bonds of alcohol, drugs, prostitution and imprisonment!

**Manos de Dios encourages and equips families, pastors, prisoners and communities in Sonora, Mexico. We are trusting in God totally to provide for our needs and the needs of those we reach out to. Please consider partnering with**

**Manos de Dios, a 501 c 3 not-for-profit corporation. Your tax-deductible donations will have ETERNAL value as they impact lives for Christ in Sonora, Mexico!**

**Donations can be made on our website [www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org) or with checks made payable to Manos de Dios, NFP. Contact us for our mailing address and/or online banking donation information.**

**Contact us: [GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org) or 520-975-7356**