



... 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)

**May 2009 Newsletter**

**This Newsletter includes...**

- *A family receives the gift of transportation*
- *Women's Rehab Center office addition project*
- *14 churches unite in "March for Jesus"*
- *Prayer requests and travel plans*



Family prepares to walk in the "March" wearing homemade shirts indicating they are soldiers for God.

## **Manos de Dios delivers '91 Plymouth Van to Carlos and Nadi.**

Before we share the details of this fun story, here is some quick background information from previous newsletters. Red Mountain Community Church from Mesa, Arizona built an "Amor Ministries" home for Carlos and Nadi in February 2009. One of the members of the team told Carlos he had a used vehicle to donate to them but did not know how to get it to Mexico. Prayer would be required. Lucy and I met the church members and Carlos and Nadi when the house was being built and we all became friends. (We did not know of the vehicle offer at this time.) In April Carlos told us about the offer and he asked if we could contact the



**Damian, Mayerli, Nadi, Carlos and Dennis with their new van.**

family in the US that had the van and help get it to Peñasco. Lucy contacted the family and made arrangements for me to pick up the vehicle in Casa Grande and deliver it to Peñasco.

I did the necessary paperwork to transfer the vehicle out of the country, purchased the vehicle insurance for both the US and Mexico...and I was ready to go to Mexico.

The trip down to Puerto Peñasco was uneventful and I was happy to get the green light as I crossed the border because of all the donations (mostly food) the church family had stuffed in the back of the van. When I got to

Peñasco Lucy was ready and anxious (she had gone down a week before me) to deliver the

van ASAP. So I got a drink of water, got my clothes out of the van and we were off to Carlos and Nadi's home.

I stopped the van in the middle of the road near their home located at the farthest end of the barrio. (If you pull off the road, you may get stuck in the sand!) Lucy was behind me in our truck, blowing the horn to let them know we had arrived with their new vehicle. Carlos, Nadi and son Damian came running to greet us. After we hugged and exchanged greetings they inspected their 'new' vehicle. Their eyes were wide open as they walked around the van and checked it out. I explained some things to Carlos (Lucy translated) about the vehicle and then told him to get in and sit in the new vehicle. His response was to ask more questions and inspect it a little more. After a few minutes I mentioned again, "get in and try it out!" He finally got in and sat behind the wheel, with hands at the 2 and 4 o'clock position, I might add. He sat there for a minute and then surprised us with his first question. "HOW DO YOU START THE VEHICLE?"

We were in shock as we asked; "Do you know how to drive, Carlos?" "No, I have only driven a little and Nadi has only driven once in her life." Wow, we never even for a moment thought to ask if they knew how to drive! All adults know how to drive, so we thought! We spent the next three hours explaining how the vehicle worked and allowing them to practice driving around the back roads. Carlos was an OK driver. He seemed to get the hang of it...except that he seldom looked to the left or right when he went through an intersection! It did not make any difference if he had the right away or not, he just sailed through, without looking even after Lucy kept reminding him to do so. Nadi took her turn driving and I got in the back seat and started praying! She needs a lot of practice. She did look at the intersections but, when she turned her head to look to the left, the vehicle followed the direction of her head and we wound up on the wrong side of the street. When looking right we wound up almost making a right turn. As she approached an intersection (from a sand street to a paved road)



**Lucy, Dennis, Mayerli, Nadi, Damian and Carlos...sending their heartfelt thanks to those who donated this van to their family. We are blessed to be a blessing!**

and started to make a right turn, she went on the wrong side of the road and so when she turned she was in the lane of oncoming traffic. Carlos and I were both praying heavily at that point!

They drove to pick up their daughter, Mayerli, at school and we all made it back to their house safely and went over a few more instructions about the van. We also had many laughs about the experience. They promised they would practice on the back roads and out of traffic until they got the hang of driving! We prayed together, dedicating the vehicle to God and thanking the Lord for His provision. Carlos and Nadi prayed for the families that donated the vehicle.

A few days later Lucy learned that some of their neighbors volunteered to help them with driving lessons and vehicle maintenance procedures. We expect to see them sitting in the van with the air conditioner on this summer to get out of the terrible heat! They will need to get Mexico license plates for the vehicle (500 pesos or about \$50 for a year). This vehicle will be such a blessing and assist Carlos in getting a job as he will be able to travel the long distance in from the barrio much easier. After this experience we promised to remember – never assume people that are receiving a vehicle know how to drive! We learn something every trip and this was no exception.



**Nadi and Carlos explore their new van**

***Paz y bendiciones a usted (Peace and blessings to you), Dennis***

## **Office addition to the Women's Rehab Center**

Hard times affect everyone, even the people we seldom think about and often they are affected the most.

Four years ago a small group of volunteers helped Manos de Dios build an office for the Esperanza Women's Rehab Center in Puerto Peñasco. Since then, many things have changed. The number of women residing in the center has gone up and down; there have been many struggles and financial problems; and just recently there has been a change in directors. Under the new director, many different and positive things are taking place and Manos de Dios is being led to support and work with the new directors (both men and women's) to help make these changes a reality. (Esperanza Rehabilitation Centers provide Jesus-centered 24-7 accommodations for those who need help breaking away from addictions, prostitution and/or who have psychological or spiritual problems.)

When asked what an immediate need might be, Ana Krause (the new director of the women's center) stated they needed an office addition that would serve as a counseling room. (The existing office serves as her office AND the secure entrance for all coming in to the center.) She needs an additional space for private counseling and solitary time. A blessing would also be for both the old and new office to be insulated for the extreme weather

conditions! Lucy and I started praying about how to finance the building of the new office (we were and are very low on funds – as are many people). Two weeks later an unexpected donation check arrived. We sensed that this money was the answer to our prayer; and we were to use some of the money to build the office! So we did. We have since heard that another group will be providing insulation and dry wall for both offices!

Tough times and the start of hot weather in Peñasco made the response to our request for volunteers minimal. Jack and Terry (and his wife Debbie who worked with Lucy) from Pantano Christian Church, and Arden, from The Rock of Sahuarita Church, were the only volunteers but they were sufficient!



**Men's rehab center volunteers pour concrete slab for Women's rehab center office addition.**

Ana's husband, Jose de la Cruz (or 'Cruz' for short), the director of the Men's Rehab Center, got some of the men from his center to pour the concrete for us a few days before the build and it was ready when we arrived on Saturday. The build went smoothly even though it got hot that afternoon. We did not have any injuries, had the right amount of lumber and only spent about 8 hours to build the 10x10 foot office, including installing two windows and the roof. It was a great day of fellowship and working to benefit Ana and her ladies. And thanks again to Jack, Terry and Arden! We were blessed to be able to help the Women's rehab center.

We had been working on the office for a few hours when we heard a woman screaming "let me out of here (in Spanish)" over and over. She was locked in a room (the 'detox' room) at the end of the complex right next to where we were building. There were only two small windows at the top of the wall for ventilation and the day was hot. I could just imagine how suffocating it must have been in that room with just a small fan for ventilation and the physical pain she must have been in. Her cries were piercing and echoing in our hearts and heads as we tried to work. To ignore her painful cries for help was impossible. I know she probably got herself into the mess she was in (she was detoxing from drug or alcohol abuse) and I also know we are all responsible for our actions, but the compassionate side of me (Jesus in me) was crying out with her and for her deliverance. Finally her cries stopped and I did not ask why. Later I saw Ana and I could see her heart through the look on her face. She had been able to provide some medication to the client to help her through the painful process. She had been praying continually for the client. I

could see she was feeling the pain of the suffering women in her care, the strain of not



**Ana and client's daughter in front of both office buildings.**

having enough resources to do the work that was needed, and the tiredness of her body as she worked the often 12 to 14 hour days. However, when we talked with her we never heard her complain. She has a positive attitude and is dedicated to her mission. Her faith in the Lord is unwavering even though her body once in a while gives out. Her husband, Jose, has the same dedication and desire to love and serve Jesus as she does. What a wonderful, inspirational couple they are.

Because of Ana and Jose's dedication to serve those in need, Lucy and I have prayed about it and have been led to renew support to the Men and Women's Rehab centers in Puerto Peñasco. They are meeting the needs of the outcasts, hurting and spiritually needy that so many others do not want to associate with. We ask that you will pray with us for the Rehab Centers and Ana and Jose: that they receive the provisions to continue carrying out their calling; that the Lord protect them and guard their physical health; and that the Lord would bring more helpers to undergird them. *Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayers!*

*His servant, Dennis*

***On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:17***

## **"Marcha por Jesus" declares Good News to Puerto Peñasco**



**All church prayer at the Malecón, 6am  
on the day of the March**

I was excited to be able to participate in this event! I had missed it last year and promised myself to be in Mexico for the 2009 march. What I loved about this 'parade' was the demonstration of unity between the many evangelical churches in Puerto Peñasco. The focus of this event was to give Glory to God and proclaim the name of Jesus in Peñasco.

The  
Pastor's  
Alliance



**Pastors pray at Malecón before the march**

had been planning the parade for many weeks prior. They had chosen our good friend and fellow missionary, Pat Rico, to coordinate the event. The four Saturday mornings leading up to the event the community prayer hour was held at the Malecón to pray on that exact site the event would conclude. The pastors prayed feverently and led the

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!  
It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the  
LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Psalm 133

growing group of intercessors in praise and worship, repentance, breaking of spiritual strongholds, thanksgiving and supplication. The day of the march the prayer time was especially powerful with over 100 people from many different churches participating. We marched seven times around the courtyard and Jennifer blew the Shofar's horn. After the joint all-church prayer hour, the pastors prayed together. They spent a long time on their knees in repentance and more time praying for each other in pairs. They then took communion together. They were committed to participate in unity.

The day of the march over 1000 people gathered at 4pm near the baseball stadium. A semi tractor pulled a flatbed trailer at the beginning and the end of the parade, each with a complete praise and worship band. Music filled the lineup. *Pandaristas* danced and played their tambourines on another flatbed trailer. There were 10 floats, each depicting one of the 10 commandments. Many of the floats carried children and older folks who were unable to walk the entire 2.5 miles to the Malecón. Debbie and I enjoyed visiting with so many of Dennis and my friends from many different local churches. It was a re-union! We marched behind commandment IV and enjoyed the fellowship. Debbie stopped off at Pollo Papago Restaurant along the parade route.

Her husband, Terry, and Dennis were there eating dinner after their work day building the Women's Rehab Center office. They handed out water to many of the march participants and I went on without her. In addition to the hundreds of people walking there were many people along the parade route. We encouraged each other with shouts to cadences such as, "Who is your Savior?" "Cristo!"

Our new friend, Renaldo, was so busy evangelizing the people along the parade that he had to constantly catch up with the parade or he would have been left behind! What a gift of sharing Jesus!

The parade took two and a half hours to march from the starting point by the baseball stadium to the Malecón. We gathered in the center of the Malecón for praise and worship, a word from a few pastors, a time of prayer over a city of Peñasco government official, a concert by a well-known Christian artist from Tijuana, a time of



Lucy and Debbie before "La Marcha"



"Marcha por Jesus" float



Malecón fills up with 'marchers' for praise and worship service after the parade.

prayer for each other and an altar call. We finished about 9:30 in the evening. I was on a spiritual high after spending so many hours praising God with my brothers and sisters in Christ!  
***“Thank you, Lord, for this amazing time of the Christians in Peñasco coming together to give You praise and glory. Thank you for the unifying of this event and we pray this theme will continue throughout the year in the local churches. Please give us Your vision of how You will transform Mexico by transforming our lives one person at a time with your love and grace. Amen!”***  
For His Kingdom, Lucy

**Needed:**

**Gently used and new School Uniforms, shoes and backpacks for children in Mexico. We need pants, skirts and jumpers in solid colors, polo shirts in white, red, and maroon; and black shoes in all school aged children’s sizes. Spread the word!**

**Needed by August 17<sup>th</sup>!....¡Gracias!**

**(in 2008 Manos de Dios provided over 100 children with all or part of their school uniform, assisting them to be able to attend school.)**



**Prayer Requests:**

- **Pray for Ana and Jose “Cruz” as they lead the men’s and women’s rehab centers**
- **Pray for the many families that are unemployed and struggling to feed and support their families. Pray that the Lord would sustain them and guide them.**
- **Please pray about the violence that has increased in Mexico. Pray for God’s protection of the innocent and His transformation of those in the drug cartels.**
- **Pray for guidance (God’s vision & divine strategy to carry out His plan) as we plan for Manos de Dios projects and methods for the coming year (June 2009-May 2010)**

**We, Dennis and Lucy, will be traveling to Kansas and Texas this summer to speak with churches (2-3) and individuals about Manos de Dios and our mission to serve God in Mexico. Please pray for us as we travel...**

- **for favor with the churches and individuals as we share about what God is doing in Mexico and our need for financial support**
- **for safety as we drive**
- **for rejuvenating time together as a couple and quiet time in God’s presence**
- **for wisdom as we make decisions about the direction of our mission and our partnerships**

**Thanksgiving and Prayer**

**“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.”**

**Ephesians 1:15-19 (New International Version)**

## MAY 2009 DONATION LIST

25 Gift bags for women in prison (Mothers Day gifts from male prisoners)  
8 Gift bags (for female prisoners)  
12 Mothers Day Gift bags (for Pastors wives)  
1 Case toilet paper (prison and people in community)  
15 Gallons of paint (Men and Women's Rehab Center)  
Tools for Men's Rehab Center (2 power saws-drill motor-saws all-misc hand and cordless tools and batteries-paddle bits-sander)  
1 Large box misc. & electrical supplies (wiring-switches-hinges-cables-switch plates, Men's Rehab Center)  
1 Brief case filled with office supplies (Men's Rehab Center)  
1 Hanging light fixture (Men's Rehab Center)  
2 Bags men's clothes and 1 bag shoes (Rehab Centers)  
100 bottles shampoo, 100 bars of soap, 2 pair men shoes, 1 water bucket (men's prison)  
4 Large boxes food and set of solar lights (Carlos and Nadi from Mesa church families)  
1 1991 Plymouth Van (Carlos and Nadi)  
12 Volt car battery (for family in Invasion area w/o electricity)  
50 Personal plastic water bottles (people in community)  
\$2,900 Collected to pay for emergency cancer surgery for Lourdes  
Built 10X10 office addition for Women's Rehab Center. (Cost \$900.00)  
2 Scanners (Commandant of Prison and Cancer Support Group)  
8 Dozen Lemons



### Update about Lourdes...

You may remember the request for donations to help cover the medical costs for an emergency hysterectomy due to a fast spreading cancer for our sister in Christ, Lourdes. The costs for the surgery were collected (in Mexico a surgery needs to be paid for before it will be performed!) and the surgeon removed all the cancerous tissue. Lourdes did not have to undergo radiation or chemo. She is recovering at a phenomenal rate and has returned to work. She sends her heartfelt thanks to all who have prayed for her and donated for the cost of her medical care. She has given her testimony at church about how God has healed her and plans to share it with the women in the prison soon. She is returning to teach Sunday School and is grateful to be able to serve God. She knows God has things planned for her to do!

**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**