



... 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

June 2009 Newsletter

This Newsletter includes...

- ***Wow! God uses us to answer other's prayers!***
- ***Challenges crossing the border with donations***
- ***Men's and Women's Rehab Centers updates***
- ***Day at the beach***

The American Woman who prays...

A couple from Tucson asked us to follow up with the family they had built an "Amor" ministries house for two years ago. They had saved some money and wanted to help the family with some of their needs.

We prayed that God would reveal His plan for this family and the donation of these funds. Dennis and I visited the family, carrying with us a photo of the group that had built their home. Of course they remembered the team and we reminisced about that life-changing weekend! Jessica* and her children welcomed us into their home. It was sparsely furnished and very hot (it was 108 degrees in the shade that day). We mentioned that we saw electrical power lines along their road. "Yes, electricity is available here, but we need to pay for the pole and electrical box before we can have use of electricity in our home." We immediately knew that this was a 'need' that the couple from the US had sensed and would want their donation to fund. We talked with Jessica about the seriousness of giving her the money and that it needed to be spent wisely. We expected it to be spent on the installation of the electric pole and the remainder was to be used on the family's needs (food or clothes, etc.) We learned that her husband had been released from prison only three weeks previous (an answer to prayer), but had not found a job yet. Dennis and I prayed with Jessica and her children in their front yard. She thanked us, saying, "God has used you to answer my prayers for help with my family's needs".

We returned one week later. We were pleased to see an electric pole in front of the home. Jessica told us she had put it up herself and was only waiting for the electric company to come and activate her new box. She showed us the new shoes she had bought for the children and the food in her pantry. She told us that a neighbor had been in a car accident and needed to see the doctor. She had given her \$25 of the money we had given her. She told us she had been blessed and wanted to bless her neighbor. She prayed with her neighbor as we had done with her when she gave her the money. Jessica shared that she was concerned for her father. He was scheduled to have hernia surgery the next day. We prayed with her for her father and his surgery and promised to pray for him the next day, too. We found out that her husband had gotten a job as a night watch man. Praise the Lord!

I returned two days later. I inquired how her father was. She said the surgery went well and he was home. Wow, outpatient laser surgery in Puerto Peñasco! Their house now had electricity! They owned one fan and it was

**the names in this article have been changed for privacy reasons*



Alejandra and Rex, our June projects volunteer, get to know each other





running on high. The house was still hot. They reported that the fan helped them be able to sleep at night. I saw the need for a window air conditioner. I asked if the refrigerator in the corner worked. “No”, was the answer. I opened it and saw that she was using it for storage. Jessica shared that she would love to have a refrigerator so she could purchase food such as milk, cheese and meat for her family’s meals. She would also like to start making flour tortillas to sell. She could make the dough in quantities and store some in the refrigerator. We had additional funds from the couple in the US. I felt that this was an additional need and Jessica had used the other money wisely and spent it on the items she had indicated she needed. These additional funds were to buy an air conditioner, a used refrigerator, some food (including ingredients for tortillas to make to sell). We also discussed her children’s future need for school uniforms. She was going to use some of the money to buy gently used uniforms or fabric to sew the uniforms. We

prayed over the donated money and for the couple that had generously given it.

Then, she casually asked me, “Would you go with me to pray for my father?” “Sure, where does he live?” “Just at the end of this road (farther out in the invasion area).” So Jessica and three of her children jumped in our truck and we drove to her dad’s house. He lives alone and when we arrived he was in the bathroom. I

wandered across the street and saw five precious children cooling off in a water tank. I asked their mom if I could take their picture. And here they are!>>>> I met Martin* He was a gruff 74 year old, moving slowly after his hernia surgery. When Jessica took one of her children to the bathroom, Martin started to share with me his opinion about ‘religious people’. He watched his neighbors go to church and then behave in ‘less than perfect’ ways. He had observed hypocrisy in many pastors and had no use for them. I then realized I was there to pray for more than simple healing after a surgery! Jessica returned while her dad was going on and on. She rolled her eyes at me. Martin said he didn’t know what happens after you die so he would just see when it happened. I prayed silently that God would give me the words (in Spanish) to communicate with this man. I started by saying that I understood how he felt about watching people and seeing them act in less than perfect ways. It is frustrating. But, the Bible tells us that not one human is perfect. There has only been one who is perfect and that is Jesus. The Bible tells us we are only to look at Jesus for an example of how to live. If we look at humans we will always end up being disappointed. As for knowing where we will go when we die...the Bible is very clear about that. We have a choice while we are



alive. And we must make that choice now, not wait until we die. If we wait it will be too late. We can choose to accept that Jesus is God's Son, that He died for our sins and that He rose from the dead. If we repent and are truly sorry for our sins and ask Jesus to wash us clean of our sins and to enter into our hearts, He will. And, we will live forever with Him in heaven. It would be very sad if, because of your stubbornness, you did not make this decision while you could and give up living for eternity with Jesus and these precious grandchildren of yours!



I asked him if he had a Bible. "Yes, but when I try to read it I just don't understand it!" Martin, sometimes our eyes are blinded to the Truth. Others can pray for those 'blindness' to be removed from someone's eyes. Your daughter and I can pray for you today, asking that your 'spiritual' eyes be opened so you can understand God's Word. Would you allow us to pray for you now? "Yes, that would be alright." So Jessica and I stood, arm-in-arm in front of her dad. I prayed for God's Truth to be revealed, for evil strongholds to be destroyed (using 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, see below), and for God to show His love in a powerful way to Martin. I invited his 12 year old grandson to join us in praying. I saw a tear trickle down Martin's cheek. I prayed all the words that the Holy Spirit brought to my mind.

When we finished praying, I asked Jessica to go get her Dad's Bible. She returned with a pocket-sized New Testament. I turned to Juan 3:16 and circled it and starred it. I wrote in the margin the date and 'Your daughter and the American woman prayed'. Jessica circled another verse for him. I asked him to read these verses each day. I said I was trusting that he would understand them in a new way and that God's Word would make more sense to him now. I thanked him for the honor of meeting him and praying with him.

We left in our truck. I said to Jessica, "You set me up!" She giggled. We laughed and re-counted what God had done. She reported she had been asking Martin for a long time if her pastor could come pray with him. Her dad had refused over and over. Then, the day before his surgery Jessica said she had an American woman friend and she wondered if he would allow her to come pray with him. He finally agreed. I did not know it, but I was that American woman. After, Dennis and I had prayed with Jessica that first day that we had given the donated money to her; she felt she could ask me to come pray with her dad. So, she asked her dad if he would be willing. Today was that day.

I am anxious to go back to hear how Martin is doing. I am standing in faith that he will come to a saving knowledge of God and accept Jesus into his heart. Maybe he has already done so. Then, the walking with the Lord begins. Jessica will be instrumental in encouraging him to attend worship, read his Bible and be discipled. "Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of being used by you to pray for your lost children." I was so grateful that we had this opportunity to re-new this friendship with Jessica through the donation of the couple in the US and that I was available to pray with Martin. *For the King and His Kingdom, Lucy* (Lucy@ManosdeDios.org)

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

June Border Crossing

I guess you will be lucky this month. It is August and I am just now getting the June newsletter written so I must make my part short and start working on July. We had plans to take much needed supplies to Mexico on our June trip, so much, that we had two utility trailers full. I even had an extra driver (our friend and supporter, Rex) that volunteered to pull one of the trailers down with his truck at his own expense! What a blessing! Normally you would be right in looking for a “but” in my comments, however in this article there is a key word and it is “HAD”.



Approaching the Mexico border with our Manos de Dios utility trailer

As our two vehicle and two trailer caravan turned into the voluntary inspection station at the US/Mexico border at Sonoyta, we expected a smooth crossing because we HAD the necessary paperwork from the Mayor of Peñasco. Having the necessary paperwork usually works except during election time, at which time many of the rules change. The Mexican Border personnel were genuinely sorry they could not let us cross with the trailers full of supplies and we understood their predicament. It seems if they let us through with these donations there could have been allegations of favoritism by the party in control (buying votes?). No donations would be allowed to come across the border until later this summer.

Lucy and I have been in Mexico long enough not to get frustrated and just roll with whatever comes our way.

So what did we do? I walked Lucy across the border with her two suitcases and found her a comfortable (and safe) spot to wait for someone from Peñasco to come and pick her up. (She said she HAD gotten to Mexico and she didn't want to return to Tucson! Pat and Gerry graciously drove up from Peñasco to get her!). Rex and I made a u-turn with the trailers. We HAD no other choice but to return to Tucson with the load of donations. In Tucson, we unhooked the trailers, ate a good meal, and prepared to head back to Peñasco the next day (without the trailers). We had been on the road for over 9 hours that day! Rex had only been to Mexico with us on one other mission trip, but has served in other areas of Latin America so he understood the meaning of patience and how not to get frustrated if things don't go your way. Thank you, Rex, for your flexibility. You HAD a great attitude!

We were able to bring down a few things in our trucks and they are listed here. The rest of the items will have to wait until August.

Thank you, Lord, for your plan and guidance,
Dennis Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

June 2009 supply list for Mexico

- **Computer, for men's rehab center**
- **1 Box of tools (electric saw, sander, drill motor and hand tools) for men's rehab center**
- **1 case of bibles for men's rehab center**
- **2 boxes of miscellaneous electrical supplies for men's rehab center**
- **1 refrigerator (purchased in Peñasco) for men's rehab center**
- **3 boxes of VBS supplies and 2 boxes of refreshments for Pastor Manuel and Pastor Lupe**
- **1 large bag of clothes for Amor Rico Missions**
- **2 bags sewing supplies for micro businesses**

A Day at the Beach with Carlos' Family

We have great news to report! Carlos and Nadi have learned to drive and have not had any accidents since they received the donation of the '91 Plymouth van! Praise You, Lord, for your provision and protection!

As you know from other stories about Carlos and Nadi, we have been drawn to them and have come to love them. From spending time with them, we have learned more about who they are and their character. They have a strong faith in the Lord. They are hard workers and have an inner joy, no matter what their circumstances. We have seen them happy and laughing when they only had one tomato and one onion to eat in their house. Carlos and Nadi make it 'an adventure' to sleep on the roof of their "Amor Ministries" house with their children in the summertime. You see, they have no running water or electricity and it is cooler to sleep on the roof than in the house and besides you can see the stars and the beauty of God's creation. They are purposefully teaching their children to live by God's principals. They were recently baptized in Cholla Bay by Pastor Julio. They have proudly shared their baptism photos with us! They are truly living out 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

We were blessed to have them come over to spend a Saturday with us in June. We went to the beach to swim. Both the children and adults had a blast! It had been a long time since they had gone swimming in the ocean. Afterwards we had lunch (the kids requested hot dogs and chips) at our casita. Everyone had a good appetite! We read some out of our Children's Bible and then watched a Veggie Tales video (in English). They loved watching anything on TV! They are from Chiapas and do not have any family in Peñasco, so they have kind of adopted us as we have adopted them! Blessed to be a blessing works both ways and in different circumstances. They are so gracious and express appreciation for all that God provides for them.

We are all family in His eyes anyway and we truly love our Mexican family members.

*Peace and blessings,
Dennis*



Women's and Men's Rehab Center Update

Rex and I did have the opportunity to finish the work on the roof of the Women's Rehab Center office. We installed the drip edge, painted around the windows sealed up the opening between the two buildings. The outside was complete. The inside was going to be finished by another group. They were going to install the insulation,

drywall, and tape and mud. We have given them 15 gallons of paint so there was enough to paint the

inside and outside. The men from the men's rehab center would come over to do the painting. Ana's office then would be complete and ready to use for counseling! It is such a blessing for us to do things that will free her up so she can concentrate on bringing the Word of Jesus and much needed counseling to the women in her care.

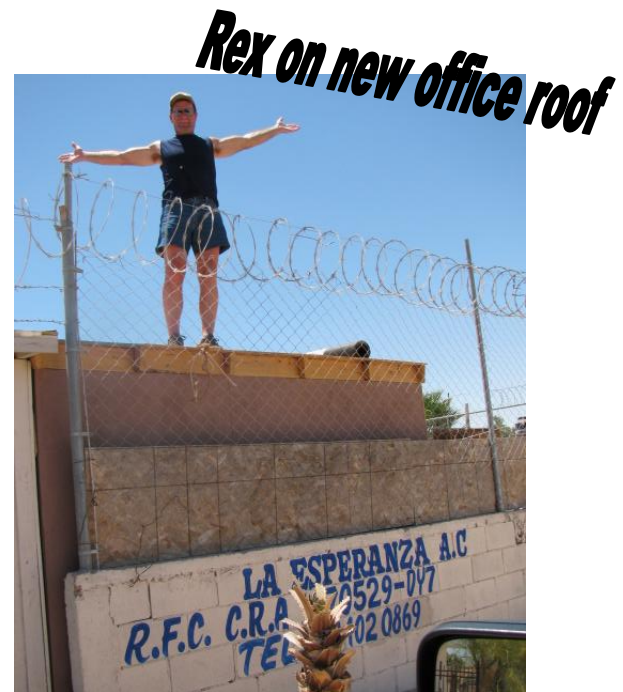


Jacki and Gaby, clients at the Women's Rehab Center, show the Bible covers they have made to sell. The interior of the new office can be seen in the background.

have been a million flies in the room), ceiling fans, a window air conditioner and a refrigerator. Jose showed us a box of fruit and vegetables that were donated to them and were spoiling because they had no refrigerator to keep them cool. Jose had been trying to find help in acquiring a used refrigerator, but with the economy so bad, he was unable to do so. He was praying about it!

After visiting and praying with and for Jose (and some of the men) we returned to our *casita* (small, Mexican home). The discussion turned immediately to the need for a refrigerator at the men's center. Rex, Lucy and I prayed and were prompted by the Holy Spirit to pool our money together and fill that need. The next day we went to see Jose and gave him the funds to purchase a used refrigerator. Boy was he happy and I'm sure the men will be also. "Lord, now how will you provide for the needed screens and fans?"

It had been terribly hot and humid in Peñasco. Ana and Jose had been working ten to twelve hours a day at the centers and they were living in a RV without any



Later in that day Lucy, Rex and I headed over to the Men's Rehab Center to introduce Rex to Jose (Men's Director and Ana's husband) and see how he was doing. Jose updated us on the spiritual and physical progress of the men in his center and about the ongoing building projects of the center. The building that houses the kitchen facilities is not complete yet and is in desperate need of screens for the windows and doors (there must



Lucy, Rex, Jose and Dennis at Men's Rehab Center

electricity or running water. And Ana was feeling the effects of the stressful conditions. She started having symptoms of having mini strokes. Her face and mouth became twisted, speech slurred, and one eye was half closed. When this happened, Pastor Lupe, wife Rafa, Lucy and I, and two other people from Pastor Lupe's church immediately went to see her and to pray over her.

Lucy and I are so grateful to the Lord for providing us with the means to help others in need. We invited Jose and Ana to come and stay at our casita while she was ill (we have an extra bedroom) to get some much needed rest and cooling off. They did not want to impose, but after some coaxing they decided to take us up on the offer. I think the mention of a cool shower, hot meal, and air conditioning closed the deal. Manos de Dios was also able to help her with the cost of a prescription medicine prescribed by her doctor.

Prayers were answered and Ana is recovering.

Adios, Dennis

Lucy's corner...

One of the questions I often ask the Lord is, "What do you want to teach me?" I read His Word, purposefully still my spirit, and seek to listen to the Holy Spirit. These verses of the Old Testament have been impacting me lately. Job 22:26-30 "Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty and will lift up your face to God. You will pray to Him, and He will hear you, and you will fulfill your vows. What you decide on will be done, and light will shine on your ways. When men are brought low and you say, 'Lift them up!' then He will save the downcast. He will deliver even one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands." **Wow, Lord. I am humbled. I not worthy to be used in this way. Wash me in Your fountain of Living Water. Then, teach me to intercede for others so they will be 'lifted up'!**

I have also been meditating on the 23 Psalm. The words of Julie Meyer's song, "Fountain" (from the CD Paint your Picture), tie in powerfully.

"I know a place where all who are thirsty come drink in streams of living water. There the Shepherd will lead me. There He leads me. In the fountain, in the fountain I'll stay. In the fountain, healing water. There the Shepherd will lead me.

Come all heavy-laden. He will give you rest. ...So to all who need healing, freedom from addictions, to anyone close to pain. To all who need forgiveness, you're holding on to bitterness. Let Him come and wash it all away....Just stay, stay in the fountain. Wait, wait in the stream. Stay in the healing waters, He will come and He will set you free."

"Grant me Your Wisdom today, Lord, to know the path to choose, how to spend my time, and who to reach out to with Your love and encouragement. Amen"



From Dennis: Now that I have finished the rough draft of my handbook, **In His Service**, the next step is to correct the spelling, grammar, and punctuation to prepare to send it to a publisher. My request is for someone that has an expertise in this area to volunteer to read and correct my manuscript. Please contact me directly at Dennis@ManosdeDios.org or cell 520-603-5780.

Needs:

It is not too late to donate to the annual **School Uniform Drive**. Cash donations can be made on our website by following this link www.ManosdeDios.org/donations.html

(Payment uses PayPal. Click on the 'uniform' button.) or by mailing a check to our corporate office: Manos de Dios, NFP, 2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715. \$50 purchases a complete uniform of two polo shirts, a pair of pants or skirt, and new black shoes. Donations of school supplies are also needed: backpacks, paper, spiral notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, pencils, etc.

Contact us for delivery/pick up at 520-975-7356. Deadline: August 19th. Thank you!



please pray for Manos de Dios

- For a clear vision of God's divine strategy to carry out HIS transformation in Mexico
- For financial support to meet our expense needs (we have been subsidizing our mission work from our savings and retirement) and have a monthly shortfall of \$3500
- For continued opportunities to encourage and interact with pastors, directors, government officials and needy families
- For safety as we travel in Mexico

Excessive Giving leads to Blessings "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

Manos de Dios is your 'financial conduit' to assisting the poor in Mexico. Please prayerfully consider giving a gift of eternal value.

Partner with us monthly, or with a one time contribution. Donate online at www.ManosdeDios.org or by adding us to your online banking payments.

Manos de Dios, NFP

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Manos de Dios (translated Hands of God)
Dennis & Lucy Smith, Missionaries to Mexico
*Encouraging, equipping, & empowering
pastors, families, & prison ministries in
Sonora, Mexico*
*Partnering with the Holy Spirit to empower Mexican people
to grasp God's full purpose*