



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries January 2012 Newsletter



January trip to the White Mountains of Arizona

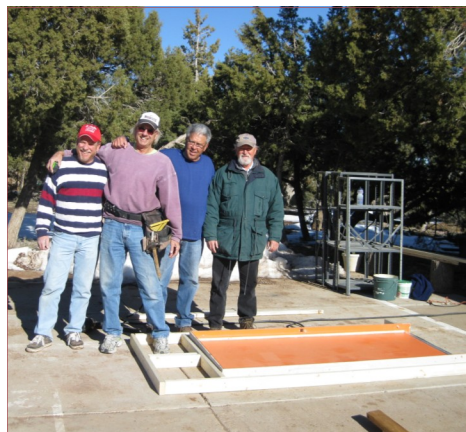
by Dennis

We studied the weather for the mountains of northern Arizona and found a span of time that was to be free of heavy snow, so we immediately planed our next trip for those dates.

This trip had three purposes. We were to **meet with pastors/leaders** from several churches and mission groups working with Native Americans; **build** a wall in the office and deliver the donation of a golf cart to AICM (in the Show Low area); and **paint** rooms in a Sunday school/office building for Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship, drop off donations of blankets for the local people and the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Springerville.

Two couples of our team arrived Friday afternoon and the men, Albert and Kent, went right to work on installing a wall and door in the main office of AICM. I got them started on the project and then had to go back to the dorm and lie down because I found myself coming down with the flu! Thankfully, these guys did a great job and completed the project. I was so grateful for their hard work!

Lucy took Vicki and Suzanne on a tour of the AICM school grounds and then they boarded the Blue Bus to go to the community of Carrizo (on the Apache reservation) to minister to the children. The ladies returned from their outreach program around 7pm, about the same time the guys finished installing the wall and door. They were treated to dinner and fellowship with members of the AICM staff at Sherry and Gene's home. I had the good fortune of having my wife as my nurse and taking me to Urgent Care in Show Low and for medication in Pinetop. The next morning Lucy and I decided to head back to Tucson for my recovery and not spread my germs all over Show Low and Springerville, Arizona. The team (which now included Rick and Sherrie and their two sons) went on to Springerville to complete the painting project and deliveries without us. The team worked hard, had great fellowship and met many new friends while being servants of our Lord. I would say it was a blessed trip for all of us! God had a plan and it was completed!



Building a wall & installing door in office at AICM. Shown here with AICM Executive Director Marc, are Manos de Dios team: Kent, Albert & Dennis

Sharing the message of Jesus with ingenious people in northern Arizona and Mexico

"With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.'" Isaiah 35:3-4 (NLT)

Inside this issue:

Dennis comments about what Apaches believe	2
Pray for children	3
Encouraging a church in Springerville, Arizona	4
Mexico Update	5
Love & Respect Conferences scheduled	6

Manos de Dios team gets to know AICM



Vicki, Suzanne and Lucy
in front of AICM sign

Our good friends and supporters, Kent & Suzanne and Albert & Vicki had been hearing about AICM (American Indian Christian Mission) since Dennis and I first visited them last September. They joined us for a quick work trip and got to meet staff and some children on the Apache Reservation. They worked hard, had the experience of staying in a team dorm, and enjoyed the fellowship of the AICM staff whom we have grown to love. The volunteer team was a blessing and they were blessed!



Comments from Dennis...

When Lucy and I first started serving in Mexico I already knew the importance of learning the culture and problems facing the people to whom we would be ministering. However, in this phase of our missionary journey, the importance of learning and understanding is tenfold!

Every people group is different and has a unique set of circumstances that have to be dealt with and it is imperative that they not be taken lightly.

While ministering to and with the Mexican people our obstacles were basically familiar to us. Most Mexicans, in the areas we worked, were Catholic and had some knowledge of witchcraft and evil spirits. However, evil spirits and witchcraft were not **prominent** in most daily lifestyles or communities.

This cannot be said of the Native American communities. The more I am involved with the native people (specifically Apache) the more I learn of how evil spirits and witchcraft are very prominent in their everyday lives. These spirits are real and are not to be taken lightly by those of us who do not truly understand the reality and complexity of what they represent: Satan in his purest form.

I feel I am being called by the Holy Spirit to learn what I can about these evil spirits (AKA shadow people, dark shadows, spirit people), what scripture teaches us on how to fight this evil, and how I can assist the local pastors, spiritual leaders and missionaries in their quest to bring the Word of Truth to our brothers and sisters on the reservation.

Most of us the USA have no clue as to the seriousness and the extent of evil that is right in our own back yards and the battles that are fought everyday by people that are trapped by Satan. I know I wasn't aware, but now my eyes have been opened and I see that Ephesians 6:12 is for real! ***"For we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*** (NKJV)

I will discuss this in more detail in future newsletters. We are praying and learning a lot! Your prayers are appreciated and needed! Thank you!

His servant, **Dennis**

Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

Most of us in the USA have no clue as to the seriousness and the extent of evil that is right in our own back yards and the battles that are fought everyday by people that are trapped by Satan.

Bus Ministry to the Apache Reservation

... by Lucy

Once again I had the privilege of going on the Blue Bus with the AICM staff to share the love of Jesus with children on the White River Apache Reservation. On one of those trips Vicki and Suzanne joined us. When the bus enters the neighborhood that has been selected for that day's activities the bus horn is honked loudly. Immediately children begin to run out of their homes. They often are without a coat and even without wearing both shoes. They delight in jumping on the bus to receive hugs and greetings from the volunteers on board. We drive throughout the neighborhood honking the horn and picking up children ages 3 to 15. This day we picked up about 25 active children.



Children running to get on the Blue Bus in Carrizo. Note the donkeys in the front yard.



Some were very interested in (and *others* were distracted from) the songs about Jesus and the lesson about needing to forgive others. Sherry used a Frisbee to demonstrate that we give forgiveness, tossing the Frisbee gently to one of the children. Then she said that they would need to forgive her and asked them to gently toss the Frisbee back. We all prayed together and then the signal was given that

the kids could dig into the built-in toy boxes that line each side of the converted school bus. Roller blades, basketballs, Mr. Potato Head, beads, and crayons were dug out and many children ran off the bus to play in the park (a cracked concrete basketball court and empty field). Suzanne played softball with the a group that hit a plastic ball with a plastic bat. Vicki helped some children put on skates and others do crafts on the bus. I walked slowly around the court while wobbly children clung to me as they tried out the roller blades. All of us took every opportunity to share words of encouragement and love with these precious children. We could see pain in some eyes and observed (and smelled) the less than desirable living situations they came from. As the sun began to set, the children returned to the bus and we re-traced our route through the neighborhood. Children were dropped off near their homes with a hug and a 'see you next time'. My hugs included, 'remember Jesus loves you and you are very special!' As we drove back to AICM, we prayed for the children we had met and pondered all we had seen.



Cut out this prayer reminder

Please join us in praying for the Apache children living on the reservations in Arizona! Pray for God's Love, Hope and Truth to break through the many strongholds that are holding these precious people back from knowing God!



New relationship with pastors

We spent a wonderful two hours with Pastor Pete and Kim Kemp, pastors of the White Mountain Apache Christian Church located on the White River Apache reservation. They have been working with the Apache people for 13 years and opened their church in 2005. In addition to Sunday worship services with an average of 100 in attendance they have men's and women's Bible Studies, a jail ministry, a rehab center ministry and partner with The Kennel youth center for the Rising (weekly ministry to teens on the reservation). We found we had so much in common and shared our hearts for reaching the lost and hurting. Pete and Kim have a wealth of experience and are very knowledgeable about the Apache people. They have invited us to visit their jail ministry, rehab center ministry and Bible Studies. We plan to join them in February and we will worship with their church on Sunday. The AICM middle school and high school students are now attending the Rising event Thursday evenings. Last week this event drew close to 100 teens! Please pray for this awesome outreach to the teenagers of the reservation. Each Thursday they have time for recreation, then worship and a powerful message. Many of the teens who come to the Kennel Thursday and after school are not saved but appreciate the safe, fun environment. They are learning 'first hand' about the Love of God!

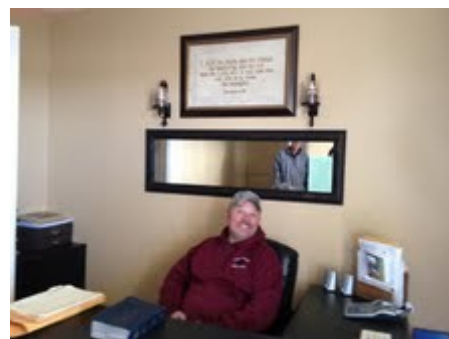
Lucy and Dennis

Short term team paints and shares encouragement...



As Dennis and I drove back to Tucson (due to him coming down with the flu), Kent & Suzanne, Albert & Vicki, and Rick, Sherrie, Caleb & Josh drove to Springerville, AZ. The project was to paint the inside of a newly rented building that will contain Sunday School classrooms, fellowship hall and the Pastor's office (pictured below). Men of the Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship joined our team of men and worked all day! They also did some electrical wiring. Wow! All were impressed with how much this team got done in one day! The church was so encouraged by the helpful, hard-working

team! On Sunday the Sunday School classes and a potluck were held in the newly painted building! The team worshiped with the church and were blessed with wonderful fellowship.



"While the men were doing construction work, we women went to meet with a few of the congregation's women to encourage and pray with them. However, we were the ones who left blessed by their acceptance and love. We were touched by their humble, caring, & giving hearts."

...Sherrie

We are so grateful to the team for traveling to Springerville without us. They were a powerful encouragement to this body of believers. All the glory goes to God!

Lucy

Update from Mexico

....written with a joyful heart by Lucy

God is so good and always has a plan!! When we were leaving Mexico for our furlough, **Mark & Karen Higgins** were moving to Mexico from Colorado. They felt called to serve the Lord in Puerto Peñasco. We connected immediately, relating to each other's hearts and calling. We were able to give some advice based on what we had learned and have prayed for them SO MUCH! We have stayed in close communication with each other and they have shared many of their struggles as new missionaries in this area we know so well.

Karen and Mark have wonderful gifts and talents to use to further God's Kingdom in Mexico! They have been led to rent and renovate a former lumber store in the 'invasion' barrio of Peñasco. They are using it as a Christian Community Center, offering English classes, Bible



English as a second language class in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Karen Higgins, instructor, with students and our close friends: Margarita, Nati and Carlos.

studies, movie night, gardening and small business training. Wow! They have picked up where we left off and gone so much farther! Our hearts are delighted, much like parents that see their children succeed and go beyond where they did!

We are thrilled to hear about Karen's English (as a second language) class for adults. Three of our precious friends are students in her class: **Margarita** (Alejandra's mom) and **Carlos & Nati**! God, you are so good! Also, some of you may remember sending financial help for Lourdes' ovarian cancer surgery a few years ago. She is now strong and completely healed, praise the Lord! **Lourdes** is volunteering at the Christian Center now (even while she is an unemployed single mom). She is teaching a Bible study Friday mornings and cares for the preschoolers of the parents taking Karen's English classes. Lourdes is bilingual, so she is teaching the children English while she cares for them!



Las Moñecas dance group in Puerto Peñasco. Pastora Rafa (green apron) leads her two daughters Claudia & Jaziel (blue aprons) and sister-in-Christ Leo in performing for children's evangelism events.

Pastors Lupe & Rafaela continue to faithfully serve in Puerto

Peñasco, also. Their daughters are growing physically and spiritually and join their mom in the 'Las Moñecas' (the dolls) group which dances at children's evangelism events. The music and joyful/fun dancing draws crowds who then hear the Good News about Jesus. May God bless them as they serve Him and may many be drawn to the Kingdom of God! Amen!

“...be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:18b-20

Ministry of Dennis & Lucy Smith



*Sharing the message of
Jesus with indigenous
people in northern Arizona
and Mexico*

Contact us:
520-404-5045 (voice or text)

GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

Read Dennis' blog:

[http://
manosdediosmissions.
blogspot.com/](http://manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com/)



Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:
2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715 or be made
on our website: ManosdeDios.org



Our new logo was created by our daughter, Megan Jasper. As our mission focus has changed we wanted to depict our 'Jesus first, first Jesus' philosophy (with the cross) and our calling to reach Native Americans (with the feather). Thank you, Megan!

Love and Respect Conferences

Two Love and Respect DVD Marriage conferences have been scheduled for May 2012!

One conference will be held at AICM outside Show Low, AZ on May 4th and 5th. Invited to attend this conference will be staff of AICM, parents of the Native American students who attend the AICM school, and other couples from the Show Low/Pinetop area and White Mountain Apache Reservation.

Registration is \$15 per person which includes lunch on Saturday. You are welcome to attend, also! You will need to provide your own lodging and meals. Please contact us for more details and to register no later than April 23, 2012.



Another conference will be held May 18 and 19th at Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship in Springerville, AZ. Couples from the church, other churches, and the surrounding communities will be invited. We have also been invited to provide the six-session Love and Respect small group follow-up. Therefore, we will enjoy spending some extended time in northern Arizona providing this great accountability tool AND exploring many locations on the Navajo and Apache reservations in May and June!

"So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33 (NLT)