



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

October/November 2013 Newsletter



Riscilla and Jacy growing (up) in Tucson By Lucy



Jacy, Riscilla, Sharon & Dan at a pumpkin patch in October

Jacy (#2) spikes a ball in her volleyball game (photo at right)



Riscilla & Jacy

Beautiful Apache girls, doing well in school, playing on school sports teams, obeying their host parents. Only a dream? With God's favor and direction, this is a reality for **Riscilla** (14) and **Jacy** (13) from the White Mountain Apache Reservation. These girls are experiencing many new things: a short-term mission trip to Mexico (see page 3 for details); attending U of A men's and women's games (volleyball, basketball and football); and enjoying a (Desert Christian) High School musical production of Les Misérables!



Jacy's "A" volleyball team played two games before being eliminated in the post-season tournament. Jacy was awarded the 'tournament player' award! (photo at left)

I have begun meeting with the girls individually for discipleship, prayer, a bike ride and dinner with Dennis. We cherish the relationship we have with these girls and will continue loving and encouraging them when we are in Tucson! Thank you, God for what you are doing in these precious lives!

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

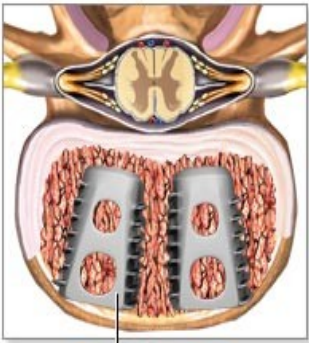
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Dennis had major spinal surgery October 2nd

Interbody cage fusion uses a hollow thread cylinder to fuse three vertebrae

Top view



Interbody cage



Diagram shows sample of 'cages' placed on lumbar vertebrae

October and November have been long months for me! But before I get into that I would like to thank all the people that prayed for a successful surgery and rapid recovery for me (and to give Lucy strength as she cares for me and does most of the heavy work around our home in Tucson.) They are appreciated!

It looks like the surgery was a success but we will not know until I am completely recovered and that could take from 6 to 12 months. So far I am doing good, just going through the healing pains.

Dr. John Hall of Flagstaff Bone and Joint Group performed the surgery. He and his associates went in through my back to remove some bone spurs. Then, they turned me over and went in through my

lower abdomen to place two 'cages' around my lumbar vertebrae to fuse them together. So I have two incisions that need to heal. However, I still have joy in my life and count every day that I am able to get out of bed a blessing. I give praises to the Lord in spite of the pain. I am being healed.

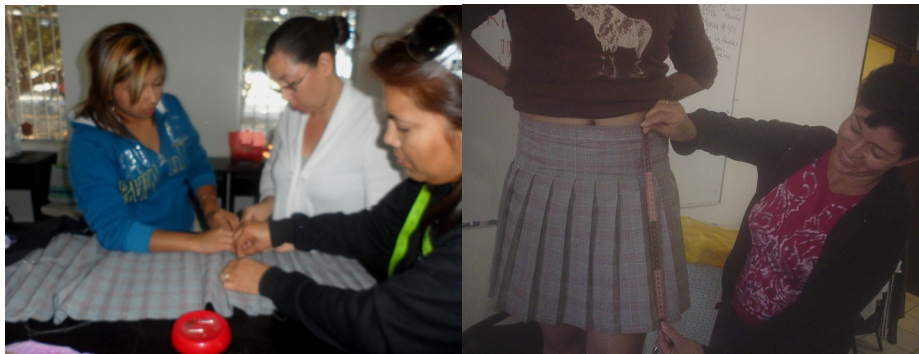
For the first six weeks of recovery I was only able to walk and rest. I needed to sit and stand in a straight position, so my posture should become excellent! My limitations have made it possible for me to spend time reading and praying. I also have time to think and I don't know if that is a good idea or not. (: At seven weeks I was released to begin physical therapy. I am now experiencing pain as I begin to move again!

Studying scripture, reading and praying has given me time to reflect on my life, to realize what needs changing or improving and what I need to do to walk closer and have a deeper relationship with Jesus. Even though I am convicted of some things I am doing wrong, I count this time as a blessing.

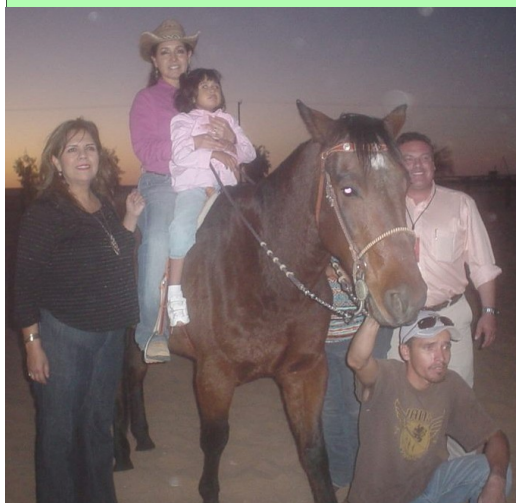
Later on in October I was able to go watch Riscilla and then Jacy play volleyball and even see a playoff game of Jacy's team. We are so proud of our girls and the way they have met every challenge, kept a positive attitude and are continuing to work hard and grow in their walk with the Lord.

Also this month I have watched the Lord give Lucy strength as she constantly has to assist me and still has time for her daily 'God time,' to cook and clean, to assist a teacher friend with her class, to visit a dear friend who is struggling with a health issue, and make time to be with our girls and be involved with their lives. Just watching her makes me tired. She is a blessing to many!

I give praise and glory to God for all these blessings, Dennis



Students learn to create a pleated skirt in Margarita's seamstress class



Alejandra receives horse therapy. Puerto Peñasco's mayor's wife (standing to left of horse) comes to observe Alejandra's progress!

Margarita continues to teach seamstress classes in Puerto Peñasco. Her students are excelling and benefiting from her excellent instruction. Margarita thrives as her skills are being used to help women learn a trade and she is providing financially for her family.

Alejandra, her 12-year-old daughter, continues to grow stronger and more alert as she takes physical therapy classes and horse therapy!

Jacy had an opportunity to meet Margarita and Alejandra when her host parents took her on their church's weekend mission trip to Puerto Peñasco! Jacy had been praying for Margarita and Alejandra ever since we had their photo posted in our dorm world map (representing people to pray for in Mexico!) What a joyous reunion for them to meet in person! They communicated with Margarita's broken English and lots of laughter, smiles and hugs! It warmed my heart to hear about our three precious friends meeting and enjoying each other!



Jacy meets Margarita & Alejandra!



Margarita and Alejandra at friend Irie's wedding



"With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time—to show us His grace through Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 2:8b-9

Trip to the White Mountains!

by Lucy

Six weeks after Dennis' spinal surgery he felt well enough to travel to the White Mountains for a few days. I was so excited to see some of 'our girls' and their moms/grandmas! It had been since August that we had been there! Dennis and I had the chance to visit with **Stephanie**, Riscilla and Drelyn's mom, on our first day. This gave us an opportunity to report to her how well Riscilla is doing in Tucson. We told her she ought to be very proud of her daughter and we thanked her for loving Riscilla enough to let her go to Tucson to attend Desert Christian High School! We encouraged Stephanie and prayed for her. She has been looking for a job for a couple years! The few jobs that become available on the rez have so many applicants (at least 75 for one position, she reports) that it is nearly impossible to land a position.

Dennis and I were blessed to be able to stay in our friends (and former fellow-dorm parents) **Laura and Trampas'** RV trailer. They have it parked and hooked up behind their new home in Pinetop/Lakeside. We were comfy and warm in the trailer and enjoyed sweet fellowship with this wonderful couple!

Laura and I spent most of our second day on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. It is wonderful to have a partner to travel to the rez and to share visits and prayer! Laura and I visited moms, grandmas, and girls. We listened, offered encouragement, learned, read the Word together, and prayed with our friends. It was a sweet day of fellowship! I also completed the process of applying to volunteer at a school in the Whiteriver School District by having my fingerprints taken. The receptionist told me that the principal of Canyon Day Middle School (where I want to be because Nicole attends) will review my application and contact me in December. I hope to volunteer once or twice a week beginning in January.



Thearsa, Viscena and Naomi enjoyed a walk (above) and a pizza dinner with us (below)!



Dennis and I spent another day visiting students and staff at AICM. It was so good to re-connect with many we had lived with for the entire past school year! We specifically wanted to connect with **Viscena** (our only dorm daughter that continues to attend AICM Mission School).

Also, after hearing recently that **Thearsa** had been having some serious difficulties we wanted to bless her and her sister, **Naomi**. We got permission from the girls' moms and dorm parents to 'kidnap' them after school. First, I took a walk with the three girls in the woods. Walks provide great times to talk about more than just the superficial topics. Then, Dennis drove us all to Pizza Hut, a favorite of the girls! They feasted on hot wings, breadsticks and pizza. The girls snuggled up to Dennis and soaked in his fatherly love! We had time to listen, laugh, and pray for each girl. What a special day!



When we visited Yosh she showed us the cradleboard she was placed in as a baby. She also used it for her daughter Thearsa. The entire trim design is made of beads!



"Daddy God, please hold these precious girls in your arms. Remind them of Your unconditional love for them. Protect them from the lies of the enemy that cause them to doubt You and the wonderful plan You have for their lives. Strengthen them to trust You and love You even when circumstances are tough. Thank you! We ask all this in the Name of Jesus, our Savior! Amen."

Drelyn attends boarding school on the rez

by Dennis



Drelyn & Dennis
(at her boarding school
on the rez)
Lucy & Drelyn



In November we were able to visit **Drelyn** (she and her sister, Riscilla were in our dorm last year at AICM). Drelyn is now attending and living at the **Theodore Roosevelt Indian Boarding School (TR)** in **Fort Apache on the White Mountain Apache Reservation**. It was an impressive tour of the school and facilities and we learned a little about the history of the school. As with other schools on the Rez, there are major concerns with alcohol and drug use. At this school there is also the problem of Native American students from different tribes not getting along well with each other.

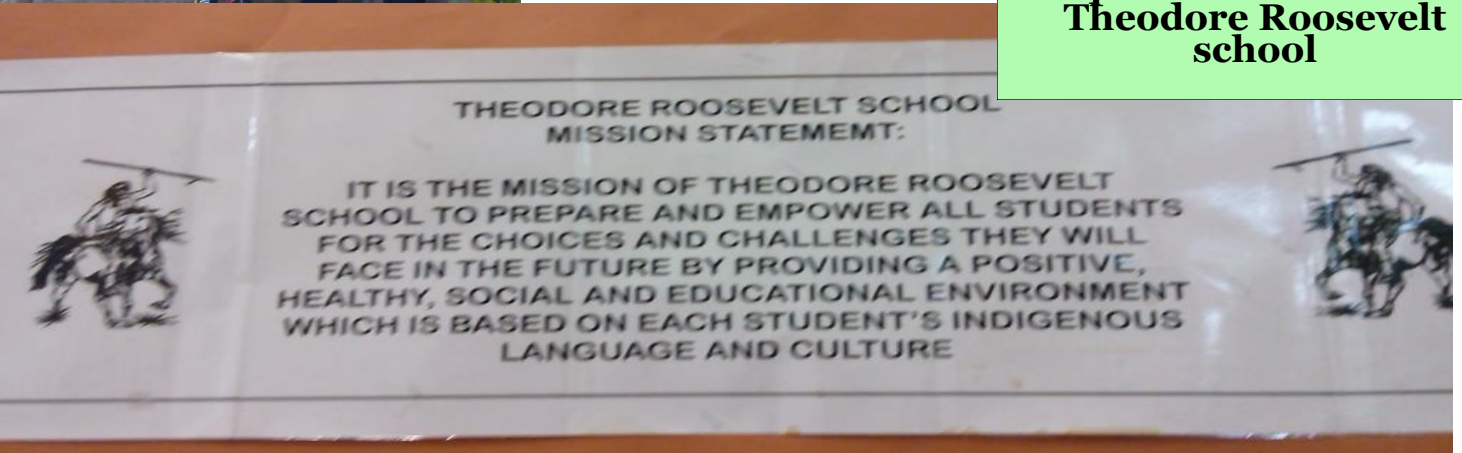
We were able to spend some quality time with Drelyn and talk in detail about things that were troubling her and things that were positive in her life. She is even considering asking us to help her move to Tucson to go to a Christian school next fall, if arrangements can be made.

During our conversations with Drelyn we became even more proud of her than we already were. She told us that she is doing her daily devotions (she learned that from Lucy while in the dorm last year) and has asked others to join her but has had no takers so far. She also was able to talk to a male classmate that was suicidal and encouraged him not to do anything to hurt himself while waiting for adult help to arrive.

Even though Drelyn has her struggles in and out of school, she has a positive attitude and remembers much of what we taught her last year! With God's help, advice from trusted adults, and an attitude of **"I can do it,"** she plans on succeeding in life!

It is pure joy for us to see a beautiful young girl growing into a mature Christ-following (and also beautiful) teenager! We ask that you keep praying for Drelyn to be strong and steadfast in her walk with the Lord.

(below) Photo taken of poster on wall on Theodore Roosevelt school



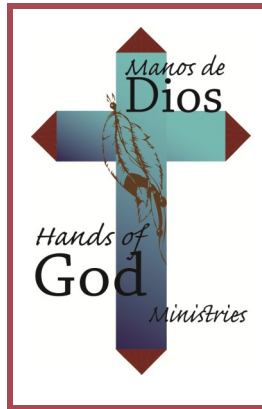


**Thearsa and Dennis
enjoy time together
when we visited
AICM Mission School**

Contact us:

**520-404-5045 (Lucy voice or text)
520-245-2039 (Dennis voice or text)
GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org**

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



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of Jesus with
indigenous people in
northern Arizona and
Mexico***

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Please Pray:

- **For continued healing for Dennis. For reduced pain and strength to do the physical therapy prescribed.**
- **For God's will and timing for Margarita to qualify for and acquire a piece of property in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico. THEN, for provision of supplies and workers to build a home for Margarita and Alejandra.**
- **For protection physically, spiritually and emotionally of girls living on the White Mountain Reservation.**
- **That God would make His will known in regard to girls that are to come to Tucson from the Reservation to go to school next year.**
- **That God would direct us to host families for girls that will come to Tucson to go to Christian school. (If you are interested in receiving more information and being considered, please contact us!)**

Thank you!