



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

*Dennis & Lucy Smith, missionaries to
Mexico*

This Newsletter includes...

- Donated truck delivered to Peñasco
- Marriage Conference attended
- Wonderful friends encourage
- Pies needed in December!

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October 2010 Newsletter

Renaldo and family receive a truck

It is amazing how something that seems so small to someone can mean the world to others. To many of us, newer cars, comfortable homes and nice clothes are commonplace. We have been blessed for so long with these things we seemed to have forgotten about the value of the things we often take for granted. Let me explain.

I have a 2004 Ford 4 wheel drive pickup. I was blessed to be able to pay cash for it when we sold our business four and a half years ago. We use it for traveling into remote areas of Mexico where we serve those in need. It starts up every day (and when it doesn't I have the money to repair it) and I have the money to put gas in the tank. It is a very useful and valuable tool, and has provided us safe passage many times. Being so important to us and our mission work you, would think that I would appreciate being blessed with that truck. However, sometimes I don't. I take for granted that it will always be there, start and get me to where I am going and back again. That character, **forgrantedness** (new word – not in the dictionary yet!), is something I am going to have to learn to stop doing and change my mind set!

What brought me to be thinking about this was seeing the attitude of appreciation on the face and in the words of Renaldo and Ceci when we were able to bless them with a 1986 Ford pickup truck last week. You would have thought we gave them a new Ford F350 4 wheel drive with all the bells and whistles plus the money to operate it.

Let me remind you of the background on this family. Renaldo and Ceci, and their 7 children, are Christ followers that serve the Lord



Renaldo, his wife and family are thrilled to receive the gift of a pick up truck!



Manos de Dios supporters heeded the call for the donation of a pick up truck to assist Renaldo's family in transporting their worship team & equipment.
Thank you!

every day. Renaldo and Ceci travel the streets of Puerto Peñasco telling people about Jesus and encouraging them to receive the salvation Christ offers. They have musical gifts and volunteer to go to any church and provide the music and singing for the worship service. They do not charge anything but will accept a love offering. When the children are not in school, they are right at the side of their parents spreading the Good News about Jesus and assisting with the praise and worship service. Their total income is whatever Jesus blesses them with that day (and sometimes a little from a temporary job, when available).

They live in a small home without electricity or running water at the far end of the barrio (conditions are tough). Their mode of transportation had been a worn out, run down small Chevy pickup. The tires are bald, the home made brake linings are worn out and it takes a minimum of 4 of the children to push it to get it started. It needs a new battery, shocks and I am sure the front end is a total disaster. In this small truck, they carry 2- four foot speakers, 2 smaller speakers, keyboard and stand, amp., all the cords and 8 to 9 people! Even with those conditions, Renaldo has never asked us for a donation of a truck. He only asked for prayers for a donation of a small open trailer to carry the equipment in. We have been praying for a trailer with them for about a year. Separately Lucy and I have been praying for the donation of a truck (I didn't think his truck would be able to pull a trailer if we got one donated for them).

Another thing that makes this family special is that with all the adversity they have, they never complain or take for granted all the blessings (and they say they have many). And they always have a smile on their faces (Ceci does get tired sometimes – I would think so!).

As you know, the Lord answered our prayers. A special couple and supporter of Manos de Dios donated a 1986 Ford F150 pickup truck to us so we could pass it on to Renaldo and family. It is a great truck and will serve the family well. It has a cap on the back and I suggested to Renaldo that he could remove it and sell it for extra money if he did not need it. He thanked me for the offer but said he would like to leave it on. It seems that two weeks ago, while they were in the neighborhoods telling people about Jesus, people threw water on his children that were riding in the back of his old, small pickup. We were able to give them a small financial donation for a Mexico license plate, transfer fees, and upcoming repairs, as needed.

When we delivered the truck, the family's appreciation was overflowing and so was the praise and thanksgiving to God for His provisions. It is truly a blessing, and a reminder to me, to see people be honestly thankful for what they have and for the generosity of others. And it is wonderful to see people that are happy with what God has provided for them!

Thank you to all of you that have been praying with us for a blessing to come to Renaldo and Ceci. Our prayers were answered! Thank you to the Lord and to the donors.



The Rios Olivas Family: (back row) Julio and Froylan; (middle row) Yesenia, Gaby, Carolina, Cecilia (mother), Renaldo; and (front row) Karina and Chandel.

All praise and glory to God, Dennis and Lucy

Time to deepen relationships

“Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees! Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands. As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! I will obey your decrees. Please don’t give up on me!” Psalm 119:5-8

During this time in Tucson we have been focusing on deepening our relationship with God. Daily we both spend extended time praying and reading The Bible. We are attending Bible-teaching church services two to three times a week (Calvary Christian Fellowship and Calvary Chapel Tucson). We individually are meeting with accountability partners to sharpen our walk with the Lord and with our spouse!

We are also focusing on strengthening our marriage relationship. We attended a wonderful marriage conference, Love and Respect, last weekend. (For more details go to <http://loveandrespect.com/>). The teaching was exactly what we needed and we are excited about putting the Godly principles into practice immediately! The theme verse of the conference is Ephesians 5:33 “**...each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**” We not only purchased materials for ourselves (and to share with our friends) , but purchased materials in Spanish for some of our pastor partners. They are always asking for materials in Spanish to help with marriage and family relations. The Love and Respect ministries hopes to have the conference available in Spanish on DVD in February 2011. For you English speakers, there will be a conference available via video cast Valentines weekend 2011. Contact the Love and Respect ministry for the location near you that will be showing the video conference. We highly recommend this material for all...married or single!

We are appreciating this time of ‘pressing in’ and thank God for this wonderful opportunity! Thank you for your continued prayers!

In His Hands, Dennis & Lucy

Shown with us at the Love and Respect Marriage Conference our good friends, Francie & Warren, and Barb & Frank



Pies needed for Prison



Manos de Dios and supporters will be counted on to provide the much anticipated pies for the annual prison posada! The posada, scheduled for December 18th, provides a worship service, gifts and a delicious meal for the 400 plus prisoners in the Puerto Peñasco prison. Please prayerfully consider providing one or more pies (must be cooked) for this year's meal. We will start collecting the pies (any flavor) around the 10th of December. We will need about 80 pies and lots of cans of whipped cream! Financial donations for pies are also appreciated.

(Photo shows men prisoners enjoying pie at last year's posada!)



**Barb & Frank with
Dennis and Lucy**

We want to thank many friends who are walking along side us as we rest, deepen our relationship with God, and work on our marriage. We have been treated to a weekend on a



**Dennis & Lucy with friends,
Kent and Suzanne**

houseboat, meals out, a cabin in the mountains for get-away days with God, prayer partners, & 'Monday night weekly marriage encouraging night'! "Thank you, Lord, for providing such wonderful, encouraging friends!"



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