



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

*Dennis & Lucy Smith, missionaries to
Mexico*

www.ManosdeDios.org

This Newsletter includes...

October 2009 Newsletter

- Building a home with The Rock of Sahuarita Church.
- Bringing JOY to children in the neighborhood.
- A prison "Activity Day".
- Praise and thanks! Prayer Requests.



October marked the second annual house build trip for The Rock of Sahuarita Church under the leadership of Pastors Tim and Cristy Olof. We were blessed to be working with them again.

Many prayers were lifted up, funds collected, teams assembled, meetings attended, decisions made and a family discerned to receive the home. Everything was in order and ready to go. We had put all things in God's hands and trusted Him with the outcome, whatever it was to be.

We were not disappointed. The team had a safe trip to Peñasco, crossed the border without problems and the weather was great (as was the food – thanks Monica!).

The family that was selected for the home was a pastor and his wife, Carlos and Maru Garfel. They have been serving their church, ***Manantial de la Vida*** (Fountain of Life) in Peñasco for six years and have been living in a small parsonage. A few years ago another church group offered to build a home for them on the lot Carlos and Maru owned, but they declined. You see, their property did not have access to electricity or water pipes and if their house was built, they knew they would not move in until the water and electricity was available. Declining that offer showed a lot of character and honesty in this couple. (Many might have received the house and then not lived there – letting it decay.)

Lucy and I met with Pastors Carlos and Maru to let them know that a church in Arizona was offering to build a house for them on their lot. They were extremely excited and assured us that they would move into the house as soon as it was completed. Electricity and water are now available for hook-up in that area! Praise God!



Pastors Carlos and Maru Garfel

Pastor Carlos and a team from his church began preparing the lot (leveling, putting in caliche). Pat Rico led the men in putting in the concrete foundation with plumbing connections. Soon the team from the Rock Church came down and was ready to build. Since the value of the peso was low, we were able to purchase more supplies and provide more for the project.



Construction of the house that the Rock built for Pastors Carlos and Maru in Puerto Peñasco

We started building on Monday morning with a team of 15 American men and some Mexicans. The team almost finished the entire structure by Tuesday night (a lot of building in two days!) David, from The Rock and our friend Pat Rico (a missionary living in Peñasco) were the foremen of the project. The construction went smoothly, with few and minor injuries. And while we were building the house there were Mexican workers digging the hole for the septic to be installed. (Pastor Tim was even seen helping dig the hole!) Lucy and other team members prayer walked and did a children's outreach while we were building,

but she will tell you more about that in her section.



The team...including folks from the Rock of Sahuarita Church, Dennis & Lucy of Manos de Dios, Pat & Gerry Rico, Pastors Carlos & Maru and their family, and some local volunteers....in front of the newly built home. 10-14-09

Arden, from the Rock team, decided to stay over another day. Arden and I continued to work with Pat on the house. There were also two local guys working on the roof (one was a volunteer from the Men's Rehab Center). Another guy continued to dig out the hole for the septic! Friday, Pat and two local volunteers finished the interior and the trim on the outside.

We had enough money to buy the block for the septic and the drywall, mud and tape. Pat will be hanging the drywall and the tape and mudding will be finished off by Pastor Carlos and his workers. After the painting, they can add cabinets, sinks etc and move in!



**Dennis & Lucy, Pastors Carlos & Maru Garfel,
Pastors Cristy & Tim of The Rock**



**Prayer for Pastors Carlos and Maru
after house dedication**

We all agreed that the building of the house was secondary to the ***establishing of relationships*** between members of the team, the Mexican and American workers, the bonding of two pastors from different cultures, and the demonstration of the love of Jesus by our works and fellowship. If this was accomplished the trip was a success...and I think it was.

During the dedication of the house on Wednesday morning, I mentioned that this house was a blessing from God and He expected Carlos and Maru to be a 'light on the hill' (their lot is actually on a high piece of ground) and safe place for those who pass by. Then, when Carlos spoke he mentioned that people in the area had already come over to welcome them. They also asked if, now that he was going to live in the neighborhood, he would be starting a church there. They indicated there was great need. Carlos and Maru both agreed that this house will be a "light" representing Jesus for all to see. Maru has already started making plans to go out into the community and hopes to start some cell groups. God knows what the future holds.

Please pray for Pastors Carlos and Maru, living in this sometimes 'dark' community. (There is a major 'drug house' a short distance away.) Praise and thanks to Lord for providing the funds and team to work together with Mexican men to build this home.

Dios te bendiga, Dennis

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'Clown Julie' paints faces of children at outreach in barrio near Pastors Carlos and Maru's new home.

Face painting, making a Gospel Message bracelet, pipe cleaner fish craft, and hand print art were some of the stations kids could participate in at the **children's outreach** held in an open lot near Carlos and Maru's house construction site. Jump ropes were skipped and soccer was played in the street. Maru's church provided entertainment with a team of young girls singing and dancing as "Princesses of the King". The Rock drama team acted out the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Adednego. (Read Daniel chapter 3 for the story.) Pastora Maru wrapped up the afternoon by sharing the message of God's love for each of us. Many moms approached our team for prayer and we had the opportunity to encourage them with God's love and hope.



Songs about Jesus sung and danced by team from Manantial de Vida church

The Rock "outreach team" was made up of 14 kids, 6 women and one man. We focused on learning to listen to God as we stepped out of our 'normal environment' into a different culture. Monday we prayed before leaving camp and then went to prayer walk the streets surrounding Pastor Carlos and Maru's new home. Given this opportunity, the kids prayed amazing prayers for the families and homes in the barrio area. We were all encouraged by what God revealed to us about this neighborhood and focused our prayers as He directed us through our children! We also invited children in the neighborhood to come the next day to a "Jesus Fiesta".

The next day children and parents arrived in great numbers to play, make crafts, sing, laugh, be entertained and pray. What a blessing of blending children of two cultures as we shared the love of the one and only God! Thank you, Lord, for this precious opportunity to plant seeds in the lives of children. May your Spirit water and grow what was sewn in their hearts!

Lucy

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From the pen of The Rock pastor, Tim Olof

Here is a little bit of our experience for our house build trip in October.

I was blessed to have met Carlos and Maru for dinner on Sunday evening and really got to hear their heartbeat relating to what they believe what God wants to do in Puerto Penasco through them. I could sense very quickly that Carlos has a love for people, all people. He would speak with urgency in his eyes about the need for the church to continue to spread the gospel and the need to develop the current believers into disciples.

The people from the Rock that went to Mexico were very excited to be a part of building, of praying, of playing, and of being together. The following Sunday after our trip I had asked all those who went to say a little about what took place in Mexico and the overall sense was that they thought they were going down to be a blessing but in return they were blessed immensely.

Thanks to Dennis and Lucy for their sacrificial love for the people of Mexico and allowing others to experience that.

Love,
The Rock Church
TheRockofSahuarita.com

October 2009

Items taken to Mexico to donate to Pastors, families and Men's & Women's Rehab Centers

200 SHEETS

150 TOWELS

30 PILLOW CASES

4 BX WINTER CLOTHES FOR CHILDREN

4 BX WINTER CLOTHES FOR WOMEN

80 WINTER COATS

2 BX SHOES

40 PLASTIC BUCKETS

30 WINTER BLANKETS

50 SOCCER BALLS (imprinted with Scriptures in Spanish. Info@ www.TheMissionBall.org)

5 BX BABY FORMULA

1 TABLE SAW

10 LIGHT FIXTURES

1 TOILET

**“and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.”**

Isaiah 58:10

Activity Day in the prison



Soccer being played inside the prison

prisoners joined us on the sidelines and we were able to 'visit' for a much longer time than in the weekly Bible Study. How wonderful to talk and encourage these women. The men enjoyed the fellowship. The praise and worship music reached many hearts. The preaching was dynamic. Jessie, a pastor from Mexicali shared his powerful testimony which MANY of the prisoners related to. They listened attentively and responded to his invitation. The church team fixed and served lunch to the 350 prisoners. It was a special day for the men and women in prison!

This was a first. Other than the annual Christmas posada we had not been permitted to bring a large group into the prison for half a day of activities. Things are changing in the prison. On a Friday in October the joint prison ministries (from about four Peñasco churches) planned an 'Activity Day'. We were permitted to provide a meal, bring in a band, and minister the Word to the entire prison. A couple soccer teams (which is actually 'rapid football' played on a concrete court) came in to play the prison soccer teams in a 'tournament'. The other prisoners watched. The women



Prisoners and women's ministry team watch soccer tournament on Activity Day



**Activity Day in the Prison, Puerto Peñasco
Prisoners join in praise & worship.**

Thank you, Lord, for favor with the prison Commandant and Director. Thank you for the new social worker, Nellie, who is a Christian. Please, Lord, continue to reveal Your love, truth and grace to each prisoner and staff in the Peñasco prison. Thank you for the opportunity You have given us to minister there. Give us Your wisdom and direction. Please protect and cover our comings and goings each week. Amen!

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

" 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:7-12

Join us as we thank and praise God, and bring our requests before Him.

- We praise You, God, for our financial and prayer supporters! Thank you for each one of them as they partner with us in sharing encouragement and the Good News of Jesus in Mexico. Please bless them, Lord!
- Thank you, Lord, for working on us in this transformational process with Your love, grace and healing touch. We worship You and humbly thank You for this opportunity to serve you in Mexico.
- We pray for Your transforming touch over the pastors, churches and leaders in the country of Mexico. Unite the believers as they pray for their country.
- We ask that You guide us, Lord, to where You would have us live in Mexico. (The casita that we have been living in for the past 14 months will no longer be available to us.) We are open to go wherever You would have us go. We trust You to provide accommodations at a price we can pay and in the area You have purposed and planned for us to focus. You are our "Jehovah Jireh-Our God who will provide".
- Guide Pastors Alfonso and Angelita (of El Diamante) as they lead an evangelical team of pastors into work camps and pueblos that are without a church in an effort to spread the Gospel and begin discipleship /cell groups. Lord, reveal Your plan of how You would have Manos de Dios be a part of this ministry.
- God of comfort, please be with Pastora Lucy, of Sonoyta, and her children as they mourn the loss of her husband, Pastor Julio Vargus. We claim Your promise that You comfort those who mourn and are a father to the fatherless. (Pastor Julio was killed in a car accident while driving to a men's conference in early October.)



For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Jose de la Cruz (Director of the Men's Rehab Center), Lucy and Dennis, Pastor Jessie (pastor who preached powerfully for Prison Activity day), and Pat Rico.

Manos de Dios

Spirit-led missions work

God will do His part....We will do our part!

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