



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

October/November 2015

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

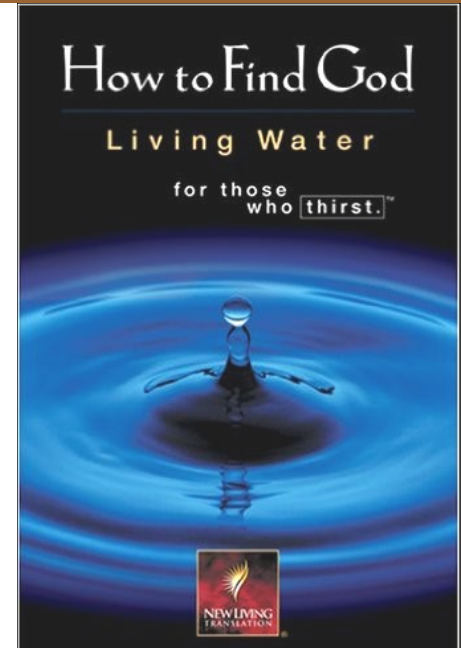


Searching for Answers...Truth shared at Living Hope Center...by Lucy

Daily, clients come into the Living Hope Center in Whiteriver seeking help. Many need to fulfill a requirement for parenting classes so they can continue receiving financial assistance. Others **need** 'pampers' (the name for all diapers on the Rez) for their children. Parents make appointments to take classes so they may earn 'Boutique Bucks' to be able to 'purchase' pampers as well as baby clothes, blankets and necessities for their home.

Often, boyfriends come along with their girlfriends to the classes to earn extra 'bucks' or to get another signature on their financial aid worksheet. We then have the opportunity to talk with them about their lives and challenges they are facing. When I asked one young man this week if he had a Bible, he said no. He didn't want to read it because then he would need to do what it said. I commended him on his honesty and went on to share that none of us is perfect ("all have fallen short of the glory of God") and God doesn't expect us to be perfect even when we read His Word. The young man also stated that he didn't want to read the Bible because he wouldn't be able to hang out with his friends anymore. "Well, if you discover how much God loves you by reading His Word and decide to follow Him, you may not want to do the things your friends are doing. But it will be because you love God and want to please Him," I replied. As we talked, his girlfriend nodded her head to things I was saying. When I asked them if they would like this "How to Find God" Bible they both said, "Yes!" I folded over the page to mark the first chapter of the book of John and asked him if he would read it before they came in for class next week. He agreed. I prayed with them and asked God to show Himself in a very real way to this young man. May God grow and water these seeds!

Another young man accompanied his girlfriend and their baby to a parenting class. He was tall and handsome, but stooped over and had difficulty making eye contact with me as we completed the new client intake form. I asked if he was a student. "No," was his quiet answer. Was he working? "No." I sensed the purposelessness he felt. I gave him one of our tracts specifically written for Native Americans, "An Apache Warrior Receives a New Name". He read it while we did the new client intake with his girlfriend. (cont'd pg 4)



Bible often given to clients who are searching for the Truth

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Life in our mission field on the Rezby Dennis

Lucy and I appreciate and love the calling we have to serve the people on the Apache Indian Reservation and the four Apache girls we have been able to bring to Tucson where they are receiving an exceptional education including Christ-centered Bible classes.

In living life we have our share of everyday struggles but they can't compare with some of the struggles and darkness we witness on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. I am saddened that there is not more concern for this people group that is on the verge of a total breakdown: socially, economically and spiritually. This includes the sometimes intense struggles we have with our girls. This darkness is not 10,000 miles away, it is right here in the U.S.

Life on the White Mountain Apache Reservation is very difficult for most of its members. Investigations show that the poor are not always responsible for their plight. People are constantly coming into the Living Hope Center seeking assistance to make it through the day and request prayer for a variety of reasons which include depression and sadness because there are no jobs available, their housing is inadequate, and they don't have access to jobs off the reservation due to lack of transportation.

- According to a Tribal Council member the unemployment rate on the Rez is 81%. This is due in part to the lack of businesses on the reservation.
- Many families live together in one house (as many as 10 people living in a 3 bedroom home) while tribal housing is given to tribal council members and families that are not low income. Investigations show allegations of cronyism, nepotism, embezzlement and fraud that are frequently related to the White Mountain Apache Housing Authority.
- There is no public transportation between the reservation and the cities of Pinetop/Lakeside and Show Low. Many unemployed tribal members do not own cars. Transportation would aid them in seeking employment in other cities and enable them to have a wider choice of and lower prices of items they need to purchase.



And I am not even touching on the bad examples the adults give to the children and the lack of moral responsibility and decency shown by adults and children alike. With all this said you may wonder what point am I trying to make. It is this: when you hear about people in countries on the other side of the world that live in extreme poverty caused by corrupt governments and things they can't control and you have compassion for them and want to help, just remember we have people in our own country that are experiencing similar problems.

I encourage you to continue learning about the problems our Apache brothers and sisters are facing and refrain from stereotyping them or feeling they are totally to blame for their plight. Instead, be compassionate and offer love, prayer and assistance whenever you can plus support those that are serving the indigenous people in our own country. Workers serving people in these conditions face heartbreak, stress, and sadness, so please remember they need your prayers, too.

***For the whole law is fulfilled in one word:
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
Galatians 5:14 (ESV)***

Baby Shower...Reservation Style

...by Lucy



Tiera (Thearsa & Naomi's sister) and her baby Delilah

Dennis and I were invited to our first Baby Shower on the Reservation. 18-year-old Tiera, Thearsa and Naomi's sister, gave birth to Delilah June 17, 2015. Tiera and her mom, Yosh, invited us to a "family" Baby Shower. Men, women and kids joined together in a local church to celebrate this new life! Traditional Indian Fry Bread, beans and toppings were served to the crowd of over 60 people. Then, games were played including drawing a picture of the baby on a paper plate...while holding the plate on top of your head and quickly listing baby items for each letter of the alphabet.

A huge cake was cut and enjoyed by all. Then the presents were opened with Yosh yelling out what the gift was and who it was from.

Family photos were taken and then we all quickly cleaned up as the church had been rented out to another group and we needed to vacate!

Dennis and I along with Dan and Sharon, Thearsa and Naomi's host parents, enjoyed celebrating this new life. We were honored to be included.

My only sadness is that Tiera is an un-married high school senior raising a baby. I know from my training for work at the Living Hope Center that 90% of single moms live in poverty for at least 10 years. It will not only be difficult financially for Tiera, but emotionally without the commitment of a husband and father of Delilah. We know that God's plan for sex and children within the covenant of marriage is best and for our good. That is our message at Living Hope Center.

Please pray for Tiera and Delilah!



Above: Thearsa (3rd from left) and Naomi (second from right) and their family at Delilah's Baby Shower in Whiteriver.

To the right: Dennis decorates a balloon for a boy during the games at the Baby Shower.





**Lucy holds new baby
at Living Hope Center**

The ‘choices’ ...by Lucy

I like this quote from the founder of another life-affirming pregnancy center. “We’re more pro-choice than the ‘pro-choice’ people.” Mrs. Cavallo goes on to summarize what is true about our Living Hope Centers, as well. “When a young woman comes in for a pregnancy test and it’s positive, she has three options: abortion, parenting, or adoption. I think in order to make an informed choice, she needs to hear the truth. So, we talk about abortion as a surgical procedure, we talk about some of the fallout—especially the emotional fallout, because I see women post-abortively. We talk about adoption, and we talk about single parenting.”

We love to help women sort out the choices they do have and realize it is THEIR choice...not their parent’s, not their boyfriend’s, not anyone else’s. We offer her an ultra-sound appointment that helps her see the growing baby inside her. We help her sort through her emotions and think about what is truly best for her pre-born baby. Often her choice comes down to loving her child enough to give them life even it though it appears to make things more difficult for her. She may even choose to love her child enough to allow her to grow up in a better environment than what she can provide. Choices. Even though past choices may have caused consequences, our God is good and can work good out of bad. Praise God for the choices He gives and leads us to!

Searching for Answers...Truth shared at Living Hope Center (continued from pg 1)

After class I shared that Jesus has a plan for everyone’s life. The young man perked up a little. I prayed with them and asked him if he would be interested in reading more about the Jesus spoken of in the tract he had read. “Yes!” was his eager response. I gave them a “How to Find God” New Living Translation Bible which has helpful information for someone who doesn’t know God yet. (Thank you to one of our Manos de Dios supporters for providing these Bibles to give away!) I’m asking God to show me (us) if there are some people that might meet weekly to ‘discover God’ by reading His Word together.... We’re listening for His guidance and timing!

Lord God, show us your plan. Your plan is good! We make ourselves available to You. Touch hearts and minds with a desire to know You and love You...and surrender all to You. You are the One who can change lives and give purpose. Thank you for Your love! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



Lavaine, a client at Living Hope Center, takes Jesus DVD’s and tracts from our “FREE” table.

New Church 'on the Mountain' for Dennis and Lucy...by Dennis

For the past few years, when we have been on the mountain (as the locals call it) we had been attending “The Church” in Pinetop. Pastor Ernie gave impactful and biblically accurate messages that helped us grow in our faith. However, we just never seemed to get planted and become a part of the church community for some reason. While on the mountain we also attended Calvary Chapel churches in Snowflake and in Springerville (I was even blessed to be asked to give a message there one Sunday).



In July we felt God leading us to find another church: one we could get connected in and one we would use our gifts and talents to serve. We decided to attend the service at Calvary Chapel of the White Mountains in Lakeside. As usual, Pastor Tony did Calvary style expository teaching of scripture, from which we learn the best. While attending services on Sundays and Wednesday evenings we found ourselves fitting right in with the congregation. They have activities for women which help develop friendships and provide time for sweet fellowship. Lucy has met many new friends while kayaking this summer and attending a woman's conference this fall (see photo below). I have made new friends and attend a men's breakfast and bible study at a local restaurant every Tuesday morning plus a men's breakfast and Bible study the second Sunday of every month held at the church.

Worship of our Lord, sound Bible teaching, great Christian fellowship, and opportunities to serve. We have found our church home 'on the mountain'! Thank you Lord for directing us here!



Calvary Chapel of the White Mountains women (pictured here) attend a Calvary Chapel Women's Conference at Lost Canyon Young Life Camp outside Williams, AZ. Our church group joined 300 other ladies for a wonderful weekend of worship, teaching, and fellowship. The theme of the conference was “Walking in Victory” and thus the “V” symbols all are making for the photographer. <Can you find Lucy?>

New Addition!...by Dennis



**Dennis and Chaco in front of new "Tuff Shed"
built at our Heart House in Show Low**

CONTACT US!

520.404.5045 (Lucy voice or text)

520.245.2039 (Dennis voice)

928.251-2324 (Heart House in Show Low)

GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

Manos de Dios, NFP

2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715

or made on our website:

ManosdeDios.org

No, Lucy is not pregnant! Our new addition is an 8 x 12 foot shed. Doing repair work, building shelves, painting, landscaping and such for the Living Hope Centers (Whiteriver, Springerville and Show Low) requires a lot of equipment. Then, when I added the yard work and maintenance equipment for our Heart House, the little shed that came with the property was not big enough.

With winter coming on and my back problems I could not build a shed myself so Tuff Shed built and delivered one for me and set it up. All I had to do was supervise! I am sure it will be a blessing to us and make my life easier!

Reading and Praying...

What are we **reading**? A.W. Tozer's **The Pursuit of Man** and **Whatever Happened to Worship?** And **Through the Eyes of a Lion** by Levi Lusko. This is the true story of how this pastor and his wife faced the pain of losing their five year old daughter to an asthma attack. The subtitle is "Facing impossible pain / Finding incredible power". What a powerful testimony!

What are we **praying**? We are asking God to give us eyes to see HOW He is redeeming this broken, fallen world and how we can use difficult circumstances to point people to Jesus!

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Isaiah 40: 3-5



**Thearsa (volleyball player) and
Naomi (flag football player)
in Tucson**