

...being God's hands and  
feet in Sonora, Mexico



[ManosdeDios.org](http://ManosdeDios.org)

providing **ANIMO** (*encouragement*) to  
pastors, families and prisoners

**November 2007**

In this newsletter read about:

- The Amor Rocky Point Trip with Pantano Christian Church
- How encouragement of a pastor can impact a small church in a powerful way
- Prison ministry and ways you can help



Children watching their  
new home being built

**Teams build SIX homes and reach 500 children  
with Jesus' love!**

Manos de Dios and many in our Life Group joined over 300 people from Pantano Christian Church to partner with the Amor Ministries and build six homes for families in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico November 8 thru 11<sup>th</sup>. What an experience! We met the families Thursday morning, saw their current living conditions, and their newly cleared 11 x 22 foot dirt area on their land. We noticed the hesitant excitement in their eyes as they begin to *believe* that their dream for a sturdy home would be coming true. We watched the work teams gather to mix cement, cut wood and enthusiastically build an AMOR (love) home. The families watched, helped and offered food to the workers. They saw Jesus in action as the teams showed love in a very tangible way throughout the three day work project. By Saturday noon new homes were dedicated to God and the keys are given to the families. Tears and hugs were shared. The work teams packed up and said their good byes to the precious family that will never forget what had been given to them. Thank you, Lord. We are blessed to be blessing!



Family in front of newly built home



Children listening to story about Jesus

More photos online at [www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org)

Throughout the house building weekend a team of 45 volunteers provided an outreach to children and women in the barrios of Peñasco. The **Los Niños team** was prepared and covered with much prayer. Wow, what an experience of unity and seeing those prayers answered! Each time our team set up with music (Christian children's music in Spanish), games and crafts...children and their moms began appearing. We played games in the dirt street and made crafts with crayons, yarn, glitter glue & streamers. Each craft depicted Jesus' love and demonstrated our theme of "Jesus is our Super Hero". Songs were sung about Jesus, His love, and He being better than Superman and all other superheroes! A drama was performed to demonstrate this theme. The children watched attentively. A verse was taught and soon the children were repeating loudly by memory, "Yo soy el camino, la verdad y la vida, le contestó Jesus" Juan 14:6. ("Jesus said, I am the way, the truth and the life." John 14:6) The children played musical instruments as they danced in follow-the-leader style to more music about Jesus. All "made a joyful noise"! The Gospel message was shared using the colors of the **wordless book**. Many heads bowed when a prayer was offered up for those who wanted to repeat

the words of accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. **Abre mis Ojos** (Open the eyes of my heart) was sung as members of our team prayed blessings over the children. Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to share your love with these precious children. It is estimated we served 500 children throughout the weekend at four outreach programs in the barrios.

While the children were enjoying the games, crafts and songs, moms were invited to receive manicures (and even a few pedicures) and facials (complete with cucumber slices on their eyes). The team volunteers held babies so the moms could enjoy some pampering time. The moms



**Los Niños Team** (and some of the children they served)

were reminded that they were beautiful and precious to God! They were invited to come to a weekly cell group meeting at a neighborhood home to continue to learn about God and share fellowship time with other moms.

Each evening the **Los Niños team** met to discuss the day's experiences, sharing the times when they heard and saw God that day. The team, made up of folks from 3 to 60 years old, all agreed that we were blessed to be a blessing. What a joy...To look into the faces of the precious children, to smile with them and give them a hug.....To tell the women how beautiful they are and whisper a prayer of blessing over their babies...To kick a soccer ball, dance with a child, express delight with a colored picture and bow our heads next to precious families.

**Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to serve you!**  
**Lucy Smith, Manos de Dios and Los Niños Team coordinator**

**We need your help!**

Manos de Dios is making a difference in the lives of families, pastors and prisoners in Sonora. Please prayerfully consider making a monthly or one time financial contribution. Donate online at [www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org). Contact us to schedule Lucy to speak about "Four Women of Sonora, Mexico" for your church or community group. (520)-975-7356

Thank you! Dennis and Lucy Smith, Manos de Dios (translated: God's hands)



## Immediate relief donations delivered p. 3

It is getting cold at night in Mexico! Blankets & warm clothes are needed by many families living in sub-standard homes & by the prisoners sleeping on concrete floors. Manos de Dios distributed these donations:



380 blankets, 10 sheet sets, 2 bags of towels (120) and washcloths, one full size and two twin mattresses, 8 bags and suitcases of men's, women's and children's winter clothes, shoes, 3 boxes of food for local food banks, 3 cases of diapers, 4 cases of sewing supplies, 2 cases of Spanish bibles for the prisoners, 3 suitcases of baby clothes and 3 cases of formula, 12 buckets (for concrete work), a bucket of roofing nails, 1000 toothbrushes, 10 soccer balls, (5 going to the men's prison soccer team), 4 iron skilletes, loads of teddy bears, 12 care packages for the women in prison, a walker, crutches and a wheelchair.

*Thank you to all those that gave donations, transported items, assisted in delivering the donations to the pastors and prayed for us. We could not carry out God's mission without your support!*



Donating items to local pastor

## Upcoming Manos de Dios projects in Sonora

Pastors Leadership Conference in El Diamante : Saturday, December 1. Pastor Tim Coop, Pastor Stan Tedrow and Pastor Alfonso Alvidrez are leading the instruction for 15 pastors and their wives. Manos de Dios volunteers will be providing and serving meals for the conference.

Christmas Posada in Prison in Puerto Peñasco. Saturday, December 15th. 50-60 PIES need to serve as part of the complete Turkey Dinner being provided for the 450 prisoners and guards. Funding needed to purchase a small gift ( socks, toothbrush, cup, etc.) for each prisoner.

Contact Dennis and Lucy ASAP to provide pies by December 11th!

### 2008 projects (dates to be announced):

- **Prison quarterly medical clinics and weekly Bible Studies**
- **Children's vaccinations and medical clinic in El Diamante. *Doctors, nurses & funding needed***
- **LifeWind Visions Conference for pastors and leaders**
- **Build a home! *Construction workers and funding needed!***

*Contact Manos de Dios to volunteer and/or donate*

We visited Pastor Ruebén and Erika in Desemboque. We noticed how clean their church and home was. Ruebén had an air of confidence we had not seen before. Shortly after we arrived, Ruebén shared with us the reason for his joy. One year ago, Manos de Dios and Amor Rico Missions had come to visit them for the first time. We told them we believed that God was going to do great things in their church and that God had a wonderful plan of growth for them. We encouraged them and spoke blessings into their lives. We prayed with them and promised to be their friends and come back often. We have visited them once a month for a year. Often we bring much needed food for their church and family as well as clothing, blankets and household items. We have provided sound equipment, fans, chairs and a vehicle for their church. We have brought pastors to encourage them. They have prepared delicious meals for us. We have swam in the ocean together in the summer and huddled around the fire together in the winter. Most importantly we shared a vision with them of hope for a growing, vibrant church. And we are friends. We care about them! Ruebén's eyes filled with tears as he reported that because we believed in them, they began to believe in themselves and trusted God to develop them into a strong, thriving church. Their Sunday church attendance now fills their church building; they have started a Youth Group and have 13 youth attending each Tuesday evening; their Sunday School has 30 kids each weekend. Wow! Pastor Ruebén invited us to come back to hear HIM preach (rather than inviting us to come bring a pastor to preach in his church)! Ruebén and Erika suggested a date to COME meet us in Peñasco. They desire to grow the relationship with Manos de Dios (Dennis and Lucy) and Amor Rico Missions (Pat and Gerry) and are willing to come to us for fellowship and to attend worship service together at Peñasco Christian Fellowship. Wow! God used us in a powerful way. We didn't know what an impact we were having on their lives. We were simply being obedient to God's call to be friends, help brothers and sisters in Christ, and be generous with all we have been given.



Thank you, Lord, for answering our prayers that this church, Amistad Cristiano, and its pastor & his wife grow and be strengthen. Amen!

### Prison Fellowship

Monday is the day we (Manos de Dios and Amor Rico Ministries) were granted by the Commandant of the prison to have our Bible study program. So, on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> we (Eric, Frank, Pat, Carlos and I) were able to go into the prison for fellowship with the men prisoners. We had brought many donations of blankets, winter clothing and shoes for the men and women. However, today we could only take in the bags of shoes. The blankets and clothing will be taken in at a later date. When the men came into the yard area, they immediately came up and shook our hands and said thank you for visiting us. Two men came up to us and greeted us in English (they were Mexican Americans from the U.S.). Victor and Richard ask us to pray for them and their family. Victor was barefoot and asked if we had any shoes. I found out that he wore a size 10 ½ wide. We didn't have his size that day, but I said I would work on it for next visit. We sang songs, heard a testimony and Carlos presented a message. Afterwards we gave the men a glass of lemonade and a small loaf of fresh bread. The men seemed uplifted and I prayed that some part of the worship touched their heart.

Dennis

Audrey, Barb and I were led into the women's prison area by the female guard. We were greeted with hugs by many prisoners as we introduced ourselves. One-year-old Brian played in a walker. We were led to one of the conjugal visit rooms where we were to have our Bible Study. I was greeted enthusiastically by Josie. She cried as I told her that I had spoken with Denille (her former cellmate) and she was now comfortable in the prison in Guaymas. Josie told me how much she missed Denille and wanted me to send her greetings to her.



"Washcloth bags" stocked with personal grooming items, delivered to the female prisoners by Barb, Lucy and Audrey 11-12-07

I promised I would. (Unlike in the Peñasco prison, the prisoners in the Guaymas prison can receive phone calls!) We began our ministry time with a prayer and then sang with the portable CD player we brought with us. We danced and cheered and cried out to the Lord with the songs. Six of the women told us they are Christians and expressed how glad they were to have us there. Three other women came in and out of the room throughout our 2 hour visit. We read the Bible together and talked about our identity in Christ. One woman translated for us when we got stuck with our Spanish. We recited John 14:6 (Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' in Spanish) and the women colored a large heart with a "J" to be strung on a piece of yarn around their necks. (They liked coloring as much as the children did at our Los Niños program!) Then, we all stood in a circle, holding hands. We asked for prayer requests. All the women asked for prayer for their children and/or their parents. (My heart cried out..."Why are these precious, young mothers here in this prison? What could these Christian woman have done to be in this situation? God assured me that He has a purpose and a plan for each of these women. I clung to His promise as I looked into each woman's eyes and prayed to OUR heavenly Father for them.) We prayed in unison and then Audrey, Barb and I prayed a specific prayer of blessing for each woman, placing our hand on their head and whispering close to their ear. We handed out individual bags filled with personal grooming and hygiene supplies and a sack lunch. Some began eating immediately. Others waited to eat, wanting to visit with us as long as possible. We gave each woman a blanket and left two blankets for the female guards. We hugged each woman good-bye, told them we would be praying for them and would return next month. We left a little part of ourselves in that cell. The Holy Spirit was there in that prison with us.

Lucy

## Manos de Dios wish list:

**For our Mexico church partners:**

- PROJECTOR to show Jesus film at migrant camp outreaches
- Compact 4 cylinder PICK UP TRUCK in good working condition
- Prescription GLASSES & readers
- TRAILER or RV for missions teams use



Manos de Dios is the sole support for two community/church food banks. Here are some of the much needed items:

Peanut butter  
Cooking oil  
Chocolate drink mix  
Canned tuna in oil  
Powdered laundry soap (with bleach)  
Macaroni and cheese (the good stuff)  
Mashed potato flakes  
Laundry softener  
Coffee  
Soup mixes  
Beef Stew  
Juice boxes for kids  
Meat ravioli  
Canned corn & beans  
Vienna Sausage  
Canned ham  
Canned milk  
Multi-Vitamins

You may provide these items or give a cash donation to Manos de Dios for a specific need. For donation drop off or pick up

[GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org) 975-7356



For lots more info go to:

[www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org)

Partner with us to offer hope...

Manos de Dios is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization that partners with local pastors and missionaries in Sonora, Mexico to assist the poor with immediate relief efforts and long-term self-sustaining projects.

Work projects are staffed with volunteers from the Mexico Missions Life Group of Pantano Christian Church plus other volunteers. Please prayfully consider supporting our work to help the poor in Mexico.

Go to our website for details:

[www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org)

### **Praise the Lord!**

#### **We had been praying Psalms 133**

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!... For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.”

**How God honored our Amor Rocky Point teams with Unity! Many spoke of how well teams worked together .**

**Others felt God's Spirit as we reached out to the children, moms and families.**

**Thank you for your prayers.**

**Praise the Lord for the presence of His Spirit and His call for unity.**