



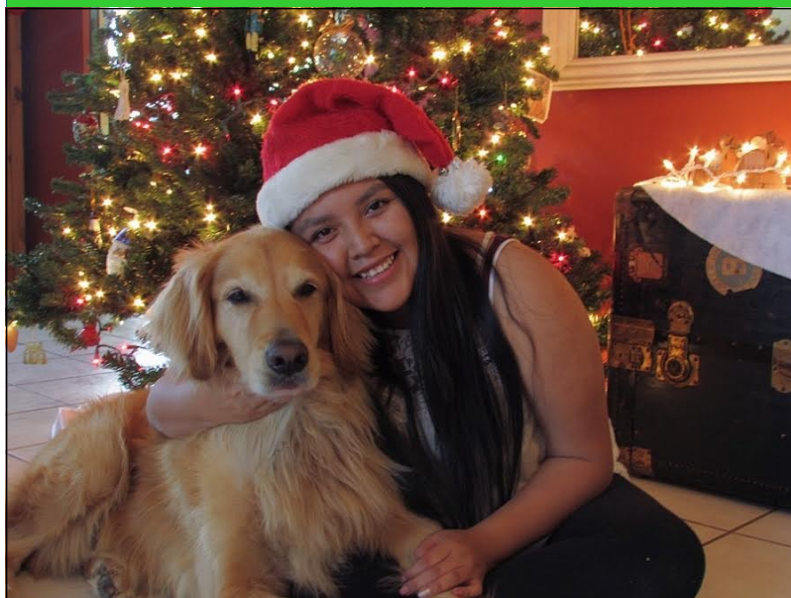
Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

November/December 2016

Providing host families for Native students and advocating for LIFE

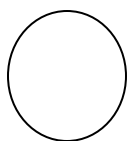


Wishing you and yours a blessed season of celebrating our Lord's birth!

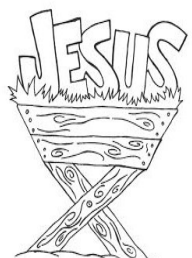


Chaco and Drelyn in our home in Tucson

*This Christmas season was even more filled with joy as we shared it with Drelyn, the 16-year-old student living with us this school year. We listened non-stop to Christmas worship songs (our current favorite Chris Tomlin's **ADORE** CD) and shared how we can keep at the forefront of our thinking that **Jesus is the Reason for this season!** Drelyn loved decorating the tree, setting up the our four Nativity sets, going to the Nutcracker Ballet, attending a Festival of Carols concert, strolling through Winterhaven (a Tucson neighborhood decorated with Christmas lights) with her sister Riscilla, and taking/editing photos (like the one shown here!)*



and you
shall
call
his name



*When I was asked to speak at the Desert Christian Elementary School Christmas Chapel, Drelyn designed this 'door hanger' (shown to left) for each of the children to color, going along with the theme verse **Matthew 1:21 "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."***

Drelyn has studied very hard to finish up this semester. Private schools like Desert Christian are not easy! She is working hard in many different arenas and we are proud of her! Drelyn is home in Whiteriver, as are Riscilla, Thearsa and Naomi, with family for their two-week holiday break from school. May God protect them and guide them in the choices they make while home on the Reservation!

Lucy, proud host mom

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Desert Christian Schools Honor Veterans on Veterans Day...by Lucy



Riscilla, Drelyn and “Grandpa”-World War II Veteran honored at Veterans Day program

We love it that Desert Christian Schools hold classes on Veterans Day each year for the specific purpose of holding a Veterans Day program. They invite any and all Veterans to attend and honor them with prayers, thank you cards (made by the elementary school students), speeches and honored guests. This year Congresswoman Martha McSally (Republican from Arizona) gave the keynote address. She is a retired United States Air Force Colonel. McSally was the first American woman to fly in combat and the first woman to command a USAF fighter squadron (based at Tucson's Davis-Monthan Air Force Base). McSally spoke to the value of all our Veterans and encouraged the students of all ages to honor those who serve our

country. What a wonderful example to all the students, especially 'our' four girls, of what a hard-working, courageous, godly woman can do!

We were all very proud of Dad ("Grandpa" as the girls call him), John W. Brandon III, for his service in the Army during World War II. He was one of only three WWII veterans present at the ceremony. A slide show featured a photo of each of the military persons that are related to a Desert Christian School student or staff. It was a lengthy and quite moving presentation!

“Thank you, Lord, for this country. Thank you for the many who have fought for our freedom here in the USA. Help each of us appreciate this freedom and those who have sacrificed much for it! Amen!”

Veterans honored and prayed for by divisions of armed forces. Dad and Lucy shown here with the other Army veterans and their families.



IT'S GETTING CLOSER!...by Dennis

It seems like yesterday when we met Riscilla, a skinny little girl that was going to school at the American Indian Christian Mission school in Linden, Arizona in 2010. We volunteered there doing mission-type activities and then a year later became Riscilla's dorm parents.

From day one of being her dorm parent, we were adamant about her graduating from high school and then going on to attend college. She agreed whole-heartedly. We instilled in her heart that she was going to college, letting her know that "she could choose which one!" ☺

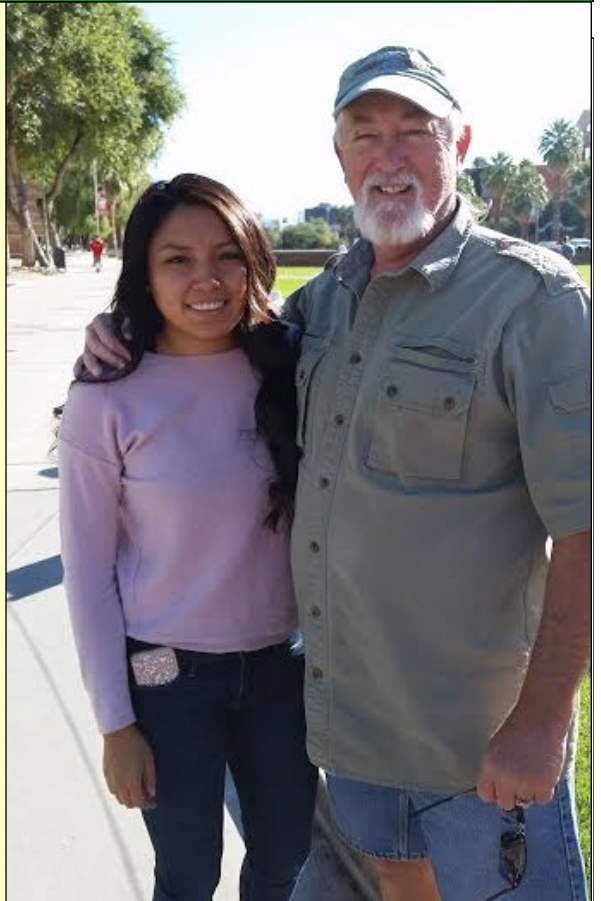
In 2011 we had the opportunity to take Riscilla, an 8th grader, to Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff for a day-long tour. It was an eye opener of what college might be like, but she was not deterred from wanting to attend college one day.

In the summer of 2012 we were able to bring her to Tucson and enroll her as a freshman in Desert Christian High School. Fast forward to the summer of 2016 when we took her again to NAU. Then, in November 2016 we were able to take Riscilla, now a senior in high school, to the University of Arizona (U of A) for a tour of that facility and dormitories. College life was fast approaching!

It seems like 'our' little girl has grown up! She is driving and now trying to decide which college she will attend in the fall of 2017. She has been accepted to the University of Arizona in Tucson and to NAU. She has been working hard in her classes at Desert and trusting Jesus to help her make the decision of where to attend college. Now, Lucy and I just have to wait and see where the Lord directs as well as trust for scholarship funding.

Lucy and I thank the Lord every day for His provision, guidance and support as we mentor Riscilla (plus Drelyn, Naomi and Theresa) and we also thank all those who have supported us and the girls with their prayers, encouragement, and financial support. Praise God for Riscilla's terrific host parents, Ron and Tina. They provide stability, mentoring, spiritual guidance and a car for Riscilla!

Dreams and miracles do come true!

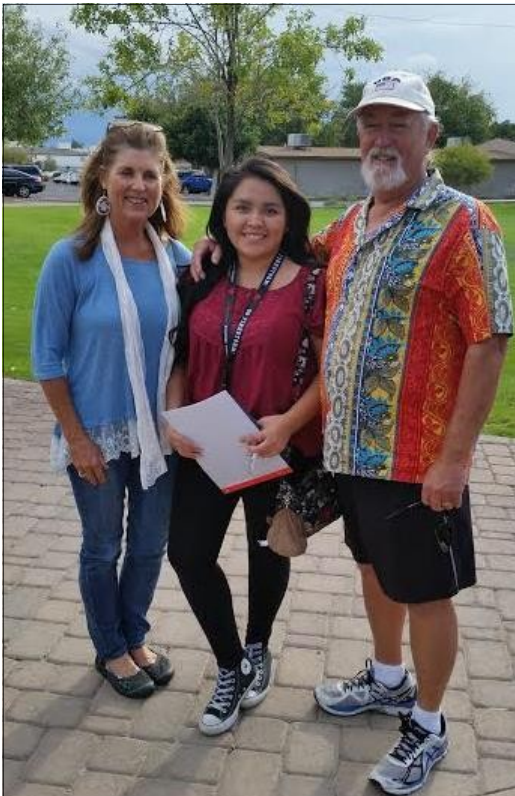


**Riscilla and Dennis on tour of
U of A in November**



**(left) Life-size mural in
Old Main building on
U of A campus inviting touring
students to visualize themselves
graduating from the U of A.**

Drelyn, a junior in high school, visits college campuses ...by Lucy



Drelyn visits Arizona Christian University in Phoenix with Lucy and Dennis

It's not too early for juniors in high school to start thinking about college . Therefore, in November we took Drelyn (16) to visit two college campuses in Phoenix. Drelyn has ALWAYS wanted to attend Arizona State University (ASU). It is a huge school with four campuses in the Phoenix area! We visited the downtown campus as it offers classes that focus on one of the majors she is interested in: Criminal Justice. She loved the downtown atmosphere and closeness to internship opportunities in the government and business offices located in downtown Phoenix. We, of course, are concerned about the largeness of the school and possibility of her not receiving personal attention and help if she attends there. We again emphasized to her that she would have to be very intentional in seeking out a Christian club or group of believers. Next time we will visit the Glendale campus where her first choice major is offered: Forensic Science!



Lucy and Drelyn on Downtown ASU campus tour.

Our [September/October 2016 newsletter](#) spoke about Arizona Christian University's (ACU) founding principles and high standards. Drelyn took a tour of the ACU campus, sat in on a class, attended chapel and spent the night in a dorm room with female students. She liked it all, but liked ASU better. Drelyn, of course, can choose the college she attends, assuming scholarship monies are available to cover the expenses (tuition, room, board, books). She realizes that her grades in high school will help determine how much a college offers in scholarship monies. She is learning to work hard now and will soon see the consequences of her choices.

Please join us in praying for Drelyn. Please pray that she will apply herself academically now in high school and that she will seek God for HIS will for her college education.

Thank you!

Updates and prayer-requests ...by Lucy

Life is busy in Tucson! Here are some news nuggets and prayer requests for 2017!



Naomi (7th grader) gives her speech at the Desert Christian Middle School speech contest

- **Naomi** (13) is maturing so wonderfully. She is self confident, articulate and beautiful! She surpassed all our expectations by reciting her speech perfectly in the “speech meet” at her school and being awarded 2nd place! Thank you, Lord, for the work you are doing in Naomi’s life! Thank you for her host parents, Bobbi and Marty, who are pouring life, truth and love into Naomi. **Please pray** for Naomi to continue growing and to choose to solidify her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

- **Thearsa** decided not to play softball this season. We all support her in this difficult decision. She realized that she needs

to put more time into her academics. There will be time for sports when basketball (the #1 sport!) season comes around! Praise God for Thearsa’s host parents, Ned and Erin, who are insightful and prayerful. They arranged for wonderful tutoring for Thearsa, medical care when needed, and loving encouragement.

- **My heart** continues to go out to women in crisis pregnancies, unborn babies, and those who suffer from the effects of a past abortion. How excited I am to have begun volunteering with **Pro-Love Tucson**, a ministry that does ‘**sidewalk counseling**’ outside the Planned Parenthood clinic plus outside the only abortion clinic in Tucson. Wow! We reach out to the people going into the clinics with care, information, offers of a free pregnancy test and/or ultra sound. The difficult part is that we, by law, can stand only on the sidewalk in front of the parking lot. So, we talk with folks as they drive in, inviting them to park and walk over to continue the conversation with us. The young women who began this ministry are amazing and have such of gift of communicating with girls in crisis situations. I am learning a lot and so blessed to be involved with this powerful move of God! **Please pray** that many would be open to talk with us and receive the information we offer about abortions, fetal development, and support after choosing an abortion. We even have support information for clinic workers who would like to find a job elsewhere.



(below) Pro-Love Ministry volunteers talk with clients outside clinic in Tucson



How is God working in my life?...by Dennis

First off, it has been a long, long time since I have mentored and raised a 16-year-old girl and, boy, am I out of practice! As you know, we have Drelyn living with us while she is going to school. Our daughter, Megan, has been out of our house for about 15 years so my parenting skills are a little rusty. I try to remember the mistakes I made with our daughter and the mistakes I made with my son some 35 years ago and try not to make them again. I do a lot of thinking and PRAYING for guidance and I have been blessed because Drelyn is a pretty good young lady and does not cause any major problems. Just the usual teenager stuff! We love her and count it a blessing to have her with us.

Other things that take up my time are: **Reading:** Recently read: The Gospel According to Jesus by John MacArthur. Re-reading: Radical by David Platt. Reading: The Gospel According to the Apostles by John MacArthur (follow-up book to The Gospel According to Jesus). Next in line to read: Counterfeit Miracles by B.B. Warfield

* If you want more information on scripture that talks about a one-world-government and one-world-currency read Revelation 13:1-4, 7, 16-17 and Daniel 2:41-42, 7:16-24 and Isaiah 14:12-14. Information on a one-world-church read Revelation 17:1-18.

I have been **studying** about the movement toward a one-world-government and how it relates to the one-world-church movement that is currently taking place. It is very subtle and works in, what I call, little creeping "increments." This is something scripture brings up* and I (we) should be concerned.

I am also **studying** the very controversial issue of Lordship Salvation and whether it is Biblical. This is a major issue that many people do not know about because pastors are talking about it with each other; however, not much is being mentioned to the masses.

I am also having **discussions** with a friend (who calls himself a Christian) who believes in God but does not believe that Jesus is God. In essence, he does not believe in the Trinity.

And the last **discussion** I am involved in is the discussion on what is going on with some mainline pastors that seem to be falling away from their former steadfast beliefs in Scripture.

If you are interested in being involved in these discussions please send an email to me.

His servant, Dennis

Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

Manos de Dios Ministry contact info:

520.404.5045 (Lucy: voice or text)

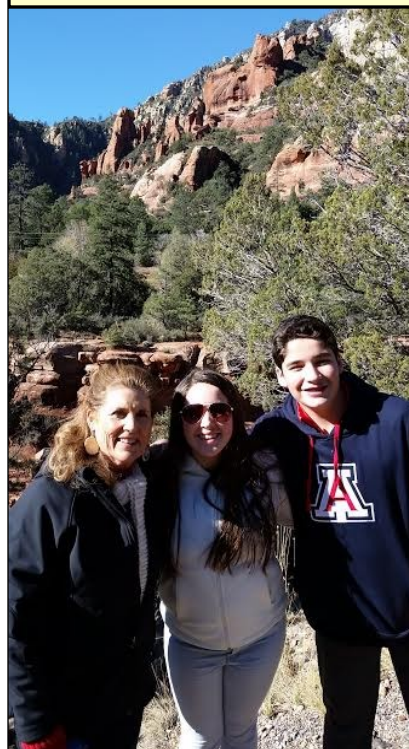
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Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

Manos de Dios, NFP

**2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715 OR
made on our website: ManosdeDios.org**



**"Tia Lucy" with
niece Priscilla
(14) and
nephew
John (13) in
Sedona at
Thanksgiving
time**



**Smith/Brandon family visit Sedona.
Dennis, nephew John V, niece Priscilla,
Dad (John III), brother John IV and
sister-in-law, Elvira. (Lucy taking pic)**