

November/December 2011

Newsletter

- 1st team to AICM in November
- Jesus bus ministry on the Rez (reservation)
- December Kingdom work in the White Mountains
- Light parade with the theme of "The Reason for the Season"
- 2012 Manos de Dios preview

Manos de Dios

"Hands of God"

Ministries

Dennis & Lucy Smith

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

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AICM students Zoe and Nora



The next day our team members Rick and his two sons, and Jack and Sheryl arrived. We spent the rest of the time working and sharing meals with the staff and children. What a great way to get to know our new friends! Some of the projects we worked on were: cleaning and painting an A-frame house (that will be used as a retreat for pastors and missionaries), repairing a pump that transferred black water from one tank to another, building two barn doors from scratch, repairing the AICM sign that was damaged by a storm, making curtains for the school windows, and doing



Sheryl sews curtains from sheets for school building windows

First team trip to AICM

In **November** Lucy and I were happy to take a small but mighty group with us on our first mission trip to assist a mission school in northern Arizona, the **American Indian Christian Mission (AICM) school**. The team consisted of Jack and Sheryl plus Rick along with his sons, Caleb and Joshua. We were armed with a variety of talents and gifts and ready to use them as needed.

I will not go into detail right now about the AICM facility located northwest of Show Low, AZ other than to say it sits on 90 acres and has 30 buildings. There is more that enough to keep the staff and volunteers busy year round!

Lucy and I settled in on the first day and met more of the AICM staff, students and house parents. We also delivered 150 blankets that were to be distributed on the Apache Reservation in early December, donations to the school consisting of: food, kitchen items, medical supplies for the school nurse, games for the children's homes and an assortment of much needed supplies.



Constructing barn doors at AICM

general cleaning around the complex. Lucy and Sheryl went on the "Jesus Bus" that goes to the reservation and ministers to the children, but I will let her tell you about their activities.



(con't on next page)

First team trip to AICM (con't)

On Saturday night we attended "The Church" in Pinetop with some of the AICM staff. Pastor Ernie (a former inmate) gave a powerful message that we all took to heart. On Sunday Lucy and I drove an hour east to Springerville, AZ where we worshiped with Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship. Pastor Bob taught from the book of Acts. We got re-acquainted with folks at CHCC and went to lunch with the pastor's family and the new youth leader and his family. I have to say our trip was one full of worship, fellowship and service to a variety of different people, cultures and walks of life. Just like Jesus would want it to be! Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to have this experience.

Dennis Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

Bus Ministry to the Apache Reservation

The **Apache Christian Connection (ACC)** (a ministry of AICM) has been going to White River Apache Reservation every week-dayafternoon for over a decade. They take converted school buses to 21 different neighborhoods to **share joy, Jesus, and fun with Apache children** after school. Sheryl and I were blessed to join the this ministry team two afternoons. We drove the 50 miles to the reservation and then **honked the horn** as we drove slowly through the chosen neighborhood. Children (and their parents) know the "Jesus bus" and come running out of their homes to get on the bus. The driver circles the neighborhood and then parks in a cul-de-sac. Kids worship songs are sung, a scripture and lesson are shared, and the kids are taught how to pray. **That week we featured Psalm 100:4** "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise." (See coloring page in photo.) Then it is play time. The bus has built in toy boxes where the seats used to be. They are filled with toys from beads to Mister Potatoe Head. Some kids take roller blades or balls outside to play. They shoot baskets against the back of the bus where a hoop is mounted. The ministry team plays with the kids ages 3 to 17, sharing God's love. After an hour of play time, all are loaded back on the bus. The driver retraces his route through the neighborhood and drops off the kids at their homes. Parents wave and kids hug us good-bye. We drove the 50 miles back to the mission. Our prayers are for the kids we have encountered, knowing that most live in very unstable homes and are exposed to much evil. We trust God to protect and strengthen them.



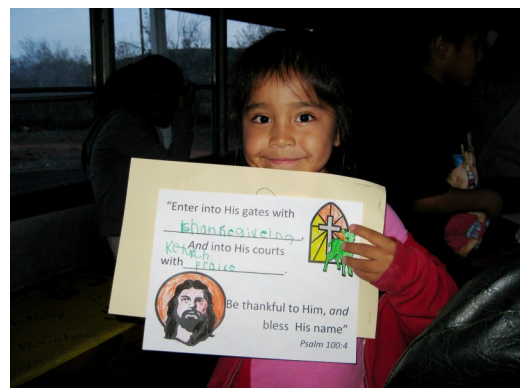
Let's join ACC ministry in praying for ways to reach not only the children, but their parents!



Our volunteer team from November work trip



Rick, Jack and Dennis construct new barn doors



Learning Bible verse on the Jesus bus



Learning about Jesus on the bus!

WE SERVE WHEN AND WHERE NEEDED: December trip to the White Mountains

Working in Mexico for the past number of years helped me to forget how cold it can get when you go north or to a higher elevation. This last mission trip helped me to remember!

On **December 12th** Lucy and I headed up to the community of Linden (northwest of Show Low, AZ) in the White Mountains to serve Native Americans with our friends at AICM. We were a little concerned when we heard that there was a major snow storm to hit the area the day we were traveling. As usual we forged ahead anyway, in spite of less than favorable conditions. We thank the Lord that our drive up the mountains went well and without problems.

During the week I was called to be a servant in many different ways. I was able to worship with the young men at their weekly discipleship meeting and listen to a message from Francis Chan, interact with them on game night in their dorm, decorate the gymnasium for the

AICM school Christmas party, and get the buses (2) ready to go to White River for the annual White River Apache Indian Christmas Light Parade. The bus preparation included loading up food, winter clothing and blankets that were going to be distributed to the people in need on the reservation. I also helped string many hundreds of lights on the blue bus. (It is an electric light parade). Even though it was cold and involved tramping through deep snow, as usual, helping others made it worth the discomfort. Our philosophy is to serve Jesus when and where needed, not when it is convenient or good weather.



Dennis and Gene (ACC co-coordinator) put hundreds of lights on one of the Jesus buses

The students' Christmas party was Wednesday night. The gym was decorated beautifully with Christmas decorations and messages of Jesus, the reason we celebrate. There was roller-skating, a DJ and music, and we even played a few games. There were plenty of food and cookies for everyone. At the end of the party the kids received their gifts from their sponsors and churches. Upon opening the gifts, smiling faces and laughter filled the room. What a way to end a God filled day!

I also had time to study, talk, develop relationships, pray and make future plans with the students, staff and house parents at the school. Working with the Native Americans and their culture is completely different than any other culture, including Mexicans. I will explain more in other newsletters and on our web site. **Dennis**



AICM student, Zoe, enjoys rollerblading with one of her house parents, Trampis



At our Christmas Manos de Dios Open House we collected 200 gloves, hats and coats for Apache children! Thank you to all who supported our drive to share “warmth” with children! We were blessed to be a blessing and the gifts were delivered to children in White River and McNary, Arizona on the White River Apache Reservation.

“But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things You do.” Psalm 73:28



We joined with AICM in distributing food boxes, blankets and warm clothes one afternoon in December in White River on the Apache Reservation. As folks waited in line, I had the opportunity to ask "How can I pray for you?" What a privilege to lift their concerns to Our Lord! My heart went out to them as they shared concerns about families affected by alcohol, lack of



employment and illness. I was so grateful that I could confidently pray to the Creator God, who knows all. By His Spirit they were comforted, encouraged and directed. I was so grateful to be able to pray His Word (such as this Psalm*) in confidence! Amen and thank you, Lord! **Lucy** Lucy@ManosdeDios.org

***Psalm 72:12-14 "He will rescue the poor when they cry to Him; He will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them. He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and He will rescue them. He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to Him."**



The AICM students got to 'shop' in the mission thrift store for Christmas gifts for their families. They also made crafts to give as gifts. They then wrapped the gifts.

I had the privilege of helping with



We met with two pastors to the Native Americans. Marty (shown here with us) has a church on the Navajo reservation. We are now praying for these pastors and look forward to future ministry together!



this project. We played Chris Tomlin worship songs, laughed, and talked about the family members who would receive the gifts. I enjoyed getting to know these Apache and Navajo 3rd to 8th grade students more closely!

Loving Life with Jesus, Lucy

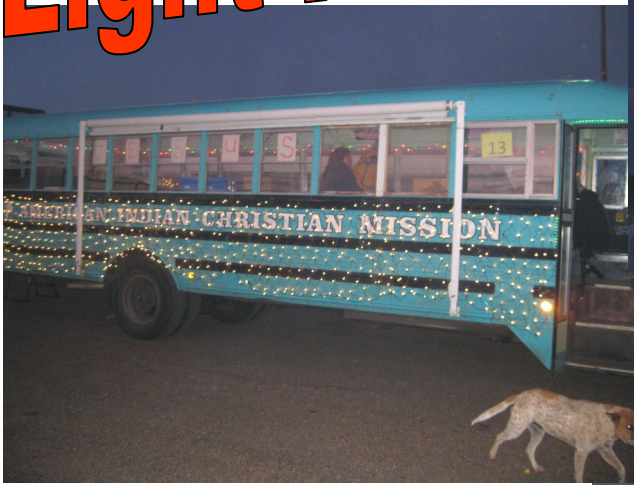
Ways to support us:

- Monthly contributions via online banking, check, or Pay Pal
 - Give a one time financial gift
 - Assistance with physical items, as needed
 - Prayer! For God's wisdom, guidance and protection
- Join us on a short term mission trip (let us know of your interest)

All contributions are tax deductible.

Give online at www.ManosdeDios.org/donations.html Thank you! **Lucy & Dennis**

Light Parade on Apache Rez



One of the Jesus buses declaring the "Light of the World" in parade (alongside stray Rez dog!)



Above: Rodeo Queen and horse lit up for the Light Parade.

To left and above: Floats declare this year's parade theme: "The Reason for the Season"! Yeah!



Map of American Indian Reservations in Arizona

We are building relationships on White Mountain Apache & the Navajo reservation.

AICM and Springerville, the location of Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship, are noted to show our partners in ministry.



Dennis, AICM staff, students and I walked the parade route along side the Jesus buses. Many handed out candy. I handed out hugs with my puppet. Children are precious in all cultures, don't you agree?

Lucy ❤️

What will Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministry be doing in 2012?

- **Loving God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength!**
- **Strengthening and making new relationships with believers on Apache and Navajo reservations in Arizona**
- **Seeking God for His plan for where, how and when to share His Love and Good News**
- **Returning to Mexico to re-new friendships and take Love and Respect Marriage teaching**
- **Facilitating Love and Respect Marriage conferences at AICM and Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship in Springerville (scheduled for May 2012)**