



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

*Dennis & Lucy Smith*

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## **This Newsletter includes...**

- Christmas Dinner Food Boxes bless families!
- Prison Posada
- Christmas program at Peñasco church
- Helping Rehab Center in Nogales, AZ
- Our focus is deepening relationships

### **28 families in Puerto Peñasco receive Christmas Dinner Food Boxes**

The word went out to Manos de Dios supporters. "There are families living just four hours south of Tucson, AZ that will not be able to have a special Christmas meal this year." The difficult economy in both the US and Mexico, as well as the violence due to the aggressive drug cartels have left many families without jobs to provide for their families. Hearts were touched and donations came in to Manos de Dios to provide Christmas Dinner Food boxes.

We (Dennis & Lucy) traveled to Puerto Peñasco to shop for the food and deliver the gifts to the families. We compiled a list of families in need, consulting with pastors and local missionaries, Pat & Gerry. We prayed over the list of families, many of which we know personally.

Next, we went SHOPPING! We purchased the pazole (hominy), tostadas, fresh vegetables and fruit to make *meñudo*, a traditional Mexican soup. Pat and Gerry shopped for the 5 types of meat needed to make *meñudo* to include in the food box! We also purchased household items that we were certain the families would need...bar soap, dish soap, toilet paper, toothpaste and laundry soap. Pat & Gerry and Karen & Mark (new missionaries in Peñasco...yeah, more Kingdom workers!) purchased 8 turkeys!

Bright and early the next morning we picked up Pastors Lupe & Rafaela at El Sembrador church. They went with us to the three families from their church who were to receive food boxes. The families were so surprised and overwhelmed by the goodness of God! They tearfully reported that they had nothing to fix for a Christmas meal this year. We shared that we were there to

**November/December 2010**



Martin, Ofelia and their four children receive Christmas dinner and gifts! Their pastors Lupe & Rafaela share the joy of delivering God's blessings!



Conchita (shown here with two of her grandchildren and her pastors Lupe & Rafaela) along with her extended family give thanks to God and Manos de Dios supporters for providing Christmas Dinner of *meñudo*!



deliver Christmas dinner to bless them and remind them how much God loves them! We gave each child a small Christmas gift bag made from shoe box gifts donated to Manos de Dios. We formed a circle with the family and prayed blessings over them and together we thanked God for His wonderful provision.

Turkeys and a household supply bag were delivered to families that have an oven, including the extended families of Pastors Lupe & Rafaela and Pastors Jose & Ana (directors of the Rehab Centers). **What a blessing!**

We were told over and over to thank all those that provided this very special Christmas gift! Thank you supporters, prayer partners and those of you who contributed directly to the Christmas Dinner Food Boxes! We are blessed to be a blessing!

As we drove back to Tucson on December 23rd, we knew we had already experienced Christmas! Yes, sharing God's love, hope and joy was truly celebrating Christmas with friends in the barrios of Peñasco. ***All praise and glory be to God!*** Dennis and Lucy (hands of God.. Manos de Dios)



**Families blessed with Christmas Dinner food boxes!**



***“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*** Matthew 25:40



Elizabeth, with teary eyes, rejoices at God's goodness. Her three boys play with their gift bag toys in their home's one bedroom.



# Prison Posada December 2010

This year's Prison Posada was quite a bit different. With a new Commandant (warden) being in charge and our not being able to work with him as easily as we have with the previous one, changes had to be made. We were not able to do a Posada for ALL the prisoners this year. Instead, we were permitted to extend the weekly two hour Bible study to four hours for a Christmas Posada. About 130 men were invited to a meal of Carne Asada (with all the fixings), tortillas, coffee, juice and, (most importantly) a variety of pies for dessert (23 were donated).

The Posada began with the singing of praise and worship songs led by a worship team made up of all prisoners. Prayers and a message from the 'Pastor' of the prisoners (an inmate) followed. Pat, Gustavo, Roberto and I (all from the outside) were also asked to give our testimony or a message to the men and we gladly accepted. A team of prisoners cooked the meat (that we brought in) on huge grills and delicious Carne Asada tacos, with all the fixings, were served. The pies were cut and each prisoner enjoyed a generous serving! After the program, the men were given a variety of small Christmas gifts and any leftover food that was available.

During the program, one of the men sat down with me and wanted to talk. (I have visited with him in the past). He stated that he would be getting released soon and he was frightened about getting out of prison because he had been in so long and did not know what to do or how to act. We discussed the need to not get back into the same situations that sent him to prison, the need to have the right type of friends when he was released, and that the presence of Jesus in his life was mandatory. At the end of our conversation I was able to pray for him, for his family in Nogales, and about the stress of being released and how to handle himself.

Praying for him was the highlight of the Posada for me!

**"So if the Son sets you free,  
you will be free indeed."**

**John 8:36**

It would be hard to image how difficult it is to be in a prison in Mexico unless you have been able to get a glimpse of it by working with the prisoners as we have. These prisoners live in extremely crowded conditions (a cell that was built for six houses 15 to 18 men), eat poor quality food, have little medical and dental treatments, receive no rehabilitation information, and get limited visitors. The men have to be strong and tough or they will be taken advantage of in many ways. Most of their time is spent milling around and talking tough. With this information in mind, I realized just how much fear this man must have been feeling for him to come to me and admit his fear. I was almost at a loss as to what to do, until I remembered to PRAY!

We realize these men (and women) have violated the law and are paying for their crimes, as they should. However, they are God's children and we need to pray for them (as well as for prisoners all over the world). This is not to negate what they have done, but to pray for a change in their lives. We pray that those who do not know Jesus, will invite Him to save their lives. We share with them that that they can become born again and thus become a 'new creation'. God gives us all this opportunity! So Lucy and I ask you to join us in praying for prisoners both inside and outside prison walls.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has  
come: The old has gone, the new is here!  
2 Corinthians 5:17**

His servant, Dennis



# Christmas Program



Each year we  
enjoy  
attending

Compañerismo Cristiano's Christmas program. The children, youth and adult ministry groups each put together a drama, dance or song to perform under Amor Rico's huge ministry tent. The costumes, voices and acting are outstanding and every performance proclaims the reason for the season: Jesus!!



Lucy &  
Dennis  
enjoy the  
program  
with  
friend,  
Leah.

Margarita  
created  
many of  
the  
costumes  
including  
these  
burro and  
cow  
outfits!





# Helping the Rehab Center in Nogales, AZ

Just before Thanksgiving Manos de Dios had the opportunity to take a small group of people to Nogales, AZ to help a Rehab Center get ready for the holidays. Diane, Sonja and Ben from Tucson, Arden and Vida from Sahuarita and Paul from Benson volunteered to make the trip with us and it was a blessing to have them along.

Some of us were needed to help stuff hundreds of envelopes, then there was Ben who painted the yellow lines in the drive way ( : ), and last but not least were the painters (needed to paint the men's bedrooms and the office) and we even got most of the paint on the ceilings!

It was a wonderful day because we were able to serve, meet new friends and have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We hope to return and take on other projects in the future.

We were also able to donate many blankets, towels, winter clothing and jackets, pillow cases and a sewing machine. And a special thank you to all those that donated these needed items.

Thanks again to our volunteers and their dedicated service to helping those in need.

Peace and blessings, Dennis



## DONATIONS TAKEN TO MEXICO IN DECEMBER 2010

**BLANKETS (dozens)**

**WINTER COATS**

**HOSPITAL GOWNS FOR PRISON AND HOSPITAL BENCH**

**2 PROPHINE TANKS**

**1 BAG CHILDRENS CLOTHES**

**2 BAGS WOMENS WINTER CLOTHES**

**MENS SHOES**

**1 BOX OF TOYS FOR WOMENS REHAB CENTER'S KIDS' SATURDAY PROGRAM**

**2 NIV STUDY BIBLES (FOR WOMEN AND MEN'S REHAB CENTERS)**

**23 PIES**

**\$750.00 WORTH OF FOOD FOR CHRISTMAS DINNERS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS FOR 28 FAMILIES**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES FOR CHILDREN**

**1 CASE BIBLES AND BOX OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR PASTOR ALFONSO IN EL DIAMANTE**

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FOOD BANK IN DESEMBOQUE**

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PASTOR LUPE**

**TOWELS FOR LOCAL PASTORS**

**This is what we are focusing on...**

# **Deepening our relationships**

- \*‘Pressing’ in to God (worship, studying His Word, prayer)**
- \*Spending time in Tucson (time with Dad, Megan & friends)**
- \*Applying the Love & Respect principles to our marriage**
- \*Seeking God for His vision for our future**

**“Does the LORD  
delight in burnt  
offerings and  
sacrifices  
as much as in  
obeying the  
LORD?  
To obey is better  
than sacrifice”  
*I Samuel 15:22***

**Dennis**

The last 6 months (3 months here in Tucson) have been a time of learning and studying for me. Giving messages at the Men’s Rehab Center in Peñasco on Thursdays has also inspired me to study a wide range of subjects that would be appropriate for those struggling.

Some of the books I read were a challenge because I do not agree with many things they said, however I did get to read another perspective which I won’t do very often. I want to spend my time reading information that is accurate and states the truth about our walk with Jesus.

I also spend a lot of time studying scripture and going into detail on what it means. I often choose a subject, pride, for example and study it from all angles in the Bible to find out the true meaning behind the scriptures. Some of these subject lessons are posted on my blog ([manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com](http://manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com)). Check them out when you have time and I always appreciate comments.

Books I have read in 2010.....

Charismatic Chaos by John F. MacArthur (still reading); The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer; Missionary Voices by A. W. Tozer and others; With Christ in the School of Prayer by Andrew Murray; The Messianic Church Arising by Dr. Robert D. Heidler; The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman; The Calvary Road by Roy Hession; Revelation, Gods word for the Biblically Inept by Daymond R. Duck (still reading); and The Holy Bible (still reading and will do so until the end of my life!)



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Dennis with our special friend, Carlos. When we delivered this family’s Christmas Dinner Food Box his wife and children were away. It was a joy to visit with Carlos and pray for him. He looks up to Dennis very much and appreciates his fatherly encouragement!

**Lucy**

One of the things we are working on while being home in Tucson for a while is strengthening our marriage. I asked God to show me how I needed to change. Through the Love & Respect conference and teaching God is clearly showing me that I have not been showing my husband the honor and respect I need to. I have repented to Dennis and to God and am purposefully focusing on changing my attitude, words, and tone of voice. I am told in God’s Word that showing respect to my husband is a *command* to me as a wife. (“However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and *the wife must respect her husband.*” Ephesians 5:33 ) This respect is ‘unconditional respect’, not based on my husband’s behavior. My choosing to show respect to my husband is one way to show reverence to my Lord. When I show my husband respect it is ‘as unto the Lord’.



**precious Alexa with Lucy**

The Love & Respect material gives practical examples of HOW to carry out this principle in every day life. And, guess what? It works! When I treat my husband respectfully and with honor, he responds in more loving ways to me. I don’t do it for this, but it is a wonderful result of following God’s principles. And we get on what Love & Respect author, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs calls the “Energizing Cycle” instead of the “Crazy Cycle”!

Dennis and I are sharing the Love & Respect Conference on DVD with friends two weekends in January in Tucson, as well as facilitating the DVD conference at one of our supporting churches in February. Let us know if you or your small group would like to view the DVD’s! Also, check out this website for conference locations and dates: [LoveandRespect.com](http://LoveandRespect.com)

God is so Good....all the time! [Lucy@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Lucy@ManosdeDios.org)

**Manos de Dios Missions to Mexico**

**We covet your prayers & support. Make tax deductible contributions at [ManosdeDios.org/donations.html](http://ManosdeDios.org/donations.html)  
Contact us: [GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org)**

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