



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

February/March 2016

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



Drelyn travels to Haiti on short mission trip

Drelyn traveled with six classmates to Haiti to work with Mission of Hope ministry for a week in February. What an experience for this 14 year-old from a reservation in Arizona! She learned about requesting financial support, preparing and packing for a trip out of the country, traveling with a group, interacting with people of a very different culture and leaving a place she grew to love in just a few short days. Upon arrival, the group of students from Desert Christian High School received training in sharing the Gospel with villagers and putting on “Kid’s Clubs”. Drelyn shared that a highlight of the trip was when two ladies in a village they visited accepted Jesus into their hearts. Mission of Hope has ‘village champions’ in place to follow up with Bibles, discipleship and aid to those the team visited. The students attended two worship services (all in the Creole language) and were able to join in some of the worship songs that were familiar to them. They reported that even though they couldn’t understand the pastor’s words, his passion communicated God’s love and presence!



Drelyn holds Haitian baby

Here is a quote from Drelyn’s blog entry. *“I got the privilege to sit by a little girl who spoke almost better ASL than me! That made me so excited that I was able to communicate with the little girl*



“These tent shelters were given to refugees after the earthquake, and are still being used even though they were only supposed to be used for a year, since many people have no other option.” -Drelyn

through sign language. God really is a way-maker! She was such a sweet girl and I learned a lot from her today and got to learn a few new signs! (which is always exciting for me)”

The final thing for Drelyn to learn is writing a thank you letter to all that who supported her both prayerfully and financially in going on this trip . **Until that time consider yourself thanked!**

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2016 Southwest Pastors and Leaders Conference: Inspiring and Educational



Dennis & Lucy volunteer at Conference in Tucson

“Jesus is Greater” proclaim our t-shirts with the bright yellow “greater than” symbol. Amen! Jesus is greater than....everything! Each of the ten conference speakers taught from the book of Ephesians. A theme that came out of the teachings as well from the moving worship is that the power of the Holy Spirit lives in us!

“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 1:19-20

Inspiring quotes from the pastor/teachers include:

“You are destined for impact. Pray, ‘use me’ and begin to notice who around you needs God’s touch. With God’s

leading, take risks.” –Pastor Levi Lusko

“We come from a position of FAVOR. God does it, and we need to simply show up. We are ‘gracers.’ Be like Jesus. Ask for more of His power to honor Him. Be in the place where grace is needed the most.” - Pastor Jack Hibbs

“Life is messy. Jesus is real. (Also the tag line from his new book Honestly) Be purposeful about reaching the community we live in. Be a love/grace virus. Love your community. Be as passionate about people as God is. Remember God is on a rescue mission. - Pastor Daniel Fusco

“Who are you imitating? ‘Be imitators of God, dear children’ (Ephesians 5:1)” - Pastor Tony Clark

“All life must be prayed, not just lived. Spiritual warfare is all the time. Be alert. Pray more. Ask others to pray for you. Pray for other ministries. Pray for yourself. You are most susceptible to the enemy’s attack when you are H (hungry), A (angry), L (lonely), or T (tired). Pray and let God rejuvenate you!”

- Pastor Mark Martin

“How to know the will of God: You have the desire to do it. You have peace about doing it. You have an open door to do it. And ALL three must be true!” -Pastor Tony Clark (evening session teaching from Romans 12:1-2)

How do we apply these conference teachings to our calling to the White Mountain Apache people? We are asking God to show us...

Can we reach out more to the Whiteriver community outside of the Living Hope Center? Are we to be prayer walking? How do we share that ‘life is messy but Jesus is REAL!’? Praying....



Pastor Daniel Fusco invites attendees (including Dennis & Lucy) to come forward for prayer after his message.

Conference: Messages and Worship Music...by Dennis

Lucy and I were blessed to be able to volunteer at the Southwest Pastors and Leaders Conference held at Calvary Tucson in March. After volunteering for “check-in” the first morning, we were entitled to attend the entire conference at no charge. The teachings were excellent and straight from Scripture, just what I need and like!

Two of the many things I appreciated about the leadership conference are: #1 that it was taught by Christian leaders, was based on Christian principles from Scripture and was for Christ followers and their spiritual growth.

"And it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD. And when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD <they sang>

FOR HE IS GOOD, FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!"

2 Chronicles 5:13

And #2 the praise and worship music, songs and leaders. When we were singing, it was for one purpose only: to give praise and worship to God and Him alone. The music was loud, but not so loud that I could not hear myself or others singing praises to Him. I love it when I can actually hear the congregation singing! There were no distractions: no fog or smoke, no strobe lights or disco balls, no specific spotlights shining on a band member or singer and no movies on the background screen. Just worshipful, heavenly voices making a joyful noise that could be heard and understood. Praising was about Him, not geared to anything or anyone else.

If I sound a little biased in my description of how I think praise and worship music should be handled in church, it is because I am. And this is why. From what I read in Scripture, giving praise and worship is simply giving praise and worship to God alone. It is to be centered on Him alone, with all attention to the Lord alone.

Sadly, that is not being done in many churches. I have been to more than one church that plays music so loud that they have ear plugs available for people to use because the noise is so loud it can actually damage your ear

drums. Two things about the loudness. One, how is music so loud it will damage your ears (aren't we supposed to protect our temple, our body) bringing honor to God? And two, why do we want to damage our ears in the first place? I will also ask how the fog machine, strobe lights, and all the other man-made theatrics bring praise and glory to God? To me, and many others, they are a distraction. I find myself watching the fog, checking out the colored flashing lights, or focusing on the lead singer where the bright spotlight is focused! I then have to remind myself that I am there to bring praise and worship to God, not be entertained.

On a sad note, I have experienced music in a church that was so good (entertaining) that it actually was more important than the message. Lucy and I attended a church where the pastor stated we should consider that there may be more than one way to God other than Jesus. That is not correct! So, after talking with the pastor about it and finding that he would not change his message, we left the church. Some of our friends stayed and we asked them, “why?” Their reply was that “the band is so good and the lead singer is so special, we just can't leave.” It came down to that the Biblical truth in the message was irrelevant, just as long as the music was fabulous!

Is that where some churches are heading?

One of the favorite worship songs at the conference...

***“The Same Power”
by Jeremy Camp***

chorus

***The same power that rose
Jesus from the grave
The same power that
commands the dead to wake***

Lives in us, lives in us

***The same power that moves
mountains when He speaks
The same power that can
calm a raging sea***

***Lives in us, lives in us
He lives in us, lives in us***



Living Hope is “living hope” to many!....by Lucy

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1 Peter 1:3

We *have* a living hope because of what Jesus has given us...**new life**. And we, as Christ-followers, have the opportunity to *give* living hope to those around us who don't know about the *gift of grace* that God offers, need encouragement and/or are in difficult life circumstances.

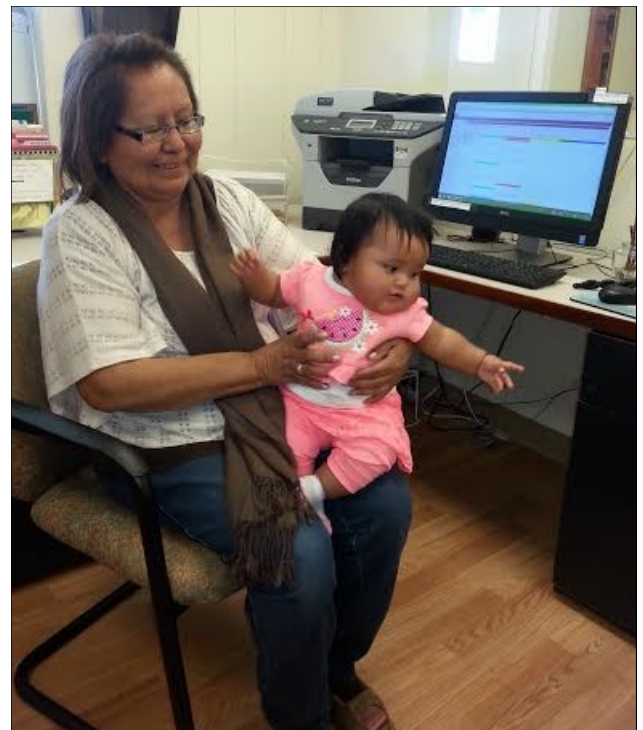
I was alerted that the clients coming in that morning were a little different. It was a married couple...two women. We prayed before they arrived for their parenting class. I sensed that we were to simply love them. Naomi and I each took one woman in to do the new client intake interview. We found out that the one woman, “E”, had been married before to a terribly abusive man. He was actually killed two years ago in a gun fight with police officers. She was battered and hurt. The other woman, “V”, had offered “E” security and ‘safe love’. “V” was strong and took charge, offering the hurting woman and her children refuge. They were married in early February. I asked about the large cross tattoo on “V’s” arm. She said it was to cover up an old name. Her answer to our question, “What is your relationship with God?” was “none”.

OK. We know where we are starting. They watched the first parenting class DVD and “V” answered all the questions on the worksheet for both of them. “E” appeared slightly ashamed and was very quiet.

“Thank you Lord, for bringing these women to our center. We pray for more opportunities to love them. We ask that Your Holy Spirit would draw them to Yourself and they would learn that You came to bring the dead to life! Show them Your awesome gift of grace and give them Your Living Hope! In Jesus’ powerful name we pray! Amen.”



Some children are neglected due to drug and alcohol-addicted parents. Manos de Dios had the opportunity to help this little one.



Linda, Whiteriver Living Hope Center's new director holds a baby while her mommy shops in our thrift store. Linda joining our team is an answer to prayers!

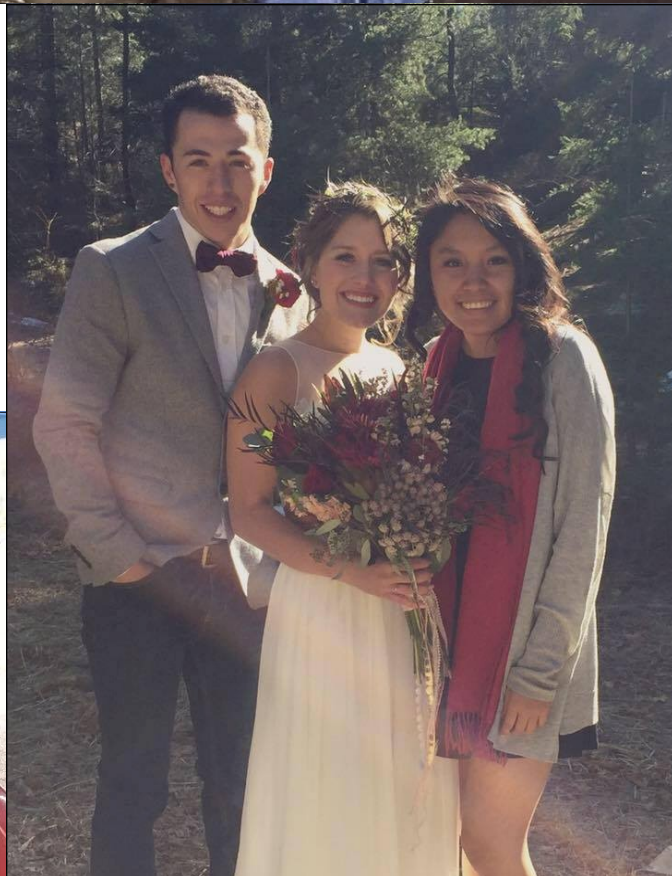
Riscilla is growing up!

Riscilla, 16 years old, is growing up into a beautiful, mature young lady. She is setting goals for her future and working toward those goals. She wants to go to college...and graduate! This would make her the first one in her family to do so.

- She is beginning to research colleges in the southwest, including many Christian Universities. She is interested in the medical field or early childhood education
- Riscilla is taking an 8 week class to prepare for taking the SAT exam.
- She played on Desert Christian High School's JV and Varsity basketball teams. The Varsity team went to the state divisional tournament! Her coaches gave her the SPIRIT award at the end of the season (for her willingness to give up much for the education and life she aspires to).
- Riscilla has her learner's permit and is learning to drive.



Dennis goes with Riscilla while she practices driving with her learner's permit



Last year's host sister Brittany with her new husband, JD and Riscilla



(above) Dan, Sharon, and Sharon's sister, Jae, ski while Thearsa and Naomi snowboard at Sunrise Ski Park (right) Naomi and Thearsa learn to snowboard during their Rodeo break

Thearsa and Naomi, 11 months apart in age, have rarely been separated. They have lived with Dan and Sharon the two years they have attended Desert Christian School in Tucson. As they mature, they are developing very different personalities and interests. With prayerful consideration, we have decided to look for separate host families for Thearsa and Naomi for the next school year. We believe that they will become more independent and grow from the experience. We pray that the two families that host the girls will allow weekend exchanges so Thearsa and Naomi will continue to have that precious "sister time" they so enjoy.

Please join us in praying that God will touch the hearts of families to open their homes to these two dynamic young ladies. Hosting is not easy, but it is such a blessing! Just ask Dan and Sharon or any of our host families. Thank you! We are trusting in our faithful God!!

CONTACT US!

520.404.5045 (Lucy voice or text)

520.245.2039 (Dennis voice)

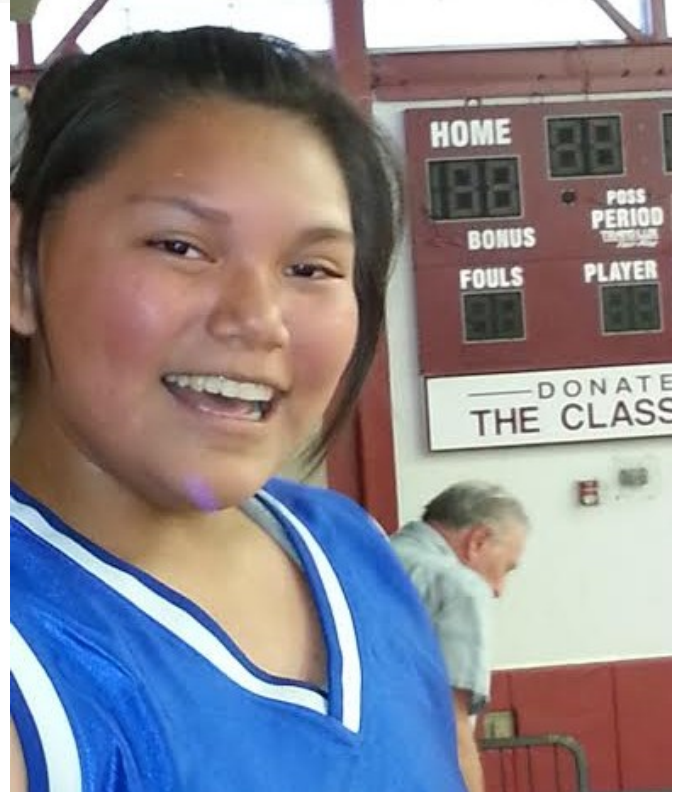
928.251-2324 (Heart House in Show Low)

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



Naomi, now in 6th grade, enjoys playing middle school sports...including basketball!