



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries February 2012 Newsletter



**“Praying is not what you do before the work
...it IS the work” ...Lucy’s favorite (non-scripture) quote!**

When we realized we could not make our February trip to the White Mountains and the Apache Reservation as we had planned (because Dennis was very sick). I asked the Lord, “OK, what would you have us do?” The answer was clear. PRAY! Much of the week we had planned to be ‘on the ministry field’ we spent **praying**. The above quote is my favorite because I believe it to be so TRUE! So much needs to be done ‘in the spiritual realm’ before the stones are cleared away and hearts are prepared for the actual



sharing of the Good News of Jesus.

God led me to 2 Chronicles 20. I was stirred by the **principles (*identified in italics*) taught in this account**. The (hi)story goes like this:

King Jehoshaphat was fearful when he heard that enemy armies were coming to invade Judah. “**Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the LORD for guidance.**” (vs 3)

- ***Turn to Lord for guidance at every step of the way.***

The Lord answered, “**Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.**” (vs 15)

- ***AMEN! Remember that the battle is not ours, but God’s!***

“**But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the LORD’s victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the LORD is with you!**” (vs 17)

- ***Take our positions (whether in prayer, worship, service, or evangelism) and stand firm. Do not be afraid, no matter what the enemy throws our way. Remember God is with us!***

“**The King appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the LORD and praising Him for His holy splendor. This is what they sang: ‘Give thanks to the LORD; His faithful love endures forever!’**” (vs 21)

- ***Start with worship and thanksgiving. “Yes, Lord, we worship YOU for who YOU are!”***

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

**"With this news,
strengthen those
who have tired
hands, and
encourage those who
have weak knees.
Say to those with
fearful hearts, 'Be
strong, and do not
fear, for your God is
coming to destroy
your enemies.
He is coming to
save you.'"
Isaiah 35:3-4 (NLT)**

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Comments from Dennis...

February has been a quick month. Two weeks of this month I spent at home ‘nursing’ a bronchial infection. The rest of the month I spent trying to recuperate physically, studying scripture, and learning more about our Native American neighbors’ way of life and religious beliefs. Lucy and I feel very strongly about knowing who we are being called to serve and about their way of life.

It is an eye opening experience! We are becoming aware of how little we know about their cultures and their religious belief system(s). But, we thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve and dedicate time to learning what He wants us to learn.



**Reservations in
Arizona**

Our often forgotten and sometimes invisible Native American neighbors

Arizona is home to 20 Native American Reservations. In the entire United States there are 393 federal and over 1,000 state designated reservations. The largest is the Navajo Reservation right here in northern Arizona. Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries will be focusing on the Navajo and White Mountain Apache Reservations here in Arizona. I would like to share a little information that I have learned.

The Navajo Reservation consists of 18,119 square miles and has a population of 104,500 people. **The White Mountain Apache Reservation** has a population of 12,634 people and is

2,600 square miles in area. Both reservations are struggling with high unemployment, an increasing crime rate, suicide, diabetes among the teens and elders, and a prevalence of the feeling of hopelessness. Of all the states in the U.S., Arizona has the largest percentage of its land designated as Indian lands!

Most Native Americans believe in a “creator” and creation story. It has been said that of the total US native population, only 7% are protestant Christians and less than 17% call themselves Catholic. (This number cannot be verified at this time.)

I call them the forgotten people because it seems we all think we know the “Indians” but when you are exposed to the facts, we realize we know very little. Also, a lot of what we think we know is either out of date information, or rumors and not true at all. Another obstacle in getting to know our fellow country men is the fact that each tribe is different. They all believe in a “creator” but have different views of how creation was started and have a variety of gods and deities. Their ways of life are different and so is the manner they view things. And then, there are the misconceptions we “Anglos” (in the old days an Anglo was defined by Indians as anyone that was *not* an Indian) have about the reservations and how much money they get from the government and so on.

In spite of all the differences, we are confident that we will make friends with our fellow Americans living on the reservations and will be able to share the Hope of Jesus with all who are interested in discovering the True Creator-God! We also are building relationships with pastors and other people that are currently ministering to the Native American community and hope to encourage them in their ministries. We are praying a lot and asking the Holy Spirit to guide us as to how and where He would have us serve. Thank you for joining us in this prayer!

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A story of God's intervention into the life of Marc Silliman

Marc is the Executive Director of AICM (American Indian Christian Mission). He shared his testimony with us and we thought it was so powerful that we wanted it to share it with you....



As a young man, I was introduced to the religion of golf. Soon after that I endeavored to work in the business of golf for the privilege of playing golf without paying a fee. God allowed me to find work in golf and ultimately excel to a point of membership in the Professional Golfers' Association of America as a club level Director of Golf and recipient of two prestigious awards from my colleagues in the Southwest Section of the PGA. During my process of gaining professional acumen I became proficient at several of the vices that are prevalent in the game of golf. My favorite was the consumption of alcohol, primarily during and after a round of golf regardless of whether or not I had played. My practice of overindulging alcohol rendered me an ineffective husband and father by the time I went home.

While I knew my practices were wrong, I held to the prideful idea that I would not fall to complete submission to alcoholism like my Dad, Mom, and Sister had done. I was above that, enjoying the worldly prominence as a successful golf professional. However, I remember that in 1995 immediately after receiving the top award of "Golf Professional of the Year" from the local PGA section, I was convicted of my unworthiness for such an honorable award. I decided then to try to change my ways. With little or no measurable success of my own over the next year, I strangely found myself hearing a message of truth from an evangelist/illusionist after a magic show at a church in Show Low, AZ. That evening I responded to God's invitation that He brought through Felix Snipes and the Saints at Calvary Baptist Church and received His gift of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

While my salvation was complete, I reacted similar to many of the US slaves following the enactment of the emancipation proclamation of 1863. I knew my former master and knew not how to live free from the bondage of sin so I returned to my comfortable digs at the golf course and continued to practice my favorite sin for a time. I am so grateful for the Saints at CBC as they persisted in arranging a follow-up meeting and invited me to their new believers class so that I could grow in my restored relationship with God. God used this church then and continues to use CBC to teach me the things of God in obedience to the Great Commission.

God, the Holy Spirit, opened my eyes to my sin against Him and my family and gave me the faith to trust Him enough to repent of my most egregious sin of neglecting my beautiful children and most precious gift of a wife by practicing alcoholism. I then learned of my privilege to love my wife as Jesus loves the church and knew then that I couldn't do it alone. I prayed to God that if that was His design for my life (to love Cindy in such a way) I would need His help to make it happen. God has been so faithful to His promise to equip me to do just that. Please know that I am not all the way there yet. He is still teaching me. But I know the difference He has made, as I never knew I could enjoy the gift of a person as I do today. Cindy and I love to spend time together, whether at work, at leisure, or even at play on the former 18 hole church. With Jesus in the middle of our lives we have a true love and respect for one another that we pray brings glory and honor to God for his transforming power.



Marc and Cindy Silliman

Prayer...continued from page 1

“Then all the men returned to Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat leading them, overjoyed that the LORD had given them victory over their enemies. They marched into Jerusalem to the music of harps, lyres, and trumpets, and they proceeded to the Temple of the LORD.” (vs 27-28)

- *Thank the Lord for victory and moving in lives. Worship Him and gather with other believers to rejoice in the Lord.*

I prayed, agreeing with these principles for the Apache people living on the White Mountain Reservation! *Could some of these principles be applied to an area you are interceding for in your life?*

Other prayer requests:

- “Father God, (God of the Harvest) please send more workers into the harvest! “ (Matthew 9:38) (Asking for more to be willing to ‘go’ to share the Good News with those who don’t know Jesus/who haven’t heard the Good News.)
- Stir more Native American believers to pray for their own peoples. **“We cry out to You to save us and You will hear us and rescue us.”** 2 Chronicles 20:9b “Set a fire, Lord, in our brothers and sisters in Christ on the reservations. Please increase their faith for Your Transformation of the Native American peoples!”
- “Clear away the “stones” of unforgiveness, addictions, strongholds, idol worship, and hopelessness. Reveal Your Truth, Lord, of Your Grace, love and that You are the one True God! “
- “Please, Lord, pour out your provision over areas that are under a cloud of unemployment and poverty. Help those to turn to You first with their needs. “

As we spent time in worship and waiting on the Lord, He led us to pray and cry out for our precious neighbors on the reservations. “Thank you, Lord , for leading us by Your Spirit and providing extended time to pray. Help us not be too busy to pray and listen to You!”

We plan to take these prayers (from 2 Chronicles) to the reservation in March and agree with them in prayer as we walk and drive through the towns on the White Mountain Apache Reservation!

Lucy Lucy@ManosdeDios.org

A great resource book for intercessory prayer for the nations and for prayer walking:

Every Place Your Foot Shall Tread by Mark Geppert

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.” Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Loving and respecting...
....written with a joyful heart by Lucy

“Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord.”

Psalm 119:1 NLT

“Thank you, Lord, for Your promises, patience and plans.” We are rejoicing as we see the fruit of diligently walking in obedience. We are filled with joy equal to what the psalmist declares in the above verse. Our marriage is stronger than it ever has been. Dennis and I are sharing

burdens, challenges, questions and praises openly. We are taking everything to the Throne in prayer. God is so faithful to teach us and show us HIS WAYS! I am certainly not perfect, but am learning the value of showing my husband respect and honor. I am trusting that God is leading my husband and I am following both of them in faith. As God teaches me, I am able to share, relate with and pray for my sisters in Christ using Godly wisdom and insight.

“Thank you, God! We love You!”



Dennis, Lucy and Chaco enjoy a hike at Cienega Springs, south of Tucson. We are making spending time together a priority!

Verses that have been teaching me about a Godly marriage...

“This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.” 1 Peter 3:5

“So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” Ephesians 5:33

“In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives.” I Peter 3:1-2

Ministry of Dennis & Lucy Smith



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

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Read Dennis' blog:

[http://
manosdediosmissions.
blogspot.com/](http://manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com/)



Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:
2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715 or be made
on our website: ManosdeDios.org



Our new logo was created by our daughter, Megan Jasper. As our mission focus has changed we wanted to depict our 'Jesus first, first Jesus' philosophy (with the cross) and our calling to reach Native Americans (with the feather). Thank you, Megan!

Updates...

- *Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries donated 300 blankets to Gospel Rescue Missions for men and women and Life in Christ church in Tucson*
 - *Dennis and Lucy are reading together The Invisible War by Chip Ingram. It is a straightforward coverage of spiritual warfare based on Ephesians 6:10-18 (putting on the armor of God). We highly recommend this as reading for every Christ-follower.*
- *We promise more pictures in our March newsletter! 'Prayer work' doesn't lend itself to photos, but we know that we are being heard in the heavenlies!*
- *We will be traveling to AICM and the White Mountain Apache Reservation shortly. We hope to encourage, pray, learn and serve. Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement!*

We love you! Lucy and Dennis



Photos from Mexico!
Above: Alejandra, now 11 years.
Below: Alexa and Carlos

***We plan to go to Mexico
toward the end of March to
visit our friends!***

