



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

## February 2013 Newsletter



### ***Spiritual Growth in our dorm!***

In the past 6 months we have seen tremendous growth in our girls in the area of being honest and respectful, listening and responding on the first request, and improving their grades. We have also seen spiritual growth. The girls are reading and understanding scripture more, becoming more involved in Bible discussion and showing fruit in their walk with Jesus. Our girls are more helpful, considerate, willing to share and speaking positively about each other.



**Jacy & Drelyn**

That is a blessing to them and to us. Dorm life has become more of a joy than a challenge. Yes, we still have discipline problems but they are a fraction of what they were before. Lucy and I (and I am sure the girls do, also) sleep better, have more energy and are less stressed and worried about their behavior.

However, our girls still have stress and we share their concerns. This stress comes from their home life on the weekends. Some still struggle with physical and

mental abuse, poor eating and sleeping habits, constant drug and alcohol abuse by people in and around their homes, observing mothers' boyfriends assaulting and threatening them (one of our girls actually attacked the boyfriend in an attempt to protect her mother) and living in a home where there is little love shown to the children. The list could go on, but I think you get my point.

We pray for 'our girls' from the time they go home on Friday until the time they come back on Sunday night. We pray for their safety and for the adults to stop the various types of abuse inflicted upon these defenseless children. We have to turn them over to God because it is out of our hands and control. "Thank you Lord for allowing us to lean on you!" .....Dennis

"When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord."

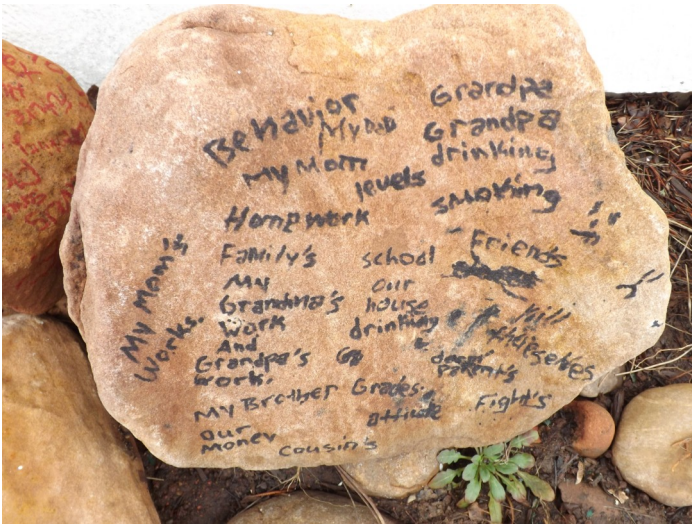
**Acts 11:23**



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## Casting all our cares on Him



One of our girl's rock listing all her burdens

My friend, Diane, shared a technique she used to help a friend who was struggling with carrying many burdens. I thought “this could help our girls!” so I implemented it into one of our evening “God times”. I met with two girls at a time in our dorm “God room”. Together we read Matthew 11:29-30 *“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

We talked about God wanting us to share our burdens with Him. We learned what a yoke is (as compared to a ‘yolk’!). Then we read I Peter 5:7 *“Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.”* Wow! God loves us that much!

We then stepped outside. There are many rocks of all sizes just outside our dorm. I instructed the girls to pick up a rock that represents the size of the burdens they are carrying. The girls picked up rocks in varying sizes. One picked a rock she could barely carry! We brought the rocks inside. They each took a sharpie and wrote the things they are stressed about, worry about or are concerned about on their rock. This took a long time for some of them. After they were done I suggested they ask Jesus what He wanted them to do with their rock. All but one girl heard in her heart Jesus saying, “Give me your rock”. When they were ready, they placed their rock in a box. They ‘felt’ the weight of the rock and a relief and lightness when they put the rock with its listed burdens in the box.

We then discussed that it may be easier to put the rock in the box ie put their burdens at Jesus’ feet than it will be to keep from ‘picking them up again’! How true! Some girls were outwardly emotional as they wrote on their rocks and when they placed them in the box. We prayed for a release of our concerns to the Lord, trusting Him with them. I mentioned that He will take care of their concerns. It may not be in the way we think is best or in our timing, but He will carry them for us. Amen!

....Lucy [Lucy@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Lucy@ManosdeDios.org)



Nicole works on her weekly memory verse in her bed

*“And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you.”*

*Matthew 6:30*





***Younger Girls' Dorm Parent, Trampas (far left), plays with girls from his dorm in completed Rec room. Check out the new air hockey table purchased with donations from Manos de Dios supporters!***

The recreation room is finally finished and in full operation! Our new air hockey/pool table/ping-pong table combination was delivered the middle of February and four men and one student put it together in under three hours. Donations of two computers for kids to play games completed the list of needed items.

The girls from our dorm were the first to try out the new equipment and games. They say it is a wonderful blessing and so much fun. They want (as all the kids do) to go to the Rec room everyday! I am partial to air hockey and the computer “pin ball” game and even bought new speakers so the bells and noise would be more exciting when points are scored. Lucy makes me turn the volume down when she is in the room ! ): Other dorm parents have taken their kids for an evening of fun and I had the opportunity to take four of the younger boys and girls to the Rec room during free time at lunch one day.

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings and the donations from our friends in order to make this happen. We are truly blessed!

**Dennis**   [Dennis@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Dennis@ManosdeDios.org)

**“Trust in the LORD and do good.  
Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.  
Take delight in the LORD,  
and He will give you your heart’s desires.**

**Commit everything you do to the LORD.  
Trust Him, and He will help you.” Psalm 37:3-5 (NLT)**

# ***Prayer focus for each girl***

...by Lucy

As we enter the last school quarter of our time here at AICM, we ask for your prayers for our Apache 'dorm daughters'. We have come to love each one so deeply. We don't know what the future holds for them, but our God does. Please lift them in prayer! Thank you!

***"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16b (NLT)***

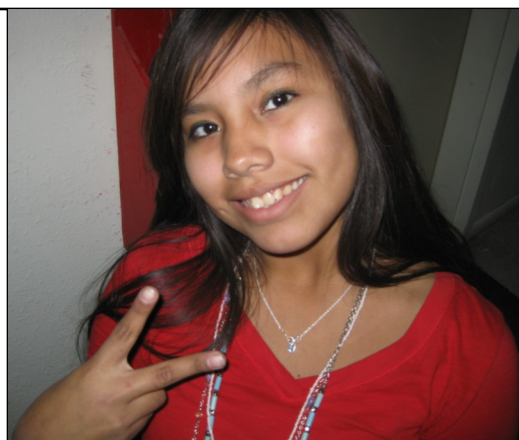


***Riscilla, age 13, 8th grade***

Riscilla will be graduating from AICM in May. She desperately wants to go to high school 'far away' from the reservation. She dreams of being a pediatrician some day. She loves her mom, but hates the violence, abuse, addictions and evil she sees in her neighborhood and home. Riscilla is a beautiful young lady that is learning how to trust God. She struggles against peer pressure. Please pray that God will show her clearly where she is to attend school next year. We are investigating Indian high schools and Christian boarding school possibilities. May God be her EVERYTHING...her first love, provision, and her rock!

Jacy is a good athlete and loves to read and write stories and songs. She desires to get a good education and go to an Indian high school far away from her reservation home. She dreams of being an attorney some day. Jacy loves her family but hates the affect alcohol is having on them. She knows she could easily be influenced by her family and doesn't want to follow the same life pattern they have. Jacy is beautiful and desires to follow Jesus and believe His Word.

God, please protect Jacy from the influences of evil. Open her ears to hear the truth of Your love for her and may she find her worth in YOU alone!



***Jacy, age 13, 7th grade***



***Drelyn, age 11, 7th grade***

Drelyn is a good student and a hard worker. She has leadership qualities that are being developed as she serves as our dorm's representative in the AICM Student Council. This beautiful young lady is an artist and dreams of being an interior designer some day.

Drelyn knows her Bible and often leads spiritual discussions in our dorm. Riscilla and Drelyn are sisters and have a little brother at home with their mom. Next year Drelyn may return to a reservation middle school when Riscilla leaves to go to a boarding high school in another state. She knows her mom needs her help with her little brother. Please pray that the LIGHT that lives in Drelyn will not be snuffed out on the reservation...rather that she be a beacon of hope and Good News in her family and neighborhood!





***Tia, age 11, 5th grade***

Tia has matured so much this school year! She left AICM school for 2 months, but thankfully returned to us in January. Tia's family life is very unstable. Her mother struggles with alcohol and her step-father moves in and out of the home. She has many older brothers. Just recently her biological father re-entered her life and is giving her an alternative home and family to go 'home to' on the weekends. Tia has missed much school and is behind in her classes. Please pray for this beautiful young lady that she will be motivated to apply herself and believe that God has an wonderful plan for her life!

Viscena is a delight to live with and receives complements from all her teachers. She works hard in her classes, but has difficulty making friends. She feels isolated from her peers and struggles with low self-esteem. Viscena lives with her grandmother, a strong Christian who loves her very much. We have been praying and talking with Viscena a lot about God's love for her and that trials are used to make us stronger. She is becoming one strong, beautiful young lady! We often declare that she is a "God pleaser, not a people pleaser". Please pray that she would allow God in to heal her wounded heart and to be her EVERYTHING! Also, pray for her adjustment to next year's living situation as she has become very attached to me, as her dorm mom.



***Viscena, age 10, 5th grade***



***Nicole, age 10, 5th grade***

Nicole loves horses and has ridden in rodeos. She also loves God's Word and will often ask "can I read a Psalm to you?" Nicole knows and loves Jesus, but struggles with dysfunctional habits of disrespectful behavior, disobedience, and avoidance. Nicole's mom is struggling to raise Nicole and 3 younger brothers (one baby born this month!) in a grandmother's over-crowded house. The drugs, alcohol, coarse language, and blatant sexual activity make for a terrible environment for Nicole and the many other young cousins in the home. Please pray for Nicole's mom that she will be able to find a way to move into their own home apart from this negative influence. Pray for Nicole that she will know God's love and allow it to heal her heart and direct her life choices. She desires to change, but struggles so much in breaking habits learned in her home life! This beautiful young lady's life verse is Philippians 2:13.

***"We trust You, Lord, with these precious girls. You love them way more than we do! Please place Your hand of blessing on their lives. Protect them from the evil one. Stir in their hearts a desire to love You and follow You. Amen"***



**Lucy enjoys a swim  
with “our girls”  
(Jacy, Lucy, Drelyn,  
Riscilla)**

*Thank you for your  
prayers,  
encouragement and  
support!*

*Lucy and Dennis*

## **Contact us:**

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**GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org**

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**Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: Manos de Dios, NFP  
2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715**



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



## **AICM FIRST STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING**

On February 26<sup>th</sup> we had the first student council meeting. Attending were dorm parents, student representatives and the school principal. I asked the student representatives to talk with their peers and bring all questions they had to the meeting and they did. We had questions from “why do we have homework?” all the way to “can we have a fund-raising event?” They were all good questions that were on their hearts and we owed them answers. The adults suggested having our meetings every two weeks or once a month but the students want to have one every week. We compromised with meeting every other week, unless there is an urgent matter.

Personally, I was very proud of our students (especially the representative from our dorm, Drelyn) and the way they conducted themselves, the questions they asked and their growth toward maturity. If we would have had this meeting three months ago I don’t think it would have gone as well. Again, we are proud of them.....Dennis

*“When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—He will confirm everything about Me. You, too, from your side must give your confirming evidence, since you are in this with Me from the start.” John 15:26-27 (The Message)*