



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries March 2012 Newsletter



## God blesses the poor!

We had thought we would go to Mexico at the end of this month to re-connect with friends. But, when we started to prepare we didn't sense God's direction to go. So, we cancelled our plans and will go back to northern Arizona to the American Indian Christian Mission and the Apache Reservation ('the Rez'). My heart was sad because we had looked forward to seeing so many people. But, we know that we will go in His timing. I was reminded, *'the most important thing you can do is pray for them.'* As I picture our friends in Mexico, most who live in desperately poor situations, I often feel sorry for them. BUT, today, I saw them in a different light...from God's viewpoint. I am a part of a women's Bible Study of the book of James with our home church. We are being challenged to memorize all or some of this Epistle. As I pondered the passage I was committing to memory today I was struck with this truth!

**"Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom He promised to those who love Him?" James 2:5**

God blesses the poor in a very special way. I love that He loves those who are 'poor' in the world's eyes. God's economy is opposite of our world's economy! The poor are rich in faith. They will inherit the KINGDOM of GOD. Wow! Adding this revelation to verses previously memorized (**"Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field."** James 9-10) I am so comforted and confident that God is holding our friends in Mexico, on the Indian reservations and even those here on the south side of Tucson in His righteous right hand. He is blessing them and they hold a special place in His heart. "Thank you, God, for your perspective. Give us more glimpses of Your Kingdom and Your priorities! We agree with Your economy and that You love to work through those in lowly places\*! Amen"

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

**\*"O Jacob, how can you say  
the LORD does not see your  
troubles?"**

**O Israel, how can you say  
God ignores your rights?**

**Have you never  
heard? Have you never  
understood? The LORD is  
the everlasting God, the  
Creator of all the earth. He  
never grows weak or weary.**

**No one can measure the  
depths of His understand-  
ing. He gives power to the  
weak and strength to the  
powerless. Even youths will  
become weak and tired, and  
young men will fall in ex-  
haustion. But those who  
trust in the LORD will find  
new strength. They will soar  
high on wings like eagles.  
They will run and not grow  
weary. They will walk and  
not faint. "**

**Isaiah 40: 27-31**

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Friends on Apache Reservation and in Mexico!

## Jesus is the HOPE needed by Native Americans on the Reservations! ...by Dennis

Usually my reports are upbeat, have some great pictures, and talk of some of our accomplishments. This month I don't feel like doing any of that. My heart is not light and joyous. On our last trip to the Apache Reservation we did accomplish things, took pictures with smiling faces and had wonderful fellowship, but that is not important. There was too much sadness weaved into this trip to ignore.

While serving in Mexico we saw poverty, how the corrupt government held back and abused their people, and the great need for housing for many people. There was also some drug, alcohol and physical abuse going on that needed to be addressed. But, for the most part families were functional and the children were relatively safe and somewhat secure.



**Apache girl participates in  
“Jesus” bus ministry**

I am saddened to say that this is not the case with the families on the Apache Indian Reservation. Over the past few months of getting to know the Apache people a little better I have personally discovered a darkness I did not know existed before. This even surpasses the knowledge I had from being a police officer and working in the inner city of Detroit. To me, the darkness and despair on the “Rez” surpasses all others.

I have learned and seen the effects that Satan has had as he roams the streets and homes accosting and tricking people into believing that they are worthless and there is no hope. I am listening to the stories of the people who have a home but no future, they have food but are not nourished, and they even have a creation story but many of the elders ignore it and the young

know little of nothing about it.

I saw children come to the AICM “Jesus” bus to receive a message about Christ, play games and have fun in a safe environment. Many come hungry, dirty and return to a home that is dysfunctional, and possibly physically and sexually abusive. (The latest revelations are of a young girl being sexually abused by a family member and 4 year old girl hit in the head with a book by her mother.) These children are mentored by family members that are addicted to drugs or alcohol). And in spite of all this chaos, some children (but not all) were able to smile and accept the love we had to offer.

The suicide rate among the Apache people is the highest of any people group in the world. In the Whiteriver area the common method of suicide is by hanging, many times from a bridge that crosses a small creek that runs through the town. We crossed that bridge on the way to an area where the AICM church bus goes to serve the children.

The bridge, creek and gorge are nothing spectacular to look at. The land and bridge are flat. The crossing spans an extremely rocky gorge about 150 feet below the bridge. The land at street level is regular brown sand with scrub bushes. But when you get near you can see the extremely sharp large boulders that go all the way down to the bottom. The rocks are so dark brown they almost look black and deadly. And they are, because if people are not able to hang themselves from the bridge (a fence has been erected on both sides of the bridge making it more difficult to hang themselves from the bridge) they throw themselves off the edge of the cliff and die on the rocks below. We have been told that the shadow people Satan or his dark angels) actually walk among the





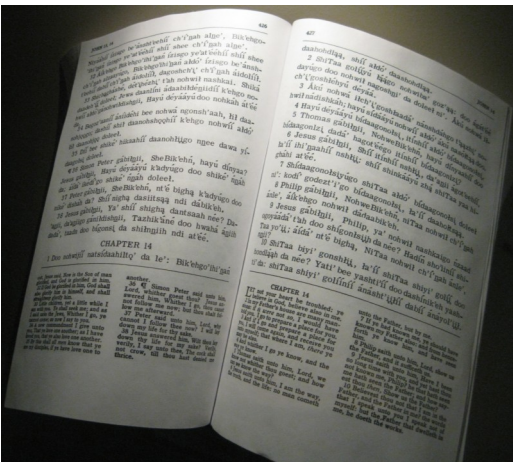
## Jesus is the HOPE (con't)

people in the community, so I am sure they are there on that bridge encouraging the people to complete their task.

One whole day of our trip Lucy and I spent driving through some of the communities on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. We prayed over the schools, streets, and people... and especially over the bridge and cliffs where people take their life. Our prayers are for an end to the darkness and despair, an end to the violence against the innocent and unprotected children, and for an explosion of the Word of God to come into this area. We are asking for a spirit of repentance and a choosing of a new walk of life in the footsteps of Jesus by His Apache children. Won't you please join us in this prayer?

The more I learn, the more my heart breaks for the young girls that are being molested, and the boys and girls that are being physically abused and neglected while the outside world knows very little of it... and many do not care. And then there are the hopeless adults that live day by day with no purpose and who are often turning to alcohol and drugs to numb their hopelessness.

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Bible in Apache Language!

**Thankfully there is HOPE and His name is JESUS! We pray that there will be a wave of Truth about Who God is, who the Apache people are in His eyes, and the grace Jesus came to bring!**

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

## Dunamis Ministries and "The Ranch"



Show Low, AZ. We had lunch at their home (on the property) and had a wonderful time getting to know them and hearing about their mission and calling. We also learned more about the White Mountain Apache Tribe and their spiritual needs. It will surely be a blessing if we get to serve with them on mission projects on the Rez or wherever the Lord calls us.

On this trip we were blessed to meet Matt and Karen McLean, administrators of Dunamis (Greek translation of word "power") Ministries and "The Ranch". The ranch is a facility where short term mission groups are housed while doing mission projects on the White Mountain Apache Reservation and surrounding areas. It is a very nice facility and is located in the rolling hills north east of



**Matt and Karen McLean**

## Pastors and Leaders Conference in Tucson March 3-5

*Each year Calvary Chapel Tucson hosts a conference for pastors and church leaders. This was the second year we were privileged to attend. As usual, the teaching was outstanding and very inspirational. The teachings were from the first 3 chapters of the book of Revelations. (See verses below!) We are so blessed to have powerful teaching available to us! The worship was awesome and included the band Leeland!*

*Pastor Bob and five others from the Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship in Springerville, AZ came down for the conference. (See photo to the right.) We enjoyed fellowshiping with*



Dennis, Lucy, Brenda, Steve, Pastor Bob  
Karen, Brad and Byron at  
Pastors/Leaders Conference



Pastors Tim and Cristy of The Rock church, with their foster daughters, Yaritza and Liliana

*our special friends and new partner church! Our precious friends, Pastor Tim and Cristy of*

*the Rock of Sahuarita also attended the conference. We spent time together with them, along with their two foster daughters, on our back porch during a conference lunch break. We are so grateful to God for these friendships with brothers and sisters in Christ!*

*"This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ"(Rev 1:1-2)...*

**"But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first\*!" Revelations 2:4 (NLT)**

*\*Greek: You have lost your first love.*

**"Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to Me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches." Revelations 2:5**



# Dennis writing Children's Messages appropriate for Native American kids

As most of you know, my husband, Dennis, loves to study The Scriptures to glean Truth. He writes to help him apply what he is learning and has a deep desire to share these Truths with others. He has begun putting together Bible Stories with pictures in culturally sensitive and age-appropriate messages for children. We hope to share these messages with others ministering on reservations and use them ourselves as we reach out with Jesus' love to children. My husband has a tender heart toward children and the hurting! This is obvious to any of you who have ever seen him interact with kids of any culture! Lovingly, Lucy

## Excerpt from Daniel and the Lion's Den message by Dennis Smith...



**Daniel in the Lion's Den**

"...These bad men talked the king into making a law that said you must only pray to the king and if you did not, you would be thrown into the lions' cage.

Each time Daniel prayed to God, he broke this new law. The bad men told the king what Daniel did.

Even though King Darius liked Daniel,

Daniel broke the law and the King had to throw Daniel in with the lions so they would eat him.

King Darius did not believe in God but he knew Daniel did and said to Daniel as he was being thrown in with the lions, "I hope your God can save you."

The king could not sleep all night. He was worried about his friend, Daniel. First thing in the morning, the King ran down to the lions cage and saw Daniel lying with the lions. He was not hurt!

Daniel told the king, "God's angels came and shut the mouths of the lions and they did not hurt me." The king was happy that Daniel was OK. But, the king was unhappy with the men that talked him into making the new law, so he threw them into the lions cage after Daniel was let go. This time the lion's mouths were opened up!"

**Text taken from Daniel 6:1-28**

## Ministry of Dennis & Lucy Smith



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

Contact us:  
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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](http://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!

## Praise and Request for Prayer Intercessors.....

*We Praise and Thank our Lord....*

- *For the gift of His Son! We celebrate Jesus' sacrifice for us this Resurrection Sunday!*
- *Brothers and sisters in Christ who sharpen us, encourage us, and model walking in radical obedience to Jesus our Savior*
  - *For His complete provision*

*Are you a prayer intercessor? We are putting together a list of those who will be willing to be "armor bearers" \* and go before the throne on behalf of ...*

- *Manos de Dios mission work and Dennis & Lucy*
- *The First Nations People (people living on reservations in the US)*
- *The Mexican believers, pastors and people*
- *Other requests as they present themselves*

*Please let us know if you like to be added to our list. Please either email [Lucy@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Lucy@ManosdeDios.org) or call/text 520-404-5045 Thank you!!*

*"The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His \*armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield." I Samuel 17:7 (NLT)*