



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

## March 2013 Newsletter



### *Planning for the future: Looking for Christian homes and financial support for schooling of two Apache young ladies*

God has called us to serve HIM by loving our 6 Apache dorm daughters for this school year. We are also sensing HE wants to use us to facilitate their spiritual and educational growth in the coming years.

Due to cut-backs, American Indian Christian Mission (AICM) has announced that they will be decreasing their school to serving only third through sixth graders next year.



**Riscilla:** entering high school

This is a reduction from serving 3rd graders through high schoolers. With this change, three of our dorm daughters will not be able to go to school here or even live here at AICM while going to a local high school. "OK, Lord, what is YOUR plan for these precious young ladies?" We are sensing

that there are families that would be willing to welcome one or both of these young ladies into their home. Ideally, these families would have a daughter attending a Christian school that these Apache teens could attend also. We see such potential in our dorm daughters! We are sure that God has a wonderful plan for them\* and this will be a testimony to His great power to change lives and families!

**Please join us in asking for God's leading for these two very special girls. We trust that He has an awesome plan!**



**Jacy:** entering 8th grade

*\*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*

**Jeremiah 29:11**



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## Finding homes for Apache girls (cont'd)

Riscilla and Jacy, along with their parents, agree that these girls need to get far away from their Reservation. (Our 3rd middle school dorm daughter is undecided as to whether she wants to move away or attend middle school on the rez.) We are checking into Pusch Ridge Christian Academy (grades 6-12) in Tucson, AZ for Riscilla and Jacy. They have a wonderful staff of folks who love Jesus and love educating teens. Our girls would have to work hard to qualify academically, socially, and culturally. They would enjoy being able to participate on athletic teams and the other offerings a larger school can provide. It will be difficult to move away from their families, friends, and the comfort of an all-Indian School (which they have attended all their lives). But, the negative factors of living and going to school on the reservation outweigh the challenges. These include violence, gangs, prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse in both adults and teens, sexual abuse, a high drop-out rate, and hopelessness. Jacy and Riscilla have both stated, "I do not want to return to the reservation to go to school. I need to get far away from the reservation. If I don't, I know I will be sucked into that way of life." Their moms have also asked for our help in finding a good school for their daughters to attend.

Thank you for your prayerful support and ideas! Please contact me immediately if you would like to be considered as a home for Riscilla or Jacy, or are led to help sponsor the financing of their schooling. Thank you!! Lucy

[Lucy@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Lucy@ManosdeDios.org) 520-404-5045 (voice or text)

# The needs:

- **Families for girls to live with while attending school (A healthy, Christian family. Ideally one with another student attending the same school.)**
  - Riscilla-entering 9th grade (high school)*
  - Jacy-entering 8th grade (middle school)*
- **Christian schools for them to attend**
- **Tuition and costs covered by sponsors and/or scholarships**

## Update from Margarita in Mexico



***Alejandra, age 11, receives therapy on a horse in Mexico. This type of therapy is found to be very useful for handicapped children.***

We keep in touch with our precious friend, Margarita, in Mexico via email, phone calls and texts. She was thrilled to share this news recently. ***“Alejandra was accepted into an Equine Therapy program. She is the first child from Puerto Peñasco to receive this type of therapy. Praise God for the car God provided for us so I can drive the 20 minutes to the town where the therapy is held. The therapy is very good for Ale and we are so thankful to God for providing this for us!”***

Margarita is continuing to take English classes at the Christian Community Center our friends Mark & Karen Higgins have created. She also assists with teaching women to sew at the center. She continues to sew and is making the wedding dress for our friend Eli (Pastor Jose and Ana’s daughter) who will be married April 20th.

Margarita is a testimony to God’s goodness and someone who trusts God daily for her provision and her joy!

We praise God for our continued friendship with Margarita and the financial support we can provide for Her thanks to our supporters.

***To God be all the glory!!! .....Lucy***



***Margarita attends English classes (with Alejandra on her lap!)***

***“But our citizenship is in heaven—and we also eagerly await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform these humble bodies of ours into the likeness of His glorious body by means of that power by which He is able to subject all things to Himself” Philippians 3:20-21***



# *Trip to Immanuel Mission on the Navajo Reservation*

...by Dennis



***\*Rock formations on Navajo Reservation***



***Laura, Trampas, & Keaton Johnston with Mission School principal, John Bloom, and Lucy & Dennis Smith***



***5th/6th grade class at Immanuel Mission school.***

A few years ago our friend and supporter, Jan, told us that her mom and dad were missionaries in the Four Corners area of Arizona. She grew up there on the Navajo Reservation “out in the middle of nowhere” and attended the mission school (very much like our AICM school). Jan graduated from Shiprock High School in New Mexico.

Lucy and I love exploring, meeting new people and learning about other cultures (and I love history) while sharing the love of Jesus. It was settled, we would visit Immanuel Mission where our friend grew up. Jan’s Aunt Kathy still works there and plans were made to visit the mission and meet Kathy and the mission school staff.

Immediately after our girls went to their first class on a Friday in March, Lucy and I set out with fellow dorm parents Trampas and Laura, along with their son Keaton, for the Four Corners area and Immanuel Mission.

The drive consisted of seeing very diverse and rugged but beautiful scenery\*. When we found the Mission there were a few more homes then when Jan lived there. The closest big city and supermarket is still an hour and a half away!

We met the principal of 25 years, John Bloom, many teachers and Aunt Kathy. For being so remote we found the school and buildings to be well maintained. The 85 Navajo students (grades K-12) were polite, quiet and even said they liked school! Trampas and I were invited to participate in square dancing with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys and girls! What a blast!

The mission was started in 1929. We saw the first building that was built and learned some of the history behind the facility. We even stayed in a Hogan-style home that Jan’s dad built many decades ago.

As I said, the area was rugged and barren but beautiful. The people there are resilient, tough and make the most of the life they have.

We were invited to return to meet more of the local people, attend a church service in their mission chapel, and take a jeep trip to explore some of the cliff dwellings, cave drawings and things that tourists never have the opportunity to see. That is an invitation we can’t resist. We will return someday!



# The joy of a baptism!

*...by Lucy*



***Little Girls' dorm parent, Trampas, prays for Naomi before Lucy baptizes her***

Naomi asked me if I would baptize her! I asked her “why do you want to be baptized?” She replied, “Because I love Jesus and want to follow Him all my life! “Of course,” I answered. “I would be honored to baptize you, Naomi”. Naomi is a 10 year old in the Little Girls' Dorm at AICM. I have watched her mature this year, asking questions about God and showing a sweet spirit toward the other students and staff. What an honor to be part of her special day of proclaiming publically what she had decided in her heart! We all celebrated the joy of loving God!



***Lucy confirms Naomi's desire to follow Jesus with her whole heart***



***Naomi is joined by her godparents and dorm sister, Shondee, after her baptism***



***Naomi, age 10, is baptized by Lucy in AICM Chapel***



***AICM students & staff pray for Naomi at her baptism in the AICM Chapel***

***“Thank you, Lord, for Naomi's desire to follow You and to publicly proclaim her love for You. Please guide her as she grows and help her continue to seek You with her whole heart! Use her for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen”***



**Dennis and Lucy  
enjoy a 'lunch out' in  
Tucson during  
Spring Break.**

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

*Lucy and Dennis*

## Contact us:

520-404-5045 (Lucy voice or text)  
520-245-2039 (Dennis voice or text)  
GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

Address at AICM: 924 Mission Lane, Show Low, AZ 85901

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



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**Riscilla, age 13, is in 8th grade at American Indian Christian Mission (AICM) School**

Riscilla will be graduating from AICM in May. She desperately wants to go to high school 'far away' from the from the White Mountain Apache 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 clearly direct where Riscilla is to attend school next year.** We are asking God to show us the family she is to live with and to provide financially for her school expenses.



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## Prayer card for Riscilla

**Suggestion:**  
copy, cut  
out, & place  
where you  
will be  
reminded to  
pray for  
Riscilla  
& Jacy  
frequently.  
Thank you!

(PS: email us for  
a copy of Jacy's  
prayer card, too)