



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

April 2012 Newsletter



Prayer for the Native Americans and their land!



The time we spent at American Indian Christian Mission (AICM) and on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in April included much prayer! A work team from Indiana stayed at AICM and one afternoon they planned to pray at 'prayer mountain' on the reservation. We wanted to be a part of that! 'prayer mountain' is a high place right in the middle of the

community of Whiteriver on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. There have been 3 crosses standing there for quite a while. Our group of prayer warriors headed up the mountain in the AICM "Jesus" bus. We got out and walked the last half of the climb to the top. We worshipped together by singing praise songs to the Almighty God. We then prayed for the Native American people by facing each of all four directions. We prayed individually and as a group. We sensed we were warring in the spiritual realm for these precious people and their lives. *(see verse on side panel) We found that the crosses had maliciously been broken down. The team members put the crosses back together and stood them up using rocks as bases. AICM staff promised to return to stabilize the crosses in concrete!

My close friend and prayer partner, Diane, was volunteering with her family at AICM. What a perfect time to prayer walk the campus and 'cry out' to the Lord for the students, staff and First Nations people! We received wonderful revelation of how to pray and I have been continuing to pray in this manner ever since!

Trusting in God's plan for transformation of the Apache Nation!Lucy
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Dennis & Lucy on 'prayer mountain'

* "We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

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Men's Bible Study at White Mountain Apache Christian Church ...by Dennis

This month I was able to attend a men's Bible study with Pastor Pete. He is one of the pastors that teach at the White Mountain Apache Christian Church on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in the community of Whiteriver. It is held every Tuesday at the church and a meal is provided for the men that attend. It is open to all men regardless of their spiritual beliefs and the condition of their sobriety.

During the time of fellowship and discussion I found that the men that were not totally sober were very talkative and willing to participate along with the rest of the group. Some of the men that were inebriated were quoting scripture and one even pulled his Bible out of his back pocket. Now if they can become sober they might be even more able to not only quote scripture but live it more closely!

Two men from a mission team that was serving on the reservation for a week were the speakers. During the discussion a question was asked of the Native Americans. "What do you think the people of Indiana think of the Apache people?" Many of the Native Americans quickly responded, "they don't like us." Then a discussion followed to explain that the people from Indiana and the rest of us do like them. We love them as brothers even if they are not believers in Christ.

As there is so much abuse inflicted upon children on the reservation I took the opportunity to encourage a slightly inebriated young man to treat his kids properly, with respect, love and compassion and not to violate them. I also spoke about bringing them up in the ways of Jesus. (This man is a believer). He responded that he was trying and that he was also trying to bring them up with knowledge of their Apache culture and the Anglos (from the church) did not like that. He said that what we did not like was that he was teaching them to pray to Jesus and to pray with the Apache Crown dancers. The Apache religious beliefs are confusing and intricate so I will not go into who the Crown Dancers are right now, but what I will say is that he was trying to have beliefs both in Jesus and in the Apache spiritual realm. As we know, that is not acceptable to God.*, ** I discussed that issue as much as I could under the circumstances, his condition and the limited time I had.

The meal and fellowship was great and the men even wanted to serve me and wanted to sit with me and talk. That was a blessing also. I look forward to attending as many of the Bible study meetings as I can and to help spread the word and message of Jesus to all that will listen.

*** "You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods." Exodus 20:5**

**** "You must not worship the LORD your God the way the other nations worship their gods, for they perform for their gods every detestable act that the LORD hates." Deuteronomy 12:31**

An Easter egg hunt and picnic at a fish hatchery!

Lucy and I were invited to a Easter egg hunt and picnic that was held at the fish hatchery park in Whiteriver. Church members and people in the community were invited to attend and they came out in force and had a wonderful time. There were about 175 people which consisted of Apaches, two short term missions teams, pastors and their families from the church (the organizers of the event), and Margaret, Director of Food Services, from AICM.



Everyone was involved in some way. The church provided the main course (hotdogs & buns). The side dishes, snacks, desserts, and beverages were provided by members of the community, the mission team and AICM. The serving and clean up was also a multi-cultural event!

I stepped behind the serving table and dished out potato salad, slaw, pickles and anything within reach. The children were well-behaved and all (adults included) were hungry. Since Lucy and I are still getting to know the community and its people, we did not

know very many people before the evening started but by the end, we had made many new friends.

To quote Pastor Pete and Kim from their newsletter "It was wonderful to see that most of the families present had a male representing the family (either a father or boyfriend). Many of them don't usually attend regular church services. It was the perfect



**Kids enjoy egg hunt & prizes
(note necklace!)**

time for fellowship with these families and the only thing we ran out of was plates!"

"He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!"

....Dennis



**Lucy befriends & prays with
Lindsay**

Volunteers bless AICM mission school

American Indian Christian Mission hosts short term missions teams throughout the year. Our friends Jolly and Diane Schilling, their two teen children and the Gleason family spent two days of their spring break working at the AICM. They repaired MANY bicycles for use both during the school year and during summer camps. Jolly encouraged Blake, head of AICM maintenance, to now teach the students how to repair their bicycles as part of their responsibility to keep them in good running order. Great idea, Dr. Schilling! Other projects they worked on were cleaning out a large storage shed, and cleaning student transportation vans. Both families rode the “Jesus” bus to Cibique for a ministry



Dr. Jolly & Diane Schilling volunteer at AICM repairing bicycles for the students' use



The Schillings, Gleasons and Blake on Apache Reservation

afternoon with the Apache children in this secluded community. They encouraged, played with, loved and prayed with many precious, needy children. Diane and I ‘prayer walked’ the AICM campus, worshipping, praying and listening to God.



“Jesus” bus children’s ministry in Cibique

Thank you to friends who support, work hard, pray, volunteer their vacation time, and willingly serve as God’s hands and feet! May God bless you!

...Lucy Lucy@ManosdeDios.org

Prayer changes things! Amber is a single mom who has struggled with addiction to alcohol.

CPS placed her kids in another home when she wasn’t able to care for them due to her alcoholism. Her pastors and other women, including Karen (from Dunamis Ranch...see March newsletter) prayed for her constantly !! Amber prayed desperately to God for help. God strengthened her. She made the positive choices she needed to stop drinking and chose to walk in obedience to the Lord. Two months ago, she received her 3 children back again and she is appreciating them so much! Amber declares that God is her strength. Her life is now a testimony of God’s power and an example to other women, like Lindsay (see page 3)! God does answer prayer! He delights in helping us when we confess our sin, repent and surrender to a life of righteousness and obedience! Amen! Thank you, Lord!!

Being a cook!by Dennis

I love to cook (and eat) so when the kitchen staff at AICM said they could use an extra hand I immediately volunteered. I previously mentioned that I liked French fries and grilled onions so



Dennis helps out in the kitchen at AICM (shown here with Director of Food services, Margaret and kitchen staff Ellie (Navajo)

Margaret, in charge of the kitchen, put me in charge of those two food items to round out the lunch menu. Only problem was....that they would not reveal to me where the oil was so I could deep fry the potatoes! I had to make them as oven fries, their healthier choice. So I relented and jazzed them up with garlic, paprika, and grated Parmesan cheese. I did get to use a little oil for the grilled onions so I was happy and so were many of the adults on campus who had not had grilled onions in a long time. They went well with the turkey hot dogs!

Being a rookie I had to wear a silly hat while in

the kitchen and I am happy to say that it added to the fun and it made the kids and adults , all 50 of them, laugh.

You serve where you are called and needed (such as picking up litter, painting, cleaning floors, doing dishes, and helping kids with their homework).

I loved it and am looking forward to our next visit to AICM....



Dennis models Goofy hat while cooking up onions for lunch

Joy to you!

“...I am writing to the ‘twelve tribes’—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!” James 1:1b (NLT)

I’ve been a part of women’s study of the book of James facilitated by Beth Moore. Wow! This study has been life changing! Finding the balance between faith and works (James 2); constantly catching myself judging/favoring others (James 2 & 4); and learning to control my tongue (James 4) are just some of the heart-piercing topics! We have been challenged to memorize the entire book. I have chapters 1 and 2 under my belt.

There is joy in memorizing the scripture and being aware of its many applications in life. We met a family at the picnic at the fish hatchery. They had a new baby and I asked her name. “Kyrene” was the reply. “Oh! Do you know what your daughter’s name means?” “No, I just liked the sound of the name. I think there is a street in Phoenix with that name.” “Do you know the book of James in the Bible?” “Yeah”. “There is a word in the first verse that is translated ‘greetings’. The word in the original Greek language is ‘chairein’ (pronounced Ky-rain). It means literally... JOY TO YOU! That is what your baby girl’s name means! Joy to you!! What a wonderful name!” “Wow! Thanks for telling us.”

Wow, God! You are so amazing! We love You, Lord!

....Lucy



Lucy & Dennis Smith

***Sharing the message
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Contact us:

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Read and respond to **Dennis' blogs:**

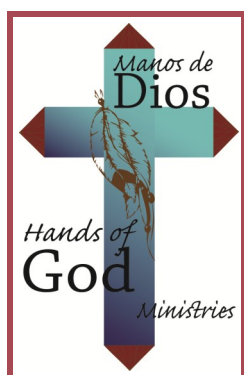
<http://manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com/>

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Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:

**2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715 or be made on our
website: ManosdeDios.org**



Please pray:

- ***For the attendees of the Love & Respect Marriage Conference to be held May 4-5 at the American Indian Christian Mission and May 17-19 at Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship in Springerville, AZ.***
- ***That these attendees will be open to God's teaching and choose to apply to their lives what God impresses on their hearts***
- ***That we (Dennis & Lucy) will know how to pray with and for these participants***
- ***For guidance for Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries' plans for the summer. We desire to do exactly what God has for us to do. We are open to traveling throughout the Navajo reservation as well as continuing to build relationships on the Apache reservation.***

"Lord, we give You all the praise and glory! We want to be about YOUR business only! We want to do things Your way and in Your timing. Please guide us. We ask for open ears to hear Your Spirit's leading. We commit to being still and listening each and every day. We trust You and humbly thank You for this opportunity to be Your hands, feet and mouthpiece.

In Your Son's name, Jesus, we pray. Amen!"

***"...but we will give ourselves
continually to prayer and to the
ministry of the Word." Acts 6:4 (NKJV)***