



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

## April 2014 Newsletter



**Jacy's parents, Jonathon and Leona, come to see her basketball game!**

### PATIENCE....by Dennis

I have said in the past that the Apache culture is very different and it is taking time to get to know Apache people and their ways. We have had to be patient while waiting to be accepted. That is still true, however, we are making progress.

A major step was when two of the mothers allowed us to bring their daughters to Tucson to attend Desert Christian School and live with strangers they had not met and only heard about through their daughters' descriptions. That was a huge step in trust. These mothers love their daughters very much and were probably getting heat from other members of the Tribe for allowing their daughters to go to be with white people (and possibly be 'turned white' – in their way of thinking). Even so, these mothers know and understand the value of a good education in a safe environment and, if their girls wanted to make something of themselves, they needed this change. How many of us would have done the same if the roles were reversed?

A few weeks ago Jacy's mother, father, sister, and niece came all the way from the White Mountain Apache Reservation to see her play a basketball

game. They were sitting in the bleachers being quiet and not so demonstrative while the rest of us (all white) were yelling and encouraging Jacy and the team. (See photo on page 5.) Lucy and I visited with them and made them feel welcome in our community. When the game was over we were hugging Jacy, telling her what a good job she did and just being the people that we are. The other fans interacted with her family and I think we made a good impression on our visitors. The coach even came and introduced himself and told them how glad they were to have Jacy at Desert School! After observing them (the Apaches) and us (the whites) during the game and afterwards it caused me to think, "what did the Apaches think of us white people, our school and how we acted and what did the white people think of the Apaches and how they acted?"

Those are very good questions because many whites have never had any contact with Apaches, visited their community or know of their problems. It may be the same with some Apaches; they may have had little close contact with whites and our community.

Personally I think it was a good day for a meeting between two different cultures and ways of life. This was a meeting centered around children and, prayerfully, the love we both share for them and all children. It was a time to see each other through clear (not tinted) lenses! For that to happen it takes time, patience, perseverance, trust, sacrifice, determination and faith, plus trust in the Lord. This you can't count as a number or put a value on. It is priceless!

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## Progress being made on “Heart House”! (ministry house in Show Low)



**Sam and Jan install  
“plank” flooring in  
entryway**

*“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked Him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12: 28-31*

We are blessed with so many wonderful friends! Our friends, Sam and Jan, demonstrated ‘loving their neighbor as themselves’! They traveled from Tucson and worked for one and a half days straight to put in the plank flooring in the “Heart House” entryway and kitchen/dining room. Sam and Jan were meticulous as they measured, cut, arranged and placed the floor panels. The floors look absolutely beautiful and perfect in every way! And they worked wonderfully as a team! We didn’t hear one harsh word as they worked tirelessly! What an example of a Christ-following couple!



We are thanking the Lord for healing Dennis’ spine. He is now able to work on the “Heart House”. He has painted almost all the interior walls and ceilings. We are excited that the carpet will be installed in the remaining rooms on May 23th! Floor covering makes such a difference! We will then be able to start bringing up the furniture and appliances that have been so generously donated!

Gratefully, Dennis and Lucy



**(below) Dennis paints a living room  
wall...proof that his back is better!**



**Sam and Jan  
completed the  
kitchen/dining  
room “plank”  
flooring. It  
looks  
beautiful!  
Thank you,  
friends!**





Nicole (one of our dorm girls from last year) spent the day with us when Sam and Jan were there installing flooring. She helped me line kitchen drawers and found one not to be in working order. When she was struggling with it, Sam noticed. He stopped the flooring project and began to teach her about cutting wood. He patiently demonstrated and then encouraged her to ‘do the work’. Nicole was obviously impacted by Sam taking time to teach her. We told him later what a blessing this was to her. She has very FEW positive males in her life. Thank you, Sam, for taking time with Nicole!

**Not only did Sam install flooring, but he patiently instructed Nicole in woodworking! It snowed on that Saturday in April! (photo below of Nicole and Chaco)**



**Good news and bad news. Okay, the bad news first. Our generator and air compressor were stolen out of the “Heart House” shed while we were in Tucson. When we filed a report with the Navajo County Sheriff’s department, the deputy ‘on call’ was our friend. He had responded to our calls for help when we had trouble with kids at AICM last year! Deputy Harbold told us a little of the history of our “Heart House”. Apparently, it was owned by an older couple. Their drug-addicted son moved in with them and caused much trouble. They finally had to have him evicted from the property. Deputy Harbold said he was so glad to see this property being ‘redeemed’! Amen! That day I had already scheduled a worship and prayer time with my friends Laura and Karen. How timely to pray and sing praises to our God on this ‘redeemed’ property! That IS Good News!**



**Precious sisters-in-Christ, Laura and Karen join Lucy on our back porch for a morning of worship and prayer!**

“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns!’ Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them! Let the **trees of the forest sing**, let them sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.”  
1 Chronicles 16: 31-33 (NIV)





## ***Alejandra comes through three head surgeries in Mexico!***

The expressions captured in the photo to the left tell the story of an exhausting past couple months for Margarita and her disabled 13-year-old daughter, Alejandra. They traveled to Hermosillo (a 7-hour drive from Puerto Peñasco) three times for surgeries to replace/repair shunts in Ale's head. Many times Margarita would call or text crying out for prayers! "I am exhausted! I may lose my daughter. It is all in the Lord's hands. Please pray for us!" Requests went out to many prayer warriors who know this precious family in Mexico! God sustained this mother and miraculously healed Ale twice. The hospital staff was amazed at the strength of this young lady (and her mom)! Praise the Lord for His favor and healing touch! Margarita and Ale are now back in Puerto Peñasco. They do need to travel back to Hermosillo three more times for check ups, but are confident that Alejandra will heal and are totally depending on God each and every day! They send their heartfelt thanks for the many prayers!



**Alejandra is growing stronger after surgeries (and her hair is growing back after being shaved!)**

AND...when they returned home the final time, it was to a home that had been built specially for them! A team built this home for Margarita and Alejandra (and builds for other families with disabled children). The families agree to pay \$100 a month for 8 years for the home that comes with plumbing, electrical wiring, and appliances! Arrangements are being made for Margarita to work off some or all of her monthly fee by sewing curtains for the other homes. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS PROVISION!!

**Margarita and Alejandra's NEW home (shown below).  
(left) exterior and (right) kitchen/dining room**





# "Numbers" by Dennis

Too many times people equate success in ministry/mission work with numbers. How many 'altar call' responses, how many baptisms, how many new people are coming to your church/out reach programs and so on.

I have never been a fan of numbers and I don't read in scripture where Jesus was concerned with numbers either. As a matter of fact He said in Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." The only number there was "all" the world!

You may wonder why am I bringing this up and what it has to do with our mission of helping Apache children. I believe it has a lot to do with our calling. Let me explain.

Working with the Apache people and their children is different from anything we have ever done. They have a totally different culture and one that very few of us really know. We say (as I did after reading some books) "Oh, I know about the Apache people. They are like this or that and they believe this and that." How wrong we usually are.

I sincerely feel we made a positive Christian difference in the lives of some of the Apache/Navajo children while being dorm parents at the Mission School and getting to know some of the mothers and grandmothers that live on the reservation. We did that, in part, by 'being there' and spending time with them, listening, not asking too many questions, and showing the love of Jesus by our actions and the words we said or did not say. The Apache culture is like none other and has to be learned by association, and we are learning the good and the bad.

Currently we are blessed to have two of our girls, Riscilla and Jacy, attending Desert Christian School in Tucson (living with wonderful host families) and there is a strong possibility that four more girls from the reservation may get to come to Tucson this fall to attend school.

Our desire (as is of the mothers' of the girls) is not to turn the girls 'white' (as some on the rez are say we are trying to do) but to make available to them a proper education in a safe environment that is not saturated with drugs, violence and alcohol abuse. And most importantly, included in their education is strong and consistent with teachings from Scripture.

As we learn from Scripture, we are to do what He calls us to do and let the Lord do the rest!

**"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take" Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)**



(above) Jacy shoots a free-throw for her Desert Christian Middle School basketball team . (below) Jacy's cheering section at one of her games!



Riscilla holds a one-month-old Native American baby (our neighbor in Tucson.) Riscilla wants to be a pediatrician someday. You GO, girl!

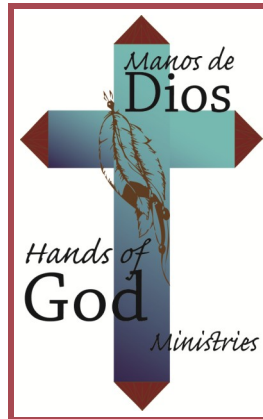


## Contact us:

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

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

**Chaco**, our “brave” golden retriever (in the foreground), races toward cows behind our “Heart House”. Immediately after this photo was taken he circled back as quickly as he raced toward them!



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

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*Lucy began volunteering at Canyon Day Jr. High (see photo to left) on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. She assisted in 6th grade Language Arts classes last week. She hopes to build relationships with more middle school kids and have opportunities to “love them out loud” in Jesus’ name! Praise God for a strong Christ-following principal at this tough school! Please keep Mr. Jay Cox in your prayers!*

**Please continue to pray for host families for girls that desire to come from the White Mountain Apache Reservation to Tucson to attend Desert Christian Schools in the fall. Two families have shown interest in hosting girls! We will be interviewing and praying with them this week. At least two more families are needed. THANK YOU!**

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**We so appreciate all that has been provided for the “Heart House” ministry home in Show Low (near the White Mountain Apache Reservation)! The remaining needs for the “Heart House” include: dining room table with chairs, washer and gas dryer, dressers, bedside stands, and mountain bikes (adult and youth sizes). THANK YOU!**