



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

April/May 2015 Newsletter

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



School year ends...with much gratitude!



*End-of-the-school-year
host family gathering!*

(top row) Stephanie,
Riscilla, Jacy, Drelyn,
and Dan

(middle row) Ron,
Tina, Judy, Sharon,
Lucy, and Dennis

(lower row) Thearsa
and Naomi (and
Chaco!)

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“Thank you, Lord, for all you have done this school year! Thank you for changing the lives of these five students...and the lives of their host families! We are so grateful to all who have financially supported this effort of education and godly training. Please bless them! We trust you for next year’s plan, Lord Jesus!”

New host families needed!

As we look forward to the next school year we ask that you lift in prayer the *need for host families for three of our girls: Riscilla, Jacy and Drellyn*. We trust that if it is God's plan for these girls to continue their education at Desert Christian High School, He will raise up host families for them. This is an opportunity for these girls (and their families on the reservation) to trust God for their future and for their faith in God to grow.

Please spread the word of this need to those who live on the east side of Tucson. **Cut out the flyer below** to pass out at your small group or church. Contact us for more flyers, if needed. Thank you!



Naomi receives an award for her art work in 5th grade!



Naomi & Thearsa with their (volunteer) tutor, Suzanne

Sharon and Dan will continue to host Thearsa and Naomi next year! Praise God!

Host families needed for students



Looking for an opportunity to share Jesus' love in your very own home? Consider hosting a student attending Desert Christian High School! Young ladies who love the Lord come from the White Mountain Apache Reservation for a high-quality education away from the darkness of the reservation.

For details contact Lucy Smith
520-404-5045 or Lucy@ManosdeDios.org

Perception....by Dennis

PERCEPTION Webster's dictionary defines it as a way of regarding, understanding, or interpreting something; a mental impression.

Perceptions. We all have them. We use them to define our life and abuse others by allowing our preconceived ideas about something or someone to cloud our judgment.

An example of an incorrect perception was shared with me by one of our young Apache girls that came to Tucson to go to school. She told me that she thought white families did not get divorced and that all white kids had a dad at home. She also said that she felt she did not belong at the school in Tucson because her parents are divorced and therefore she did not have a dad like the white kids did. But, the other day when kids at school were talking about families she found out that some white kids did not have dads at home either. She said she felt better knowing this and felt she had something in common with some of the other kids. Knowing that made her feel more "normal".

What an inaccurate perception from such a young, vulnerable little girl! One too young to understand reality and living in a world dominated by many misperceptions from the people on the Apache Reservation. Those perceptions were all she knew and was exposed to, therefore those perceptions were reality to her. Reality or not, her perception was truth to her.

What about the perceptions we have about the Native Americans? Are they just as unfounded?



White Mountain Apache Tribal Seal

What about us, people off the reservation, are our perceptions about the Apache people accurate? No, most are not! Since being involved with the Apache people I have learned that my perceptions about them were inaccurate and so were the perceptions most of the people I talked to who claimed to "know the Native Americans." Most of us are clueless about the Apaches and their culture. You would not believe some of outlandish things people have told me about the Indians that they "knew" to be true but actually are not.

Where do our children get such skewed perceptions of reality? Unfortunately they get them from us (we adults) and the things we allow them to see, read and be subject to via our own skewed and biased perceptions. We pass that sin to them and it continues on.

But what can we do? We can start by eliminating our preconceived ideas about people. We can start by seeking out the facts before we make an opinion or a judgment. We can start by being a good example to our children of seeking out truth and not perceiving things

from a biased point of view. In other words, we can be transformed! Romans 12:2 says, "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" As Christ-followers we should be modeling this transformation.

If we can do this, we will be protecting and blessing the little minds and hearts of our children. We owe them at least this much.

“Released from Shame” classes offer hope...by Lucy

I have the privilege of receiving training from Dinah Monahan (author of Giving God Your Worst) to be a “Life Recovery Mentor”. I am using so many of these Biblical principals when I meet with clients at the Living Hope Women’s Center in Whiteriver weekly. I also am helping out with a “Released from Shame” class (using the book by the same name written by Sandra D. Wilson) that Dinah is offering in Show Low. There is such power in learning to identify the lies that we as women believe and to replace them with God’s TRUTH! So many women have been exposed to shame of one type or another. This can come from abuse (physical, verbal and/or sexual) or dysfunctional parenting. Most often, we parent the way we were parented. And unfortunately, many parents ‘shame’ their children without being aware of it. Shame causes the child to believe they ARE a mistake (not simply that they made a mistake). Here is a simple example: A child spills their glass of milk. A shaming response would be, “Look what you did! You are always so clumsy! Why can’t you keep from always making a mess?” The child feels condemned and thinks “no-one else spills their milk. I must be bad/wrong/a mistake”. Of course, the non-shaming response would be, “Oops, the milk spilled! I’ll get a paper towel and we’ll have this cleaned up in a moment.”

Women (and men, but our classes focus on women) so often need someone to walk along side them in becoming aware of the lies they ‘speak’ to themselves constantly. They need the truth of Bible verses to replace the lies that they believe. (Scripture cards like the ones shown on this page are given to our clients to post where they can see them daily.)

And **you** shall know
the **truth**, and
the **truth** shall
make **you free**.”
John 8:32

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:1-2

Often women who have been abused live with the belief that they deserved the abuse and somehow ‘caused’ it. Helping them realize this is not truth and that they are precious and loved by their Heavenly Father brings healing. It is process of recognizing lies and replacing them with truth.

“Thank you , Lord, that You are the way, the truth and the life! Please encourage women in our classes and clients to be brave in acknowledging their need for healing and to reach out for help. Thank you for your unconditional, understanding love, Lord Jesus. Please heal wounds and set the captives free by Your power. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

“For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”
Zephaniah 3:17

Living Hope Women's Center Update....by Lucy

"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. This is the key to your life." Deuteronomy 30:19-20a

This verse captures so much of what we, as Client Advocates at Living Hope Women's Centers share with our clients. We encourage them to **choose life**...whether it be for the newly-conceived baby in their womb, or for their children by improving their parenting skills, or for themselves and/or their relationships as they follow God's principles.

It is a challenge working at the center. Clients come sporadically. They don't show up for appointments or cancel numerous times. They bring their children who are disruptive during their classes, making it difficult for the parents to absorb the information being presented. Awful things happen. This last week a 10-day-old baby of a client died as a result of injuries incurred in an auto accident. A 19-year-old mother of an 11-month-old hung herself in her bedroom. A woman was murdered in the middle of the night for her bottle of whiskey. A client came in for a pregnancy test and admitted to being depressed and suicidal. Tough things. Lots of prayer and tears. But, this is where Jesus is and where He wants us!

"Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away His life in exchange for the many who are held hostage." Matthew 20:28 (MSG) **"Use us, Lord, to serve these people you have called us to. And as we serve others, you serve us. Thank you, Lord, Jesus!"**



Our friend from Tucson, Jackie and her baby Maria (with bottle) visit the Living Hope Women's Center. Shown with our client & pregnant mom, Tishinna and her two daughters, Raynaeya and Leenaeya

TO LEARN MORE CONTACT US!

520.404.5045 (Lucy voice or text)

520.245.2039 (Dennis voice)

928.468.3171 (Heart House in Show Low)

GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to:

Manos de Dios, NFP

2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715

or made on our website: ManosdeDios.org

More updates...

- Each of our five girls received “1st aid boxes” filled with encouragement for their time at home on the Reservation this summer. Boxes included a personalized CD of music to encourage and speak truth. The theme of many of the songs was God’s turning pain into beauty. Christian music artists included: Lauren Daigle, Superchick, Ellie Holcomb*, Plumb, and even Skillet (for Naomi and Drelyn!)
- Lucy was featured in a video produced to recruit volunteers for Living Hope Women’s Centers. To view cut and past this link:
<https://drive.google.com/a/livinghopecenters.org/file/d/oBxvt38N96t8lOEZiSoR2aXl6bVE/view?usp=sharing>
- Thearsa and Naomi will be attending church camp in Prescott June 22-26.
- All five girls have been invited for a weekend in July on a houseboat by our friends, Kent and Suzanne! It will be a wild, fun, wet weekend!
- Dennis and Lucy will be helping staff a booth for the Living Hope Women’s Centers at the Pow Wow to be held at HonDah Casino fairgrounds June 6 & 7.



Dad, Lucy and Dennis (Dad is teaching us to play golf while he visits the “Heart House”!)



***Lyrics for Ellie Holcomb’s
“The Broken Beautiful”**

I know that I don't bring a lot to the table
Just little pieces of a broken heart
There's days I wonder if You'll still be faithful
Hold me together when I fall apart?
Would You remind me now of who You are?

(Chorus) That Your love will never change,
that there's healing in your name
That You can take broken things,
and make them beautiful
You took my shame
And You walked out of the grave
So Your love can take broken things
and make them beautiful

I'm better off when I begin to remember
How You have met me in my deepest pain
So give me glimpses now of how You have covered
All of my heart ache, oh with all Your grace
Remind me now that You can make a way
Chorus

You say that You'll turn my weeping into dancing
Remove my sadness & cover me with joy
You say your scars are the evidence of healing
That You can make the broken beautiful.
You make us beautiful, oh oh