



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

## May 2014 Newsletter

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



*Jacy with her host parents, Dan & Sharon, and her parents, Leona & Jonathan*

**Drelyn** is our 'Apache daughter' who attended Theodore Roosevelt School on the grounds of the historic Fort Apache in Fort Apache, AZ (just south of Whiteriver). Her promotion ceremony was very different but just as important.

It was held outside on the parade grounds of the old Fort, a fitting place for a Native American activity. Many of the girls were dressed up in fancy prom-type dresses with high heeled shoes, and many boys had on suits and ties. Some girls were dressed in the traditional Native American clothing of their tribe along with beads and braided hair. The clothing and designs were beautiful to look at and showed the intricacies of finely handmade clothing (most likely by their mother or other female family member). In addition to just wanting to dress up the students have another, but sad, reason to make this day special. It seems that eighth-grade promotion is a time to get dressed up and have a big party celebration possibly because many of the Native students will drop out of school and not graduate from high school.

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### **Promotion Ceremonies!** *by Dennis*

**Lucy and I** went to see two of our girls being promoted to high school this May. Both girls are from the Apache Nation. The ceremonies were conducted 200 miles apart and were as different as night and day.

**Jacy** attended Desert Christian Middle School in Tucson and the ceremony was held at the school. Awards were given and several speeches were made. An 8th grade student spoke words of encouragement to the other students and thanked teachers, students, parents and God for the support and guidance they had received over the past year at Desert. The Headmaster also thanked God for the guidance He gives us

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*Drelyn with her sister, Riscilla*

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## Promotion Ceremonies! (Drelyn's celebration continued)



**The Salutatorian, dressed in traditional garb, delivers her speech in both the Apache Language and English.**

There were five speakers at their ceremony. Four traditional Native Americans and one white (that's what they call us) spoke. Their message were strong and encouraging but totally different from the non-Native (Jacy's) ceremony. Some of the speakers spoke in Apache at first and then translated their comments into English. There were many positive words spoken; thanks were expressed to fellow students, teachers, and staff; and Jesus was also mentioned as a point of inspiration. But what made their messages so different was that they pointed out some specific things the graduates need to follow to be successful (and the speakers unanimously agreed on these points). The students were told to stay in school and go on to college, not attach themselves to a member of the opposite sex for a serious relationship, not get pregnant and have a child, not to take drugs or drink alcohol, have a vision and stick to it, be proud of their heritage, get their education but not to forget their culture, and to come back to the Reservations and help others as they have been helped. The speeches were met with some enthusiastic applause from parents (including us)! When the valedictorian said these words she could not help but cry because she felt so strongly about these admonitions!

I had never heard speeches with this kind of content, but the words were true and necessary. So many kids drop out of school and wander aimlessly. Too many girls (as young as thirteen) have sex and get pregnant. Too many youth use drugs and alcohol to fill a need that should be filled by God and their parents (many times there is only one parent involved in their life and that parent may not be stable). And too many times there is little to no love shown to these children, no guidance or direction beyond what they observe (which is violence, alcoholism, drug addiction, promiscuous sex, and the acceptance of being on welfare and being OK with the status quo).



**U of A Miss Native American gives an enthusiastic speech, admonishing the graduates to dream big and work hard to accomplish their dreams! She is a beautiful example of doing just that!**

We were proud to see Drelyn walk across that stage and earn her certificate, especially knowing she had gone through some adversity to earn it. She stood tall, stayed close to the Lord, and did what it took to complete the task. Way to go, Drelyn!

As you may know, Drelyn has decided that she wants to attend Desert Christian High School in Tucson this fall for a variety of reasons, including learning more about Jesus. We are in need of a host family for her. So if you have room for another person in your home (and heart) pray about accepting Drelyn!

Contact us **520-404-5045** for more information!  
Thank you! ...Dennis



***Dennis, Drelyn & Lucy***

**"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." (Amen!)  
Jeremiah 29:11**



## Promotion Ceremonies (Jacy's celebration continued from page 1)



**Jonathan, Dan, Sharon, and Leona  
pray for Jacy at end of ceremony**



**Jacy with her  
closest  
middle school  
friend, Emily  
(after blessing  
prayers)**

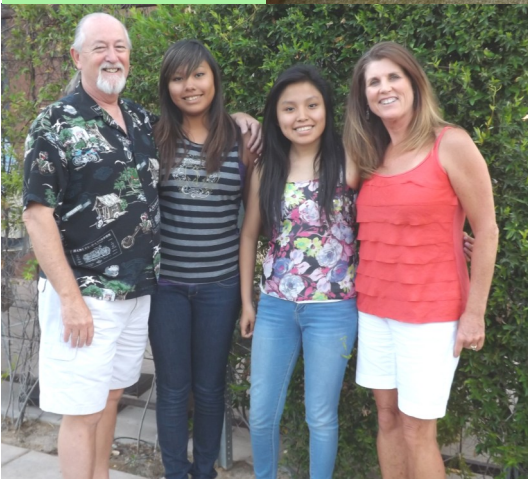
through Scripture and the Holy Spirit. He encouraged the students to continue to grow in their walk with the Lord and to go on to obtain a higher education (college degree). There was a lot of emphasis on Jesus and the need for Him in our lives and to live as a role model for Christ as others are watching how we act and react.

Then, we broke into small groups composed of a teacher, two or three students, and those who were there to support the students. The teacher then prayed a blessing over the graduating students. He or she talked a little about their successes and walk with the Lord, and gave them encouraging words for the future.

The teacher asked the others in the group to tell who they were and who they were supporting. Responses were common until Jacy's mother, Leona, introduced herself. Her comments were far deeper than common. Leona began by thanking the school for allowing Jacy to be a student there and for making her (and her family) welcome. She also thanked God for the opportunity Jacy has to receive a good education and at the same time receive solid instruction from God's Word. And she thanked Lucy and me for coordinating and making it possible for Jacy to attend school at Desert Christian. She then thanked her host family for accepting her and making her feel at home in their house. These were exceptional words because generally Apache mothers are women of few words when they are outside their community. They are quiet and reserved around strangers and for her to make these comments took a lot of courage. You could sense they were from her heart. Those words that night showed progress and growth. Progress and growth between mother and daughter, student and teacher and between the Apache and the White cultures. And I pray that I am right when I say Jesus must have been pleased also!

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

**Jacy's choice of  
footwear for her  
promotion  
ceremony:  
traditional  
Apache moccasins!  
(love it!)**



**What a special year this has been! Together with their host  
families we commemorated a successful school year at  
Desert Christian School for Riscilla and Jacy!**

**Shown above:**

**Dan, Sharon, Lucy, Jacy, Riscilla, Dennis and Rena.**



# Ongoing projects at (His) Heart House ...by Dennis

Who gives up a Saturday and Sunday on a holiday weekend to put a metal roof on a house that is not their own? A true friend and one that serves his neighbor as Jesus taught us to do.

Well, the house that got the new roof was the Manos de Dios Heart House (named for God's great love). This is the home that God allowed us to purchase in Show Low AZ to further our mission activities on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in northern Arizona. We did not have *just* one friend dedicate his weekend to helping us, we had 7 men and 2 wives! I don't know why God has blessed us so, but we are eternally grateful to have such friends and supporters to count as blessings in our life and mission!

The preceding Wednesday and Thursday there were high winds, clouds and slight rain. Friday was windy and cold. Needless to say I was concerned because if it was windy on Saturday we would not be able to install the metal roof that was purchased (and delivered to the front yard). We also needed to get the roof on before the monsoons started. Thankfully, Saturday started with only a few clouds, no wind, and comfortable temperatures. The Lord took care of us and kept things quiet. We started at 8:30am and by 2:30 pm we were finished and the Heart House had a snug, new roof! And most importantly no one fell off the roof! Praise the Lord!

It was a busy weekend to say the least. While **Rick** (our foreman), **Ry**, **Kelly**, **Stephen**, **Mike** and **Vonn** were working on the roof **Jack** was in the house putting on cabinet doors, doing some plumbing and fixing electrical problems. And being the general contractor in charge, I did the hard stuff like making breakfast, going to Ace Hardware to get supplies, and seeing that beverages were provided.

While all this was going on there were two carpet installers tacking down the carpet in all the rooms except the kitchen. The two original installers did not finish the job on Friday and said they would come back Monday. I guess the owner of the company found out about the unsatisfactory work of his employees and called at 7:30pm to apologize. He stated that he was sending out two men from the Phoenix office first thing Saturday morning and they would finish the job. That was taking responsibility for a problem and fixing it immediately! And we were blessed to be able to share lunch with these two dedicated workers.

In addition to this Memorial Day weekend work project, small groups of men have come up at least 3 other times to do remodeling and our friend **Jack** (and wife, **Sheryl**) has helped us 5 other times!

Lucy and I have faith that the reason we have received so many blessings toward this house is that the Lord has a vision for this house and wants it used for His purposes, whatever they are.

We can't thank these men and women enough for the hard work they have done to make the house a beautiful place! It is truly a house put together with love and for the sake of love.



**Volunteers put new metal roof on Heart House**



**Heart House with beautiful new brown metal roof**



**Memorial Day weekend work team:  
Stephen and Rick  
Dennis, Lucy, Jack, Vonn, Kelly, and Ry  
Linda, Mike and Denise**

**“What funds are being used for the Heart House?”** asked one of our supporters/friends. Good question! We cashed in one of Dennis’ personal IRA’s to purchase the Heart House (at the foreclosure price of \$35,000) . We have received some significant donations specifically designated for ‘work on the Heart House’! Those funds purchased the new plumbing, flooring, paint, fixtures, window coverings etc. As you may remember, we were given a “Casita” trailer last fall by our generous friends. They specifically designated that we could use this RV OR sell it to support our ministry. When it became obvious that the Heart House roof needed to be replaced and a driveway installed, God provided a buyer for the “Casita”. We thank God for surrounding us with so many friends who love Jesus and are willing to support the ministry God has laid on our hearts!

The day-to-day expenses (including utilities) of the Heart House ministry home in Show Low will be covered by Manos de Dios funds (provided by our contributors). Thanks for asking!

Summer update!

“ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.” Peter 1: 3-5



- **Drelyn, Riscilla and Jacy** (shown above) attend a Basketball Camp at Desert Christian High School to prepare for high school athletic teams.
- **Nicole, Thearsa and Naomi** attend a Study Skills class at Desert Christian K-8 school to prepare for the academic requirements of their new school.
- Lucy helps Nicole’s mom, **Virginia** in applying for jobs online, learning computer skills, and using Godly parenting skills.
- **Dennis’** back continues to heal after his surgeries. He enjoys being able to work on the Heart House and at our home in Tucson.
- **Laura and Trampas (Foster Connect)** Please join them in praying for wisdom as they consider fostering-to-adopt a 9-year-old boy with some challenging needs due to severe neglect. Asking God to direct CPS to make the best decision for this boy for the long run.
- **Dennis and Lucy** enjoy extending hospitality at the Heart House to many visitors! God’s presence and peace can be sensed by all who visit!
- Dennis and Lucy continue to pray for a move of **God’s transforming power** in their lives and the lives of the White Mountain Apache people.
- **Sarah (Radical Reclaim)** plans a trip back east to share her calling with friends and family. She is trusting God for provision for this trip and for the coming school year as she reaches out with God’s love to the youth on the Reservation.





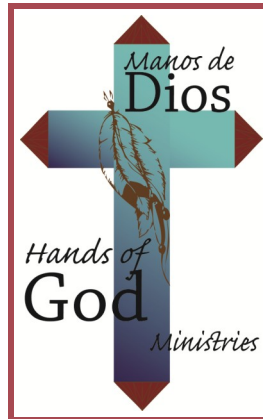
Dennis with "his girls" in Tucson:  
Jacy and Riscilla



## 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



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with indigenous people in  
northern Arizona and Mexico*

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**Prasie God for host families!**

We are so thankful to announce that **four host families** have committed to open their homes and hearts to **five Apache girls** who desire to attend Desert Christian School for the 2014/2015 school year! God has orchestrated these connections so perfectly and beyond what we could imagine. ***"Thank you, Lord!"*** One more host home is needed for **Drelyn**, who will be a freshman.

We ask for your continued prayers for the six girls that will be coming to Desert Christian School in the fall. We ask God to keep them **safe** and help them **make good choices** on the Reservation this summer. We are also praying that tuition scholarships will be provided for all six girls! **Thank you!**

**For Arizona Residents:** You may designate your Arizona Income Tax dollars to the schooling of one or more of these girls. Single filers may give \$528 to the original program and \$525 to the plus program (for a total of \$1053) for the 2014 tax year. Married filing jointly may give \$1056 to the original program and \$1050 to the plus program (for a total of \$2106) for the 2014 tax year. You may contribute up until the time you file or no later than April 15, 2015. Donate at one of two Christian organizations: **IBEScholarships.org** or **ACSTO.org** . They will even set up monthly donation plans! Please designate your tax dollars to one or more of these new students attending Desert Christian School:  
***Naomi Benally, Thearsa Benally, Nicole Massey and/or Drelyn Baha.***