



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

May 2013 Newsletter



8th grade promotion for Riscilla



Lucy, Riscilla & Dennis

Riscilla and two other 8th grade students graduated from AICM (American Indian Christian Mission School) on May 21st. The promotion celebration included not only honoring the 8th graders but also the other students with excellence awards from teachers. We had the special privilege of praying a prayer of blessing over Riscilla. God proclaims times to bless* and certainly this time of graduation and moving on to high school is one of them! We proclaimed God's blessing over Riscilla and declared that He has an awesome plan for her life. What a special culmination of the school year!

Riscilla's family (mother, uncles, grandparents and cousins) attended and celebrated her and her accomplishment. After the ceremony, AICM kitchen staff provided a wonderful lunch for all the families and students.

It was a bittersweet day of celebration and goodbyes. After the luncheon the 8th graders were excused, packed all their belongings and moved home. The other students had two more days at AICM before going home to the reservation for the summer.

Gratefully, Lucy

*** "The blessing of the LORD be upon you! We bless you in the name of the LORD!"**

Psalm 129:8



Riscilla's mom, Stephanie, with Riscilla at 8th grade promotion



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The end of the school year at AICM...by Dennis

Monday May 20th began the last week of school at AICM. With the kids getting out of school in just a few days they were not very excited. They were still excited about playing in the gym, but the usual spark and chaos seemed to have diminished. Some were making comments such as, “I don’t want to go home,” “I wish school was not over,” “I don’t want tomorrow to come,” and “I want to stay here.”



Our six girls take one last swim together at AICM pool

Our girls were no different. One even questioned us “Can I go with you to Tucson?” There was sadness on many faces and the dorm was unusually quiet the last few days of school.

The problem was that reality had set in. The kids realized that in a few days they would be leaving and not coming back to school until August. And many would not be coming back at all. The kids realized that they would be spending the summer on the reservation and for many that was not a pleasant thought. It was not that they were going to miss school and studying that saddened them. I think it is the fact that they were actually going to miss the love, dedication, compassion, consistency, and safety that the dorm parents provided for them while living at AICM. Even if they did

not want to admit it, many of them learned to love us as we grew to love them during the last nine months.

Saying goodbye was a bittersweet experience for Lucy and me. Even though we had a difficult time in the beginning with some of the girls (four of them were expelled by December; one left and never came back) we loved and cherished our girls. They were family to us (and still are)! Looking back, we have learned so much! Isn’t it just like God that when we surrender to serve Him, He uses the experience to change us?

Our experience with some of our girls is not over because the Lord has not cut the ties we have with them. We are called to stay involved in the lives of our girls (and others as time goes by) and two of our girls will be going to school in Tucson. (See next page!)

It seems that the only thing left to do was to apply for scholarships to help pay for tuition, books and personal needs for the girls that will be going to school in Tucson in the fall. We are applying for scholarships and praying that we can find individuals that will be willing to give extra support to Manos de Dios so we can help with some of these expenses. We will keep you informed of our progress (and the girls)!

Dennis Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

Two girls will attend Tucson schools in the fall!

...by Lucy

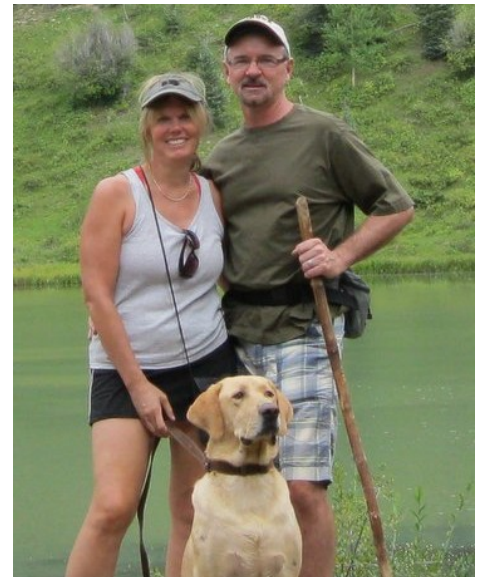


Riscilla will be attending Desert Christian High School in Tucson!
Tom & Nina, with their 9-year-old daughter, Emma, will be hosting her.
Praise God for His wonderful plan!



Jacy will be attending 8th grade at Desert Christian K-8 School in Tucson.
Sharon and Dan, with their dogs Sagen and Kumba (not shown), will be providing a home for Jacy while she goes to school!

God's faithfulness is overwhelming!



God is so good and so faithful! Earlier this spring Riscilla and Jacy had come to us asking us to help them get off the reservation to go to school next year. We didn't know where to start, but we knew to begin with prayer. We asked God to direct us and to provide for these precious girls. God has so wonderfully directed every step of the way. We now have schools for the girls to attend. Riscilla is enrolled in Desert Christian High School and Jacy will attend Desert Christian K-8 School. God has provided wonderful host families for each of the girls! (see photos above)

Accompanied by Jacy's and Riscilla's moms, I went to the White Mountain Apache Tribal Court and was able to finalize the appropriate paperwork for the girls to leave the reservation and attend school in Tucson. Praise God for favor He gives us with others, including court judges!

Our relationship with Riscilla's and Jacy's families has grown into a beautiful trust-filled partnership. They appreciate what Manos de Dios is doing for their girls so much. They know it will be so much better for their thirteen-year-old girls to get away from the reservation for school. They are delighted they will be attending a Christian school and living with a Christian family. Jacy's and Riscilla's families will miss their girls, of course, but they trust that this sacrifice will be worth it!

We are so grateful to God for His provision and His love!Lucy Lucy@ManosdeDios.org

Departing from AICM

...by Dennis and Lucy

It is with sadness but conviction that we inform you that we are leaving AICM (American Indian Christian Mission). Yes, our position as Older Dorm Parents has ended due to budget cuts. But, what has made it clear that we are not to apply for another position or volunteer there at this time is a difference in doctrine. The mission is choosing to adhere to strict Church of Christ/Christian Church doctrine and requiring this doctrine be exclusively taught on the campus. The most important point that we can't agree with is that baptism is a condition of salvation. In other



words, one is NOT saved until after they are submerged in baptism. We believe that we are saved by grace and the blood of Jesus alone. (See Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 11:6, & John 3:16.) We believe that scripture tells us baptism is an act of obedience and not a condition of salvation. (If you would like more information we suggest you research Church of Christ doctrine or contact AICM directly.)

We are still firmly committed to reaching Native Americans for Christ and love our brothers and sisters working at this similar mission-calling at AICM. We so appreciate the time we had at AICM, both volunteering and working. We have made wonderful, close friends by being at AICM and have learned so much! And, of course, we met our precious six Apache girls (see photo) that will have a lasting impact on our lives. We thank God for every moment we were a part of AICM!

With this change we are excited to see what doors God will open for us. We are looking forward to having more time to make and grow relationships with people on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. We have God-given favor with the parents of the students and feel called to strengthen and build on these friendships. God is opening doors even now for more Apaches to 'discover God', to be discipled....and then disciple others. A true Gospel Planting Movement!

“Thank you, Lord, for this time we had at AICM. We appreciate all you are doing in our lives and in and through the lives of the staff, volunteers, students, and summer campers at AICM.

We pray for AICM and ourselves. We ask that You pour out Your Spirit of love, joy, grace, and truth on all! May we know and carry out Your will. Remind us that it is ALL about YOU. Have Your way in us, Lord! Use us to spread Your Good News of redeeming love to all, especially Native Americans.

In Jesus' powerful, precious name we pray. Amen.”

changes...

...by Lucy



Brad & Leslie with some of "their" Apache girls



Nicole at her new home with Brad & Leslie

So many GOOD changes...God is good all the time!

When school finished it was obvious it would be difficult for Nicole to go home to her family on the rez. We contacted another ministry to Native Americans, Kingdom Flight, about taking Nicole. Brad and Leslie (see photos to left) prayed about it and decided to invite her to live with them in their home with six other Apache girls (ages 3-8). They home school the children, love them and disciple them in their walk with the Lord. Nicole is very happy there and may stay for a while!

Laura and Trampas Johnston, the Little Girls' dorm parents, also left AICM due to doctrinal differences. They have purchased a home in Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ. God is leading them to begin foster parenting Apache girls. They hope to be ready for two children in the fall. They are coming under our Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries until they form their own mission organization. Welcome Laura and Trampas!

We have moved back to our Tucson home for the summer. Dad is glad to have us home after 'holding down the fort' alone for nine months. We will be going back and forth to the rez plus enjoying some family time and vacationing. We thank God for providing and sustaining our home in Tucson! We always feel like it is a 'retreat' when we return to it!



Laura & Trampas with son, Keaton, will be starting a foster home for Apache children

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (ESV)



Contact us:

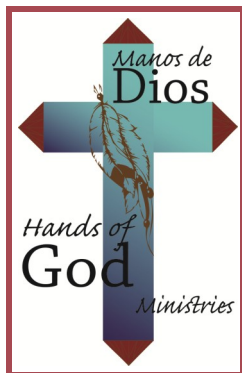
520-404-5045 (Lucy voice or text)
520-245-2039 (Dennis voice or text)
GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

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

**Lucy, Jacy and
Drelyn on a visit to
Tucson schools**

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

Lucy and Dennis



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



Please pray...

- That our lives, attitudes, and words would reflect Jesus!
- For our trip to and from Lake City, Colorado taking three of our girls to a Christian Adventure Camp for a week!
- For Laura and Trampas as they prepare for foster kids: relationship with Tribal CPS (Child Protective Services), preparing their new home, and seeking His will for all the lives this will touch.
- For Jacy and Riscilla as they come to Tucson in August to go to school. The first few weeks (months??) may be difficult. Ask God to help them have the strength and perseverance to stick with their (harder) school work, living away from family, and submerging in a non-Native culture.
- That we would be in tune with the direction God has for our ministry beginning in the fall.

Thank you! And to God be all the glory and praise!