



This Newsletter includes...

- Trip to pick up donated SCHOOL BUS!
- Reaching out to WILDFIRE EVACUEES in AZ
- What's going on with Dennis & Lucy
- Prayer requests

Manos de Dios...

“Hands of God” Ministries

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June 2011

THE BUS!

Three years ago Lucy and I spoke at a Rotary Club meeting in Tucson about Manos de Dios and our ministry. We mentioned that we needed donations of cars, vans and buses for pastors we serve. At the end of the meeting a man approached us and offered us the donation of a school bus. The only ‘hitch’ was that we would have to go to Wisconsin to pick it up. After praying, talking to pastors in Mexico and looking at our financial situation we decided that this was not the time to accept the offer.

This winter I was prompted to remember the offer and it was on my mind to consider it. For some reason (only the Holy Spirit knew at this time) I was led to see if the person was in Tucson again and if the offer still held. He was and it did!

So, a 71 passenger bus was donated to Manos de Dios and I could pick it up the first week of June. Now, what was I going to do with it? It was too big and expensive to operate for our pastor partners in Mexico Plus, there are many complications and expenses in getting a diesel vehicle across the border! And, even if we did get it into Mexico, the bus would likely get stuck in the sand if used in the barrio. I knew God had a plan for it, I just had to be patient and wait for the answer to my question.

About six weeks later we were facilitating a Love and Respect Conference at The Rock Church of Sahuarita and Pastor Tim was sitting next to me. I was prompted to ask him if his church needed a bus. His reply was, “We have been praying for a bus!” I said, “Pray no more! I have one for you. Plans were made for Brian (the youth pastor and future driver of the bus) and me to fly to Wisconsin and drive the bus back to Tucson.

Fast forward to June 6th. The town where we would go to get the bus was so small there was no shuttle service from the airport 100 miles away. Thankfully, our friends, Barb and Frank (supporter and Board



Brian, Youth Pastor of The Rock of Sahuarita church, drives donated bus



71 passenger bus donated to Manos de Dios by bus company in Wisconsin!

The Bus, continued

member of Manos de Dios) invited me to fly to their community of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and stay with them a few days. Frank volunteered to drive us to pick up the bus (a 4 hour drive from his house). Brian planned to fly into Cedar Rapids later in the week. We would pick him up and then head for Wisconsin.

I had a wonderful time with Frank and Barb and was shown all around their community. Three years ago it was severely damaged by flooding and they are still recovering from that disaster. The damage was unbelievable, but with the blessings of the Lord and the Christian community working together they are recovering and growing stronger.

The ride to Wisconsin was beautiful! There was water in the rivers and the trees and grass were so green my eyes almost hurt from looking at them! And it was cool. Not 'cool man' but cool in temperature. When we picked up the bus Friday morning it was 50 degrees.

As we took off from the bus yard we discovered a **flat nose** bus was not designed for high speed driving on the highway. And, although we would not need it until later, the bus did not have air conditioning! All in all, Friday was a good day. We drove almost 700 miles (thanks to Brian), kept cool (thanks to a little rain and cooler temperatures) and the bus rolled along at a brisk 65 mph. We stayed the night in the Kansas City, Missouri area.



Dennis takes a turn driving the donated bus

Saturday was when it started to get hot! And on top of that, heat from the engine was **cooking** the right leg of the driver! (The motor cover was in the center next to the driver seat). Going thru Oklahoma and the panhandle of Texas seemed to take 2 days in itself! (That's where I got my taste of driving the bus.) However, just before dusk we pulled into a motel in Tucumcari, NM. It was good to get off the BUS!

With a good meal, clean sheets and a cool shower Saturday night, we awoke Sunday morning refreshed and ready to go. However, it got hot quickly and our makeshift fan sitting on the floor got a work out! We tried to stop in San Antonio, NM to get a world famous green chili cheeseburger from a little restaurant that I saw on the cooking channel last year, but it was closed on Sundays! So we went on to Hatch, NM and had a good Mexican meal for lunch.

As we traveled west on I-10, close to the Arizona border, I started seeing smoke from forest fires that were raging to the south. From there to Benson I must have seen 7 separate large fires covering the desert and the mountains. Traveling in the bus with no air conditioner gave me just a little sample of how difficult it must be for those fire-fighters to work in those conditions. The real truth of it is unimaginable to me.

All along the trip we had been praying for good weather and for the bus not to break down until we made it to Sahuarita. Well, our prayers were answered. We had discovered that the bus would start to overheat if we went 65 mph so we only went 62 on the hotter days. But, the closer we got to town the more the heat light and bell came on. The last 5 miles of the trip the warning light was constant. Then, when we pulled up in front of Pastor Tim's house and got out of the bus, a river of water and anti freeze/coolant poured out of the radiator and down the street. It finally overheated, but it did it after we arrived, thank you Lord! After talking to a truck driver, we discovered that the pressure cap on the radiator is most likely set to warm up fast because it is colder in Wisconsin and we just may need a new cap that is set to overheat at a higher temperature.

No matter what happened, how hot it got or how long the days seemed, Brian and I loved every minute of the trip and were blessed by being able to do it. And I was blessed to have Brian to go along with me. He drove almost all the way, never complained about my service (served him water, diet coke, and doughnuts when he was hungry and thirsty) and had a Christ like attitude that is hard to match. I would go anywhere with this Christian man and serve with him gladly! Thank you, Brian!

"Ask and you shall receive." Thank you, Lord, for the bus.

Dennis Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

Reaching out to wildfire evacuees in Lakeside, AZ

While Dennis was going to get the bus, Kent, Suzanne and I felt compelled to make a trip to the White Mountains of Arizona where the Wallow fire had caused many communities to be evacuated. We contacted a pastor in the area and was welcomed to come. We set up camp (in our RV Trailer) in a primitive campground where many wildfire evacuees were living. We got to know our 'neighbors' and invited them to our trailer for a hotdog lunch. We had a chance to encourage and pray with many of the evacuees as they enjoyed lunch!

Later we set up our "God Dogs" station at a church next door to the high school where the Red Cross had set up an evacuee base. We were blessed to feed and encourage more folks as they waited for news about their homes. A news station from Phoenix even included us in their faith story. Here's the link: <http://www.azcentral.com/video/988965724001>

Pastor Bob, of Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship in Springerville decided to schedule a worship service there in the auditorium of the High School Sunday morning. We helped hand out flyers to invite evacuees to the service. We enjoyed getting to know many from his church, many of whom had been evacuated, too! We ate meals at the pastor's home, prayed together, and felt a part of this church body!



Cooking and serving lunch for evacuees in campground, Lakeside, AZ

When we were getting ready to return home the news broke that families could return to their homes in Springerville and Eagar. The air quality was still poor, but those wanting to, could go check on the condition of their home.

Many evacuees were very open to talking about God and expressed thankfulness that their families were safe. They were concerned about their homes and possessions but agreed that they could be replaced. God's Spirit encouraged them with His love for them. They felt comforted by knowing that people cared enough about them to visit with them, prepare food and pray with them.

Loving God, Lucy

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Pastor Bob and wife Michelle (center) showed us wonderful hospitality in their home.



Kent, Patricia, Suzanne, Leeann, and Lucy (plus dogs) prayed with and encouraged evacuees.

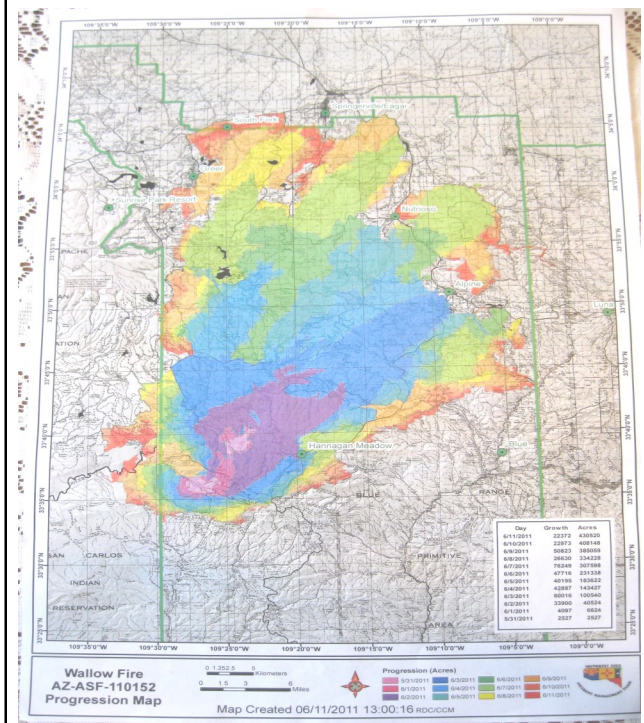
A message from Suzanne

WOW! What an adventure Kent, Lucy and I had when we felt led by our Lord to go to Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ to work with the fire evacuees from the Wallow Fire! God is so good, and He truly shows Himself to us when we are obedient to His calling. We partnered with Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship out of Springerville, AZ, a small Church who also had been evacuated into Lakeside, AZ. We arrived on a Friday evening to the most welcoming Pastor (Pastor Bob) and gang of brothers & sisters imaginable. Everyone was so warm, kind and ready to jump in with us and begin ministering to the evacuees, even though they too were evacuees. We brought along with us Chaco, Lucy's Golden Retriever and Stella, my Standard Poodle who both proudly wore their "Prayer Dog" banners and loved on all the folks. Kent hoisted his FREE "God Dogs" banner and grilled hundreds of hotdogs, handed out countless chips, endless watermelon slices and water to all who were hungry in body and spirit. Lucy was a tremendous prayer warrior who shared and cared on so many people who were feeling lost and I loved on anyone who would let me! We chose to camp in a very primitive campground along side the evacuees and we were able to pray over the campgrounds, the people, share food, listen to their stories and simply let them know that they were not forgotten by us or God. Each evening we would go over to Pastor Bob's home for dinner. Although Pastor Bob's Church is in Springerville, he and his family live in Lakeside. The first evening we pulled in for dinner at Pastor Bob's, we realized that a good portion of his displaced Church was living with him and his family! What a servant to open his home to his displaced flock and what an example of "What would Jesus Do?" to us! It was like a big warm family at Thanksgiving, cooking food, telling stories of the day, laughing, and best of all, praying together as the body of Christ before calling it a day.

We look so forward to returning to our "family" in Christ in Springerville to serve again in the near future.... Suzanne



Suzanne and Lucy at Pastor Bob's home



Map of Wallow Fire progression May 31 to June 11. Each color shows a separate day.



Kent and Pastor Bob hit it off ...plus enjoyed food & fellowship.

What's Dennis studying & doing?

Let's see, I have been studying the Psalms in relation to how they tell of the coming of Jesus. I am learning a lot about how, why and by whom the Psalms are written. I am also doing studies on Psalms 58; end of times as they relate to today's activities: and false teachers/prophets and how they relate to today. And, I am preparing to write articles (messages/blogs) on all these studies! I have contacted people to translate more of my blog messages into Spanish for my Spanish blog. FYI, for my studies I use the NKJV study Bible, the Quest study Bible, the Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord and Zuck, the NIV Study Bible and the internet for references and confirmation. I am also working on developing discipleship material to use in study groups in Mexico and the States. *Reading and studying scripture is a daily activity in my life.*

Some how (I don't know who signed me up) I keep getting Christian books in the mail and the latest one I finished reading is "Standing Strong" by John MacArthur. I would highly recommend it!

For the past six weeks I have been collecting clothing (and sorting, checking and packaging), food and household item to send/take to the victims of the many disasters in the United States. We plan on going to a disaster area to assist in early July.

Prayer requests

* For evacuees due to tornadoes, wildfires or floods...that God would be their EVERYTHING!

- For children that will be attending Vacation Bible School programs in Mexico...that they will KNOW how much God loves them and chose to love Him, too!
- For our trip to help with disaster relief. That we would be used by God in HIS plan to comfort, encourage and help those affected. Safe travel, God-appointments, Spiritual wisdom, and open doors to share Jesus, His love and His grace! (trip July 5-19, 2011)

Note from Lucy

"What are we to do?" It's the question we have been coming back to often. We were asking this and praying specifically for an answer to this question...when we sensed the answer..."I have already told you." We responded, "Oh, that's right!" We recalled, "***And you must love the Lord Your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength.***" Mark 12:30

We sensed God directing us to Love Him more deeply! This is serious. "OK, God. We will set aside time to focus on loving You more deeply. We want to surrender all that is keeping us from loving You. Show us!" So, we began a period of 40 days to focus on this! We are spending time in worship, prayer and study separately and together. We are looking up every scripture about "love" from our concordance. We are asking God to ignite a passion of love for Him in us. One day a week we are 'getting away' from all distractions to worship and focus. God is good! He is taking us from where we are and moving us toward Him. Guess what? The messages at both our Wednesday evening and Sunday morning church services this week were about 'loving God passionately'! (Two different pastors and churches!) "OK, God, you have our attention! Have Your way in us!" "***You Reign!***"

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