



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

## June 2012 Newsletter



# KIDS LEARNING ABOUT JESUS!

Summer is a great time for camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS)! In June we helped with camps held at American Indian Christian Mission (AICM) and VBS on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. We love spending time with the kids. Some are very warm and open. Others are guarded and rebellious. We pray for patience and the right words to say as we remember the difficult home life of many of these children. (See page 2 for more photos.)



**Dennis admires the cross with Bible verse 'craft' of one VBS participant. The week's theme was "Love your neighbor as yourself."**

**"One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could lay His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Him.**

**But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.' And He placed His hands on their heads and blessed them before He left."**  
**Matthew 19:13-15**

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**Above:** Dennis teaches Bible Stories at 7 thru 9 year olds camp at AICM

**Right:** Campers loved Chaco, our Golden Retriever. He helped some of the shy and/or resistant children open up to our love (Jesus' love ) for them.

**Below:** Swimming is the favorite activity at camp (for Chaco, too!)



Apache boy campers: "Boys will be boys!" See also story on page 3 about Japheth (boy on far right)\*



## Summer Camps at AICM!



Dennis has the chance to show "safe," fatherly love to the girl campers!



## Vacation Bible School in Whiteriver on the White Mountain Apache Reservation



*Please pray that the seeds that are planted through these VBS programs will GROW and develop fruit. Pray, also, that Manos de Dios will have the opportunity to return to these communities to develop relationships with moms and dads of these children we have come to love.*  
*Thank you!...Lucy*

### ***\*The hardest heart sheds the first tears.***

One of the young boys in the 7 thru 9 year old camp at AICM was a 'handful'! He started out being very quiet while observing all that was going on. Soon the quietness turned to defiance, a refusing to sit still and a desire not to participate in the camp activities. Even with this attitude we could see compassion and goodness in him waiting to come out. The problem was, how do we get him to make the change? Through prayer, patience and finding things for him to do that gave him purpose, he became involved, was helpful and even had fun! However, on the last day while in the line to get breakfast he became involved in a fight with another boy. When we pulled them apart there was a look of serious anger and sadness we had not seen before and was not what is seen in the eyes of a typical 9 year old.

When it was time to get on the van for the ride home to the Rez, this hardened, angry, and stubborn boy that originally did not want to participate, was the first to shed a tear and ask if he could stay. He did not want to go home! The story behind his actions speaks volumes on what his life must be like. And this is just one child and one story out of who-knows how many. I ask you to please pray for the children on the Rez and the pain and suffering they are going through. You do not need to know the details. Jesus knows their situation. Please pray for these children! We trust that the Holy Spirit will intervene for them through you. Thank you!

Dennis

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***Apache children simply want love and enjoy hearing the stories about Jesus!***





# Comments from Dennis

It was hot in June (yes, even in the White Mountains of Arizona!), but that did not stop the planned 'Kingdom work'. There were summer camps for the Native American kids AICM, bus outreach programs in Whiteriver and McNary, and Bible study and jail ministry programs in Whiteriver. There were also work projects to do on the property at AICM. One



Dennis paints inside of 4-bedroom cabin for new AICM Executive Director's family

of the projects I worked on was to paint the inside of a 4-bedroom house for the new incoming Executive Director. Another responsibility I had was to give the daily Bible message to the kids at the 7 thru 9 year old camp. It was challenging, but I loved every minute of it.

On a more serious note, I find that no matter how much time we spend with and around the Apache people I always seem to learn something new about them and their culture. The way they look at life is completely different then the way we (Anglos) do. It is the same with their religion and how they perceive the Creator. It is going to take a lot of studying and getting to know the people in the community in order to be versed in their ways and be able to be accepted. Even though most of the time we are treated with respect and Apache people have been polite, some Apaches still have animosity, distrust, resentment and hostility toward 'White Men' that needs to be addressed.



Jesus is on the reservation. Many people 'believe in Jesus' but feel they can keep some of their Apache religious beliefs and customs. That is a hurdle that will take some time to overcome. (See Exodus verse below)

*"You must not have any other god but Me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods."*

Exodus 20:3-5



*Rosie and Ellie teach Dennis to make Indian Fry Bread Navajo ~ style!*



## Weekly Bible Study goes on in Apache jail



Jail facility in Whiteriver, AZ on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. This facility is only about 2 years old.

Pastor Pete and Kim have been going into the Apache jail in Whiteriver for many years. They encourage, minister to, and study the Bible with the men and women prisoners each Monday. I had the privilege of going in with Kim last week. We entered a room housing 26 Apache women. Most were still in bed at 11AM. (Some were sleeping on mats on the floor as there were not enough beds.) We began talking with them and then shared some from our Bibles. A few of the women responded to us and soon many were speaking up with concerns, stories, and prayer requests. We found out that they gather together for a Bible Study each evening and 4 women had come to a saving knowledge of Jesus there in the jail. Praise God! I was impacted to learn that there are NO activities offered to these incarcerated women. They spend ALL their time (night and

day) in this room together. They occasionally get to go outside (once a week) to the small yard shown in the photo. Wow! What a hard way to sober up (most are in on drug or alcohol charges) and 'serve your time'! Praise God that they can have Bibles (but no pens to journal) and His Spirit is at work there! I had the chance to pray with and encourage a couple of women individually. One of them will be in jail until December!

***Please pray for these women. Listed here are their specific prayer requests:***

- that they would continue their daily Bible Study together
- that they take this time to 'be still and know that He is God'
- that God would be with their children, husbands and parents during this time that they are incarcerated
- that God would be with the family of a fellow inmate who was recently released and subsequently committed suicide
- that they would have favor with judges and be released quickly 😊

***Thankful for freedom everyday, Lucy***

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



**Kim and Pete Kemp of White Mountain Apache Christian Church (with their foster daughter, Butterfly)**

***Suggested prayer for women in jail...*** "I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." **Amen!**

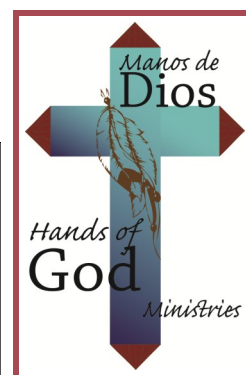
**Ephesians 3:16-17 (NLT)**





**Lucy & Dennis Smith**  
took time for R & R,  
visiting a lavender farm  
in Concho, AZ

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



## **Contact us:**

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

## **Read and respond to **Dennis' blogs:****

**<http://manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com/>**

**<http://manosdediosoutreach.blogspot.com/>**

**<http://manosdediosspanish.blogspot.com/>**

**Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:**

**2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715 or be made on our  
website: [ManosdeDios.org](http://ManosdeDios.org)**



## **Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship's *Love & Respect* 6-week follow-up course**

***Lucy and I are enjoying our time with the people from CHCF and facilitating this marriage enrichment 6-week class. We travel over from AICM each Thursday, spend the night in our 17-foot trailer that is parked behind the church, and enjoy time with our friends in this community of Springerville/Eager. We are learning from scripture how to improve our relationships, how to show love & respect, and how to allow Jesus' teachings to be our model when we get on the 'crazy cycle' in our marriages. People in the group have been honest and open about their struggles (including Lucy and me) and we are learning and growing as we trust in the God's Words as found in scripture to guide us....Dennis***

***Ron Hutchcraft Ministries puts on a Warrior Leadership Summit every summer for Native American youth. Ten youth from the White Mountains area were among the 650 that attended this life-transforming conference. We hope to get a report soon of how their lives were impacted and how God is going to use them to reach their family and friends for Christ! For more info check out the website: <http://wls.hutchcraft.com/>***