

Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

June 2013 Newsletter



Girls enjoy Camp Redcloud in Colorado! *By Lucy*



Riscilla, Nicole & Jacy @ Camp



Jacy and Riscilla rock climbing



Red Mountain near camp in CO

Riscilla, Jacy and Nicole had the privilege of attending Camp Redcloud (CampRedcloud.org) in Lake City, CO June 16-21! The Christian adventure camp challenged them physically and spiritually! The girls stayed in bunk-style cabins, allowing them the opportunity to get to know other girls their age and their wonderful counselors. Riscilla and Jacy followed the "Adventure Explorer" track which included challenges such as a zip line, a hike to a 14,000 foot summit, an overnight camp-out, and a rope challenge course. All activities were paired with lessons that emphasized truths about God and His Word. They were challenged to trust God with their fears of the 'unknown' and do so much more than they ever believed they could!

The girls were so impressed with the beauty of Colorado! The views were spectacular and the cooler temperatures were refreshing! The lakes, rivers and streams added to the beauty and coolness of this unique camp environment. (Cont'd on pg 2)

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth."*

Psalm 121:1-2



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Camp Redcloud (continued)



Nicole attended the Western Horsemanship track. She sharpened her skills and made new friends!



Nicole was our only camper who attended the horse camp. She loved it and learned new horsemanship skills. As with the adventure camp, the staff used the lessons on the horses to reinforce Biblical stories, teaching the campers truths and helping them remember those truths!



Riscilla, Jacy, and Nicole all reported that their faith grew during this camp experience and they felt closer to Jesus! Praise God for this wonderful experience for these White Mountain Apache girls! What an opportunity to see different parts of our country, meet many different (kinds of) people, experience new activities and know beyond a shadow of a doubt how much God loves them!

Our God is so good! **Lucy** Lucy@ManosdeDios.org



Twelve girls from AICM attended Camp Redcloud! Dennis and I transported our three girls and Laura & Trampas transported nine girls from their dorm (plus their two dogs)! The camp tuition was covered by the girls' school sponsors and the trip expenses were generously provided by Manos de Dios supporters & members of Grace Fellowship Church in Lake City, CO (where many of the camp staff worship).

TRAVELING TO & FROM CAMP REDCLOUD ...BY DENNIS

Most of us have kids and have taken them on vacation so I will not go into the normal ups and downs of traveling with children. What I will report is the eye-opening experiences our three Apache girls had on their first major road trip to a Christian summer camp in central Colorado.

It was going to be a long drive so we broke it into two days. At the beginning of the trip we advised the girls of what we would and would not put up with going on in the vehicle. We are proud to report that we all got along very well. There was no fighting, whining, arguing or bad attitudes the entire trip and that included Lucy and me!

The first day was uneventful until we made it to the area of Shiprock, Arizona. We had very high winds, and then we ran into a dust storm and a blowing rain at the same time. It was tough getting the suitcases off the luggage rack and into the van while this was going on but we were successful.

We stayed Saturday night in Durango (along with all the girls from the little girls' dorm and their former dorm parents, Laura and Trampas). Our girls were amazed at the amount of water (rivers, lake and creeks) in Colorado and that the mountains were so much higher than those in Arizona. We went over high passes, stopped to see waterfalls and even went through tunnels that went through the mountains (amazing sights according to our girls).

We stopped in Creede, Colorado for lunch where the girls (including Lucy) wished me happy Father's Day and they thanked us for bringing them on such a wonderful trip! It was another hour or so to Lake City and Camp Redcloud. By now the scariness of leaving home and going to a camp filled with white people had worn off and they were excited to register for camp and get settled in. Again, I am proud to say we could see the maturity and growth, both spiritually and socially, in our girls and we told them so before we left them at camp.

After camp we were planning to take the girls to Albuquerque to visit former dorm parents and long time employees of AICM, Sherry and Gene, but the forest fires blocked our path by closing roads to the east and south. Because of the fire detours, our trip home took us through different, breath-taking mountain passes. We saw more snow-capped peaks along with a bear, deer and at least 200 elk (so many they looked like herds of cattle at first). We had a fun stop in Telluride for lunch and stayed the night in Cortez, CO. We were able to deliver the girls to their homes in Whiteriver, AZ safe and sound with a little more appreciation of God's creation. They seemed to realize how blessed they are and that there is a whole new world outside the reservation just waiting to be explored! Seeing the joy it brought to Riscilla, Jacy and Nicole, the educational experience they received by going, the spiritual guidance they had at camp, and the experience they gained by being socially active with people off the reservation made the trip a success. The trip was long and tiring but we would do it again for these girls in a heartbeat.

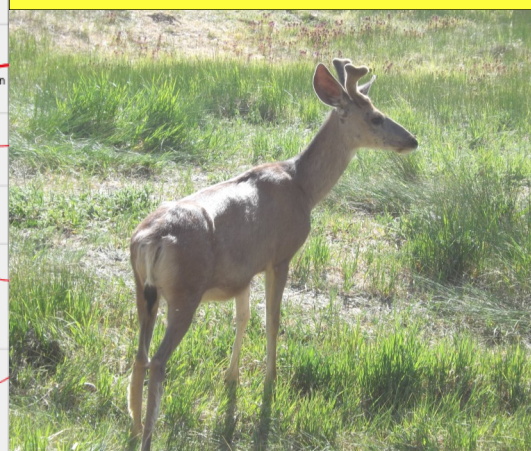
Dennis

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Riscilla, Dennis, Nicole & Jacy celebrate Father's Day in Creede, CO.

The ↑ on Colorado state map shows location of Camp Redcloud & Lake City

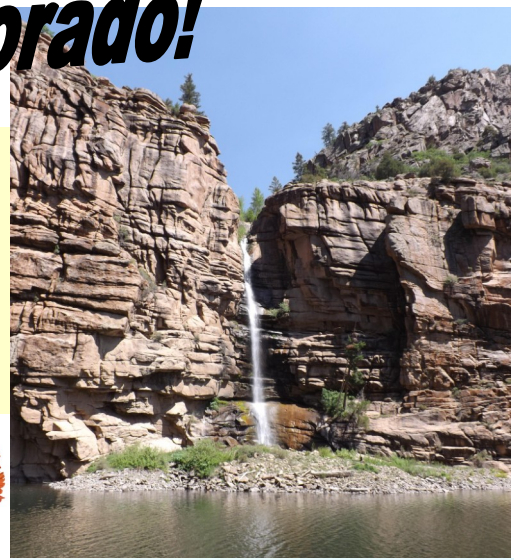


Quiet, down-time in Colorado!



Mt. Crested Butte (left)

Chipeta Falls on Morrow
Point Reservoir near
Gunnison, CO (right)



While the girls were at camp Lucy and I went to the town of Gunnison, Colorado and stayed in a quaint motel. Gunnison is a very nice small town that is close to lots of things to do, so it was a good home base for us.



We were able to spend a couple of hours, most days, reading God's Word and praying together on the banks of the Gunnison River. There is something special and relaxing about spending time near a river and listening to the sound of water. We also took hikes, some on level ground and some on mountain trails. We did get to go to the town of Crested Butte. It is a historical small town (until winter when it is transformed to a major ski town with thousands of skiers) that sits at about 9,000 feet. We took a hike in Mt. Crested Butte and boy, I struggled to breathe and hiked slowly!

After the stress of nine months of dorm parenting, the chaos of AICM changing directions, deciding to go in another direction away from AICM, and working on getting some of our girls enrolled in Christian schools in Tucson plus finding host families for them, it was a wonderful blessing to be able to take a break for those few days. It is so important to spend time together focusing on our marriage, each other, and the Lord! We so enjoyed being together in this beautiful place!

As far as doing tourist things, we did very little. But as for being revitalized, seeing and appreciating the beauty of God's creation, and being reminded of how blessed we are, that was evident every day.

Gratefully, Dennis



Dennis & Lucy enjoy a scenic hike

Wildflowers and mountain peaks near Mt. Crested Butte



"Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of rest! Help us to take time each day to sit in Your presence, whether we are on vacation or in the busy-ness of every day life. Remind us that IT is all about YOU, Jesus! Amen!"

History lesson about amazing Apache woman

...by Lucy



Chief Ouray & his wife Chipeta



Ute delegation in Washington DC in 1880.
Chipeta is seated in the front row
beside her husband.

Before saying bedtime prayers with Riscilla, Jacy and Nicole at the hotel in Cortez, Colorado on our trip home I re-told the story that our pontoon boat ranger-tour guide had told us on the Morrow Point Reservoir.

Chipeta, "White Singing Bird" in the Ute language, was born into the Kiowa Apache tribe in about 1843 or 1844. After her tribe was attacked, she was adopted and raised by the Uncompahgre Utes of present-day Colorado. She learned their traditional ways and became a skilled artisan in beadwork and tanning, as most women were.

Chief Ouray of the Uncompahgre Utes looked at the available women of his Ute Tribe. They were the typical broader faced, and shorter bodied Indian women. But, Chipeta was a tall, slender Apache woman. She was intelligent and outspoken. Chief Ouray chose Chipeta to be his wife. She came to act as his advisor and confidant, often sitting beside him at tribal council meetings. Described as "beautiful", she played the guitar and sang in three languages. Chipeta was also renowned for her exquisite beadwork.

Chief Ouray named a beautiful waterfall "Chipeta" after his Apache wife. (This is the waterfall shown on page 4.)

Beautiful Apache girls (Riscilla, Jacy and Nicole) loved hearing the story of Chipeta. It encouraged them to be proud of their heritage and inspired them to strive to be excellent in whatever they choose to do.

"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." Proverbs 31: 29-30



Contact us:

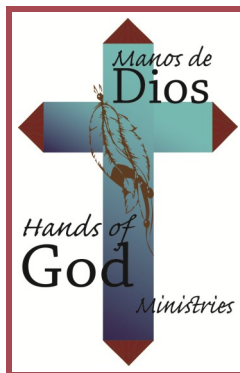
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Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: Manos de Dios, NFP
2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715

**Dennis and Lucy
enjoyed five days in
Gunnison, Colorado
while the girls were
at camp.**

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

Lucy and Dennis



*Sharing the
message of Jesus
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people in northern
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Please pray...



FOR Drelyn, Tia and Nicole who will be attending Reservation schools in the fall. We are asking God to strengthen them to be 'light and salt' in their school and stand firm in their faith and love of Jesus.

THAT we (Dennis & Lucy) would be so focused on Jesus that we would know what He has for us to do starting in the fall on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in northern Arizona. We are constantly reminded in His Word that....JESUS IS THE PLAN! (See Ephesians 1:8) We are seeking to keep our eyes on Him and be totally surrendered to His will, His way! Please pray that we would stay strong and humble in this and that we would be united in our calling!

FOR all Native American peoples. That all the First Nation's Peoples would realize how much The Creator God loves them and chose to follow the Waymaker (Jesus). For He is the Way, the Truth and the Life! (John 14:6)