



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

June/July 2014 Newsletter

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



Apache girls visit school in Tucson *by Lucy*



Thearsa, Nicole and Naomi

Thearsa, Naomi and Nicole visited Desert Christian School in Tucson. They attended a Study Skills class to help them prepare for school in the fall. The class included topics such as memorization, organization, and research. They enjoyed being on the campus of Desert Christian School and meeting some of the teachers. They each had the opportunity to stay a night with their potential host family.

Thearsa and Naomi met Sharon and Dan, who will be hosting them this year. You may remember that they hosted Jacy last school year! Sharon sensed they were to 'release' Jacy to another family this year and take in the sisters that needed to be placed together. What a blessing! The girls are very excited to be in their home and look forward to school beginning!

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Nicole, Naomi and Thearsa attend Study Skills class at Desert Christian School

Nicole met and stayed over night with a family who has offered to host her. They played get-to-know-you games, ate meals together, and attended church together. The family's three kids enjoyed Nicole and liked the idea of living together in the fall. Amelia will also be in 7th grade at Desert Christian Middle School. What a blessing and host-family-match obviously orchestrated by God! (...but God's plan can be thwarted by man!)



Nicole with potential host family: Amelia, Lisa (mom), Nate and Luke (dad Dave taking photo)

Nicole, one of the 'challenging' young ladies from our dorm at AICM, needs a life-saving change in her life. She struggles academically at the Jr. High she attends on the rez with little help in the way of tutoring or after-school assistance. Her home life is tough. There is much religious 'confusion' around her. Nicole is an ideal candidate for coming to Tucson to attend Desert Christian School. Except that she is immature, hardened, and very knowledgeable of the things of the world. Dennis and I prayed hard about whether to bring her to Tucson AND who to find as a host family for this young lady. That is when I received a call from Lisa. She and her husband prayed about it and told us they were being led to take in Nicole! Nicole! My heart jumped. I love Nicole so much and have been praying that God would move in a powerful way in her life. Here was an International Outreach Pastor and his wife and three children (who attend Desert Christian School) being

willing to take Nicole into their home. Wow, God, You are so awesome and so faithful! Amelia, their daughter, will be entering the same grade as Nicole in the fall. She has the gift of encouragement and can't wait to help and encourage Nicole!

We met with Dave and Lisa and openly shared some of the challenges of having this young lady in their home. They prayed. We prayed. They wanted to meet her. We arranged for an overnight visit in their home. They all loved on Nicole and she responded to the love. We prayed some more.

THEN, Nicole returned to her home in Whiteriver. A week later I received a text from her stating, "I don't want to go to Tucson!" I called her mom to find out what was going on. She shared about the difficulties she was having with Nicole. It became obvious that Nicole was being tempted by the things of the world. A 15-year-old boy was calling and texting (12-year-old) Nicole. Her older cousin was inviting her to smoke weed. Nicole didn't like the idea of having to wear a skirt or dress on Chapel days at the new school. She was talking back to her mom and not submitting to her authority. Her mom's boyfriend's mom said she shouldn't go to Tucson to go to school. All of these factors were adding up and Nicole had chosen life on the reservation to life in Tucson. Her mom and I prayed on the phone. Her mom so wants her to have this terrific opportunity that could change her life! I contacted prayer warriors to cry out to God for Nicole. Our friend Laura offered to go visit Nicole and her mom on the rez. When she went at the agreed upon time they had "gone fishing".

Finally, Dennis and I took a stand, stating that if Nicole does not want to come to Tucson we absolutely were not going to bring her. It could be disastrous for the host family and Desert Christian School! Lisa and Dave and their children are heart-broken! I am so sad and feel like Nicole is being lost to the enemy! BUT, we will not give up on her. I will continue to visit Nicole, reach out to her with encouraging texts, and volunteer at her Jr. High School on the rez. We trust that God will woo her back to Himself and we pray she will chose to run back into His arms. We are not saying that the only place she can walk in righteousness is in Tucson. But we (along with her mom) see that it is VERY DIFFICULT for a young lady to stay pure and on a godly path while living on the reservation. "Please, Lord, protect and guide Nicole. In Jesus' name. Amen."

"Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the LORD is your life..."

Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a



**Tent for Sawdust Trail Camp Meeting,
Whiteriver, AZ on the Ft. Apache Reservation**



**Children (and their families) enjoy camping in
makeshift shelters near the tent where
meetings are held every night for two weeks**



**Salio, Jacy's nephew, enjoys playing by the
creek near their family's campsite at the
camp meeting**

camp meet-ing <noun> *a religious meeting held in the open air or in a tent, often lasting several days*

Our first visit to an Apache Camp Meeting was interesting and familiar. Familiar because it reminded me of the tent revivals we visited in Mexico. The meeting did not start at the scheduled time and people came in very late (as in Mexico), many sat in their cars to listen to the preaching (as in Mexico), there was a lot of loud music and singing (as in Mexico), and the charismatic teaching and preaching was excitement inducing (as also in Mexico).

Some of the differences were that the preacher chastised some people for not providing for themselves and their family, and that they were on government assistance while they could have been working. They were told to, "Get a job, get off welfare and take care of your family!" That message would be appropriate throughout the United States! Other things mentioned (and prayed about) were telling kids to stay in school, stop drinking and doing drugs, stay out of gangs and stand up for Apache pride, also honorable things to consider.

There was a lot of scripture read, praise and glory given to God, testimonies and talk of God moving amongst them. I agreed with the majority of the message and enjoyed the evening until it turned charismatic at the end of the service. That is where our views part. I believe (and read in scripture) that God is a God of order not chaos (1 Corinthians 14:33) and speaking in tongues has guidelines (1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 14).

The Apache people were showing their love, respect and honor to God in their worshiping style. There seemed to be Apaches from different tribes and clans, from children to the aged, light skinned to the very dark, and people from different faith levels. It was a wonderful experience to be accepted in their midst and to worship with them as they praised Jesus. For that I am thankful.

"For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people." 1 Corinthians 14:33

"What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God." 1 Corinthians 14: 26-28

Coming together of cultures ...by Dennis

I know I have mentioned this before and I will keep mentioning it from time to time because I think important progress is being made. Some people in the Caucasian and Indian cultures are steadily beginning to understand each other and their respective ways. To this date we have five Apache girls coming to Tucson to attend a Christian school. Women are beginning to trust Lucy and me (mostly Lucy because she works with them while I am in the background). They share details about their families and problems affecting the Rez and they want to know about us and how we are doing! And most importantly they trust us with the care and education of their young daughters, which is an honor in any culture. This shows there is a positive relationship between us (and our culture) and the Native Americans that has been strained for many decades and still is for many people from both sides.

One thing that I think really helped remove some misconceptions the Apaches had toward us was the removal of the mistrust they had for whites as far as keeping their word. Lucy and I worked very hard while we were dorm parents at AICM, not just with our girls but with all we came in contact with, at keeping our word and being honest. If there was a rule, it applied to ALL students and we enforced it equally; there was no special treatment given to a favorite student. And if we said something we meant it and followed through as promised. I think when the students went home they talked with their families about Dennis & Lucy and how they could not get away with anything and at the same time were treated fairly. And as we started visiting their homes and began getting acquainted with their parents (again, mostly Lucy because it is usually mothers that are involved) they also saw our compassion, fairness, and desire to help their children.

There still is mistrust and animosity toward whites by many on the Rez and belief that we are trying to turn the Apache girls "white" by bringing them to a school in Tucson. With honesty, fairness, compassion and the love we have for the children and through Jesus some of that mistrust is being removed. The parents are constantly reminded that we support their culture and will speak against their culture ONLY if it goes against what scripture tells us (because we are children of God first and foremost).

Changing people's conceptions is sometimes a long, hard process but one I am sure that Jesus can handle and we will be patient while He works it out.

Fort Apache (White Mountain) Reservation

In 2010, the Arizona Rural Policy Institute at Northern Arizona University completed a demographic profile for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. The findings reflect a rural community with severe poverty, a high population of children, large households, absent fathers and low educational achievement.

Tribal population: 13,409.

Total number of households: 3,301.

Children living in poverty: 55 percent (compared with 22 percent statewide).

Median age: 24 (compared with 36 statewide).

Population age 17 or younger: 38 percent (compared with 25.5 percent statewide).

Households headed by single mothers: 40.1 percent (compared with 12.4 percent statewide).

Households receiving food stamps: 45 percent (more than four times the rest of Arizona).

Adults older than 24 with bachelor's degrees: 8.5 percent.

Median household size: 4 people (compared with 2.6 statewide).

Median household income: \$26,973 (compared with \$51,310 statewide).

Note: The demographic report does not list an unemployment rate for the Apache Reservation because no reliable data are available. Tribal officials estimate that half to three-fourths of eligible workers have no jobs.

Please designate your Arizona Tax Dollars to the Apache students attending Desert Christian School!

You may designate your Arizona Income Tax dollars and thus reduce the money you owe! Contribute matching tuition dollars up until the time you file or no later than April 15, 2015. For more info and to donate go to one of two Christian organizations: **IBEScholarships.org** or **ACSTO.org**.

You may designate your donation to one or more of our NEW students attending Desert Christian School. **Naomi Benally, Thearsa Benally, and/or Drelyn Baha. Thank you!**

Cut & Save!



Alejandra comes through many surgeries

Alejandra (from Puerto Peñasco, Mexico) continues to battle for life 12 years after she contracted bacterial meningitis due to a tainted vaccination. Her mother, Margarita, has traveled numerous times with her to Hermosillo for surgeries and treatments. This month they traveled to Obregon for surgery to remove the stint in Alejandra's head. Shown in photo to the left is Alejandra with her surgeon in Obregon. Margarita is praising God for His constant hand on her daughter's life and is so grateful for the wonderful medical care she has received. We pray that God will continue to receive Glory as He touches Alejandra's and Margarita's lives.

She extends heartfelt thanks to those who support them financially through Manos de Dios and for the hundreds of prayers that have gone up on their behalf. They are so grateful to now be in their newly constructed home in Puerto Peñasco.

“Muchas gracias y Dios les bendiga!” (Thank you very much and may God bless all of you!).....Margarita Gama Nuñez



**Margarita & Alejandra in
Obregon, Sonora, Mexico**



Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You



To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Abre mis ojos Oh Cristo
Abre mis ojos Te pido
Yo quiero verte
Yo quiero verte

Y contemplar tu majestad
Y el resplandor de tu gloria
Derrama tu amor y poder
Cuando cantamos santo, santo

Santo, Santo, Santo
Yo quiero verte

Great Missions quotes...inspiring as we share the message of Jesus with indigenous people in northern Arizona and Mexico.

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose" — Jim Elliot, missionary martyr who lost his life in the late 1950's trying to reach the Auca Indians of Ecuador

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light" —John Keith Falconer

"Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart" — Bob Pierce, World Vision founder

"If you take missions out of the Bible, you won't have anything left but the covers" — Nina Gunter



Lucy with her Dad, John, when he visited the Heart House



(above) Friends Frank, Barb and their son, Rickey (from Iowa!), visited the Heart House. (below) Drelyn, Jacy & Riscilla enjoy a swim in the river on the rez



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Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to:
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2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715
or be made on our website: ManosdeDios.org

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**Jacy,
Riscilla,
Drelyn,
and Rickey
after a
swim at the
river on the
rez**



A black bear
in tree near
our friend's
cabin in
Pinetop.
Chaco alerted
them to the
bear's
presence
when he
stayed over-
night at their
house!

