



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

June/July 2015 Newsletter

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



Summer Fun was “Wet and Wild”!



That was the theme for a weekend on a houseboat for four of our girls (Thearsa, Naomi, Riscilla and Drelyn) from Whiteriver. Our friends, Kent and Suzanne, own a houseboat at Roosevelt Lake and invited us plus our girls to spend the weekend with them having fun and getting wet. And that is just what we all did!

After arriving on Saturday morning, we immediately got ready to go out on the lake in their ski boat. There was no skiing but Kent did hook up the huge raft and the four girls got on and went for the ride of their life! They all managed to stay on but they did get soaked (which they loved!) Afterwards we anchored the boat in a cove and went swimming. The rest of the day was spent eating

*(above) Drelyn, Naomi, Riscilla, & Thearsa enjoy an inner tube ride on Roosevelt Lake
(below) The girls relax on top deck of Kent and Suzanne’s houseboat*

great meals, relaxing on the beautiful houseboat, jumping off the top deck of the houseboat and more swimming in the lake. Sunday started off the same, being blessed by God to be here in His beautiful creation and partaking in the fun of being at Roosevelt Lake. Today’s activities were a little different. Thearsa (nicknamed ‘wild woman’ because she was the first to try every-

thing and to do it to the extreme!) was ready for the more advanced inner tube ride. This raft was smaller and only held two people. It was more exciting because it could be pulled faster, in more directions, and flipped (which threw the rider off). Thearsa excitedly anticipated this! The girls took turns riding and being flipped off the raft. (All wore life jackets, of course). When they got tired, we anchored the boat and just relaxed and floated around.



The girls had never been on a houseboat, a ski boat or rafts being pulled like that before. Needless to say they had a wonderful time and thanked **Kent and Suzanne** so much for this new experience. Lucy and I are pleased and blessed to be able to expand the horizons of these beautiful young ladies by introducing them to new experiences. And we want to thank everyone that helps us make these experiences possible.

Gratefully, Dennis

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God provides TWO new host families!

We are praising God for two NEW families that have stepped up to open their homes and hearts to Apache students.

Drelyn and Sarah met each other at Desert Christian High School last year. At the end of the school year I told Drelyn to be praying for a host family for next year. She said, "I've already got something lined up. Sarah and I have been talking."

"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality."
Romans 12:13

"Well, have you talked with her mom?" I asked. She answered, "No." I followed up and, sure enough Sarah's family was onboard for taking Drelyn into their home. Praise God! Please pray for this

family and Drelyn as they all adjust to living together. Thank you!

Ryan and Dori had been praying about taking in one of the foreign exchange students when they heard about the Apache high school girls needing a host family. They had just added a new master bedroom suite on to their home and their former master bedroom was available. They talked with Riscilla's host dad from last year and decided she would be a good match with their family.

When Riscilla spent the weekend at the Heart House, we Skyped with her new host family. They had fun asking each other questions such as "What kind of food do you like?" "Do you like watching U of A sports?" "Do you like to go swimming?"

Please pray for Riscilla and her new host family as they make adjustments to each other! Thanks!



Dave and Darla, along with their daughters, Sarah and Shannah welcome Drelyn into their home for the 2015/2016 school year



Ryan and Dori along with their four children, Caleb, Allie, Faith and Emma have invited Riscilla to live with them for the 2015/2016 school year

“Discriminating Fellowship”.... by Dennis

Each newsletter I try to write an article on what I m studying or have discovered that fits in with my daily walk with the Lord. I had no idea what to write until I was put in the position to learn about one of my shortcomings.

I had returned to Tucson so I could be with my father-in-law and take him to a few appointments. Traveling around the city with him and by myself I noticed many people standing on the street corners. Some were asking for money, some for work and others for donations for their church. One day I passed the same man asking for money three times and each time I said no. It was getting annoying trying to avoid all these strangers asking for something. It would not have been so bad but I already give to many people. In Mexico we support a small church, a rehab center, a mother and handicapped child, plus a missionary in the Sierra Madre Mountains. I also do mission work on the Apache reservation, and volunteer doing handyman work at three Women’s Centers in the White Mountains. I even gave an Apache man \$2 for food the other day. I thought, “I do a lot.” “I don’t really want to be bothered by these people asking for things. I do enough.” So I try and avoid them, give short answers to their questions and get in my car and drive away. My thought process goes something like this, “I’m okay with that, I do my part. Right?”

“My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?”

For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, ‘You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor’—well, doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?”

James 2:1-4

“Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to grow and learn your ways even though I am approaching 67 years old!”

I thought so until the Holy Spirit gave me a teaching moment. I had just avoided another beggar in the Safeway shopping center and went across the street to the bank to get some money out of the automatic teller. It was so hot (and I have become adjusted to the cool mountain air) and I was anxious to get in my truck and turn on the A/C when I saw another man approaching me out of the corner of my eye. It’s probably just a “beggar” so I jumped in my truck and turned on the air – but I did roll down the window so I could talk to him in comfort. To my surprise it was, Bill, a friend and brother-in-Christ. What did I do then? I jumped out of the truck and greeted him with a hug and a smile. His next words struck me in the heart (which he did not intend to do, but I was glad he did). With a smile he said, “You thought I was a beggar and was going to ask for money, didn’t you?” He was right! Then it hit me, the reality of my non Christ-like attitude toward “these people.” I was saddened by what I did, the attitude I had adopted, the coldness I shared with these strangers, and mostly because I had caused sadness in Jesus’ heart as He observed me, one of His children and followers, acting in such a manner. I had to repent and turn my attitude over to Him.

I was reminded that I am called to give respect to each individual I meet regardless of their circumstances and not just my friends. (James 2:1-12)

I was reminded that Jesus is not telling me to give money to every person on the street that needs money or food but as a Christ follower I am called to be compassionate and not to judge them by preconceived ideas of who they are and their worthiness. (Matthew 7:1-2) (Colossians 3:12*)

And the biggie is that no matter how much I do, give, or sacrifice, if I don’t do it for the right reasons I have done those things for nothing and I am just patting myself on the back. (Colossians 3:17) (1 Corinthians 13:3)

* “Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” Colossians 3:12

Promoting Life!



(**left**) Dennis & Lucy participate in the annual "Walk for Life" event in Show Low to raise funds for the Living Hope Women's Centers. The walk's theme was "We walk so they can crawl!"

(**right**) Dennis gives away Native American evangelism materials (DVD's, tracts, & CD's) at our booth at the PowWow held at HonDah Casino Fairgrounds



Lucy and Naomi staff the Living Hope Women's Center booth at the PowWow in the Pines. This is the first time the centers have shared our message of life, hope and encouragement with a booth at the PowWow. We told people about our services and prayed with some Natives when they stopped at our booth. We are praying that the seeds that were planted will GROW!



Jacy



Riscilla

Desert Christian Schools Headmaster, Mr. John O'Hair, has a heart for cross-cultural ministry. The schools have an opportunity to encourage students from different cultures to grow in their walk with the Lord and even introduce some to Jesus. The schools have not only welcomed our five Apache students but have 8 to 10 foreign exchange students from Asia and Africa enrolled each year. In an effort to promote the "international" program and to share the need for host families, the school contracted with a professional videographer. He captured on film a short interview of two of our beautiful girls, Jacy and Riscilla. We hope to have this video shown at Tucson churches to help in recruiting host families in the future. Lucy was also interviewed on the video.

Summer for Jacy

Summer is a tough time for our girls. They go home to the reservation to spend time with their families, but in doing so they face an extreme amount of peer pressure. It seems these girls, that are benefiting from a high level education, have opportunities to see and experience much off the reservation, and are obviously "pure" and the target for much pressure. 'Friends' taunt them saying, "How do you know you won't like _____ (drinking, drugs, sex, etc)? You've never tried it!"

Jacy called us one Friday night in tears. She had enough of family disturbances, peer pressure and non-godly influences. "Can you come get me for the weekend?" "Of course!"

Jacy says that simply staying with us at the Heart House that weekend "got her back on track and totally changed her perspective! We listened to worship music, rested, prayed together, and attended church.

"Thank you, Lord, for bringing Jacy to the Heart House for a time of refreshing! Please strengthen her to resist evil and choose good! Amen!"



Dennis, Lucy, and Jacy attended a worship service at the Calvary Chapel Round Valley (in Springerville, AZ). Sean Stone, a worship pastor from Calvary Tucson, was the guest speaker and worship leader that Sunday. Jacy attended youth group at Calvary Tucson with her host family last school year and recognized Sean!

Much-needed *post-abortion* healing counseling offered through Living Hope Women's Center

With all the news about Planned Parenthood and government funding of abortions I have heard very little mention of a truth: Women who have had abortions suffer deeply. Whether they independently made the choice to terminate their pregnancy or they felt pressured or coerced to end their baby's life, their lives are negatively affected for years afterward.

I am hearing the heartbreaking stories from the two Apache women I am walking along side as they heal from the pain of having an abortion. They both have gone through **years** of denial, grief, acting out (drinking, drugging, promiscuity), anger, and neglect of their other children. We are using a Biblical curriculum* that shares stories from the Bible to illustrate God's understanding, forgiveness, and ever-present character. In a one-on-one, confidential setting the woman shares about her abortion, her feelings, and the effects it has had on her life and relationships. She remembers, even though painful, the circumstances surrounding her abortion and comes to the place where she is able to forgive herself, others that were involved (boyfriend, husband, doctor, friend, and/or counselor), and even God. She also learns that anger and other emotions may be triggered by the emotional stress and/or grief she has buried for a long time.

Toward the end of the healing process we talk about the baby. She has the opportunity to memorialize her child in some way. Some choose to plant a tree in memory of their baby. Another might put together a box of items to remember her baby and bury it somewhere special. One couple purchased a teddy bear for their aborted child as they had for their other living children. Recognizing the baby as a human helps in the healing process.

So, as we proclaim our stand in support of the unborn, let us also remember the hearts of the women who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy. May we also make every effort to help them avoid the years of emotional pain, grief and turmoil that would follow if she chooses to abort her unborn baby.

Please prayerfully and financially support pregnancy help centers (such as LivingHopeCenters.org) that offer support services to these women and share the option of making a plan for adoption for their baby. Pray that many would come to understand they do have a choice and with that they would choose LIFE * for their child as well as themselves!

... *Lucy*

*Biblical workbook we use: [Portraits...Unveiled Freedom \(Hope for Healing After Abortion\)](#) by Fern Buzinshi

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Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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or made on our website:

[**ManosdeDios.org**](http://ManosdeDios.org)



Dennis, Lucy, Dad and Chaco in Coronado, CA on family vacation

* "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. This is the key to your life." Deuteronomy 30:19-20a