



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

## July/August 2013 Newsletter



### **Riscilla & Jacy begin school in Tucson!** *By Lucy*



**Riscilla on first day of school!**



**Jacy at her new school**



**Riscilla & her 'host' big sister, Miranda**

Riscilla's and Jacy's lives have totally changed! They are now students at Desert Christian Schools in Tucson, AZ. They are each living with a host family that declares "It is such a blessing to have this young lady living in our home!" They are both playing on the school volleyball team and making friends!

What a miracle this is! We look back to the day that Riscilla and Jacy came to us in our dorm apartment asking, "Will you help us get off the reservation?" We said "Yes", whispering a prayer to God for help with this huge request. And God stepped in and provided in miraculous ways!

***"Wow, God! You have moved in such powerful ways on behalf of these young ladies! Thank you for providing homes, scholarship funding, and new opportunities for education and growth! You are an Awesome God and we continue to trust You for Your provision and guidance as Riscilla and Jacy continue in their walk with You here in Tucson! Amen!"***

**"And I pray this, that your love may abound even more and more in knowledge and every kind of insight so that you can decide what is best, and thus be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ"**

**Philippians 1:9-10**



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## Riscilla's host family....God's plan!

By Lucy



Rena and Miranda, Riscilla's host family

As you may remember, our May newsletter announced that we had a host family lined up for Riscilla. All of us continued to pray that God would make HIS plan very clear to us. The host family began to feel that hosting Riscilla was not God's plan for their family. They loved Riscilla and it was very difficult to make this decision, plus break the news to us. But, when you ask God to make something clear to you and He does, you need to follow His leading. So, they submitted to God and shared this leading with us (Dennis and Lucy). We all prayed and cried together.

I contacted many prayer warriors, requesting prayer for this situation. We wanted God's will for Riscilla. If it was God's will for her to come to Tucson to go to school He would provide a host family for her (with school starting in less than one month!) We prayed and cried out to God.

I called Riscilla and her mom, Stephanie, in Whiteriver to share the news. They were quiet and concerned. I declared that this was an opportunity to trust God. I encouraged them to PRAY and trust Him for Riscilla's future. I reminded Riscilla of the verse He so often brings her to.... “

*“‘For I know what I have planned for you,’ says the LORD. ‘I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope. When you call out to Me and come to Me in prayer, I will hear your prayers. When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find Me available to you.’” Jeremiah 29:11-13a (ESV)* We prayed on the

phone and hung up not knowing whether Riscilla would be coming to Tucson to go to school or not. Desert Christian Schools sent out an email informing families of the need for a host family for Riscilla. We had 4 or 5 calls for more information. After praying and talking with those families, we decided to meet with a single working mom and her 20 year old daughter (who had attended Desert Christian High School). We loved Rena and Miranda immediately. We prayed and asked God to reveal His plan. This was a different plan than what we had envisioned for Riscilla. But, as we prayed and talked it became clear this was God's plan. I called Riscilla to talk with her about Rena and Miranda. She indicated she would be comfortable in this home. I remembered that she has been raised in single-mom home. The idea of having an older “sister” who is “on fire” for Jesus was ALL God! Miranda could mentor and help Riscilla in her school work as well as her walk with Jesus.

So, the decision was made that Rena and Miranda would be Riscilla's host family. Riscilla moved to Tucson to live, having never met her host family. God used this situation to grow the faith of both Riscilla and her mom. They waited on God and watched Him move on their behalf. Thank you, Lord!!



Riscilla and Jacy received haircuts at Gadabout Salon-Spas in Tucson before beginning at their new school! (Our daughter, Megan, is part of Gadabout's corporate staff.)

The girls bravely allowed the stylist to cut and style their beautiful long hair. Jacy even had enough cut off (10 inches) to donate to Locks of Love, which provides hair to cancer patients.

The girls were beautiful and confident for their first day at their new school!



## UPDATE FROM TRAMPAS AND LAURA by Trampas



Trampas and Laura (shown above with their son, Keaton) purchased this home in Lakeside-Pinetop, Arizona. It is on a quiet street, surrounded by pine trees. They will make this a foster home for Apache children.



Trampas & Laura with their friends, the Founders of 'Foster Connect'.

In God's perfect timing, we are completely moved into our home and settled. With the generous donation of a washer/dryer and some furniture, our home is ready to begin accepting foster children. After completing physical exams, our application to become foster parents with the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) will be complete. God has called us to open our home to three children, elementary aged down to infants. We are open to older children if they are a part of a sibling group, as we'd hate to see brothers and sisters split up. Our contact with the tribe is excited to have us join their efforts to provide safe housing for Apache children who have been removed from their homes. We are equally as excited to get started!

The second element of our ministry is to provide support to fellow foster parents through an organization called Foster Connect. Our good friends, the Biggerstuffs, are founders of Foster Connect and live in Las Vegas. (See photo of us with their family including their biological child, adopted child and foster children.) They have asked us to establish a White Mountains extension of this ministry. They visited us a few weeks ago to help us jump start Foster Connect Arizona. The purpose of Foster Connect is to provide support and discipleship to foster parents in the area as well as provide education to the public on foster care in an effort to recruit more Christian foster parents. Foster Connect Nevada has been successful in educating their county on the benefits of seeking out Christian homes for "temporary orphans".



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**Note: Trampas and Laura, certainly serving as Hands of God in the White Mountains, have come under our Manos de Dios not-for-profit organization.**



# *A week spent in the White Mountains in August*

by Dennis

We were scheduled to pick up the girls on Saturday, August 10th to bring them to Tucson for school. I had a doctor's appointment for my back with Dr. Hall in Flagstaff on Monday August 5th. After our doctor's appointment we drove to Pinetop-Lakeside. Trampas and Laura have generously offered to allow us to stay in their 'guest house', their 26-foot RV trailer! They have it parked and completely hooked up in their backyard. It is very comfortable and we felt like we had our own pine tree-lined backyard! Oddly enough, the Apache Reservation comes up very close to their home, so we were able to "prayer-walk" and bike along the border of the rez while staying at their home. We are so blessed to be able to stay there! It is close to Whiteriver and the families we plan to spend time with starting this fall!

We spent the week visiting many people. I was able to attend the weekly men's bible study on the reservation and Lucy was able to finish up the legal paperwork that was needed for us to take the girls to Tucson. It seems that the Apache children not only belong to their parents but they also belong to the Tribe and we had to get permission from the Juvenile Court (with support from their parents) for them to go to Tucson. Lucy accompanied Jacy's and Riscilla's moms to court and they were able to obtain temporary custody for the two host families. Lucy also wants to volunteer at the local middle school on the rez. She obtained the necessary forms, got a background check (a rap sheet) at the court, and will submit the completed forms when she returns this fall. She will be able to volunteer at any of the Whiteriver School District schools.

We spent a day at AICM getting caught up with old friends and meeting new staff. Lucy spent another day on the reservation loving on some of our other girls. She saw Nicole, Viscena and Drelyn. She looks forward to the time this fall when she will return. She prays she will have opportunities to help many

**discover God!**

... Dennis

Jacy leaves her home in Whiteriver to travel to Tucson to go to school.



Joni, Jacy's older sister, with her daughter Caley Morgan as they say good-bye to Jacy.



Nicole, one of "our girls", now attends Canyon Day Junior High on the reservation. Lucy hopes to begin volunteering weekly there in October.

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)**



# Summer 'down-time'

After the nine-month commitment as dorm parents, we needed some 'vacation time'. This summer we enjoyed two trips to Roosevelt Lake as guests of our wonderful friends, Kent & Suzanne (see photo on back page). They treated us like royalty on their houseboat and took us boating and skiing with their deck boat!

After 35 years and one hip replacement surgery, Lucy 'slalom' skies again!



**We also were blessed to spend a week in Coronado, CA with our family. We drove over with Dad while brother John and his family, Elvira, Johncito and Prissy flew over from Houston.**

**Megan, our daughter (far right), joined us for 3 days. Our son-in-law Regan, (not shown) even joined us for a day and treated us all to dinner at one of his restaurants in San Diego!**

**We enjoyed the cool ocean breezes, beach time, bike rides and lots of family time! Thank you, Lord, for special time with our family!**

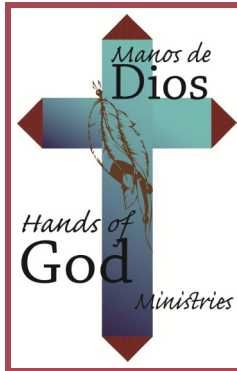


**Dennis, Lucy & Chaco  
enjoy 4th of July  
weekend with wonderful  
friends, Kent, Suzanne &  
Stella on Roosevelt  
Lake!**

## Contact us:

**520-404-5045 (Lucy voice or text)**  
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**Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to:**  
**Manos de Dios, NFP**  
**2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715**  
**or be made on our website: ManosdeDios.org**



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

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## Future plans

Now that we have Riscilla and Jacy enrolled in and attending school in Tucson we will continue to be their advocate and assist in any way we can to ensure their education, spiritual growth, health and well-being . We will also maintain communication and a personal relationship with their mothers and families. This includes spending time with the girls and their host families and providing transportation, guidance and finances. God put it on our hearts to help these girls get off the Reservation and we have accomplished that with His help. That does not mean the task is over. They are a part of our lives and will continue to be so.

Road Trip! Early in September Lucy and I will be traveling to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to pick up an RV that has been donated to us by our good friends and supporters of Manos de Dios. The trailer is only three years old and has never been used. They are even allowing us to use their Toyota SUV to go pick up the RV. What a blessing! We look forward to visiting with them for a few days and fellowshipping at their church!

I have a few medical conditions I need to take care of (not as bad as Job had, so I am not complaining). I am turning 65 in September, so thankfully Medicare (and a Medicare supplement we will be taking out) will be in effect. I will be having my first surgery in Flagstaff on October 2<sup>nd</sup> (spine surgery) and will be in the hospital for 3 to 4 days. Later on (by the end of the year I hope) I may be having up to 3 more surgeries and will become the \$6 million man (ha-ha). While I'm recuperating, Lucy will be going to the White Mountains with Chaco (I hope to make some trips with her) and continue our fellowship and ministering to our friends on the Reservation and the mothers of our dorm daughters.

We already have had requests from other girls and their mothers (and grandmothers) asking if we can help them find host families and help them get into a Christian school in Tucson next school year. Seeing and experiencing the darkness, violence and rampant dysfunction on the Reservation, we are being led to possibly make that happen.

Getting Jacy and Riscilla to school in Tucson was a difficult, time consuming and costly process. We learned a lot during this endeavor and also learned that the kids need to be mentally prepared and at a certain maturity level before they take that step and leave the reservation. So, if the kids are serious about leaving the Reservation, we will start working with them soon. This will take time, patience and perseverance. Please pray for us and this outreach ministry.

Thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers! Dennis