July/August 2011 Update Newsletter

Manos de Dios | areas in Mississippi & Missouri! "Hands of God" **Ministries**

Dennis & Lucy Smith

Teaching God's Word in rehab centers, churches, homes, prisons. Discipling individuals.

Praying with and for all we come in contact with! Blessing, encouraging, interceding on their behalf. Praying in faith!

Sharing hope and encouragement for marriages as we strive to model the "Love & Respect" teaching in our own marriage.

Encouraging, be-friending, praying for and helping PASTORS of small, low income churches.



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Thank you for **Tornado Relief Assistance!**

Wow! When God's people hear about others in need, they step up! In June Manos de Dios requested tangible and monetary donations to assist the Tornado stricken

Churches, communities & individuals responded with generous expressions of love and concern.

Manos de Dios collected & sent:

20 bags of gently used adult, children and baby clothes and shoes (sent with World Care to Joplin, MO)



Our truck full of donations

- Tools, house wares, first aid items and non-perishable food (sent with World Care to Joplin, MO)
- \$500 in cash donations (including the profits from a community yard sale!) (sent to church in Smithville, MI that had lost its building. Funds went to help with rebuilding and displaced family needs.)

PLUS the surplus of donated items were given to a local refuge ministry to help families arriving in Tucson with little or no possessions. They were so thrilled to receive bedding, house wares, and food to assist families in their new apartments and new life here in the USA.

Thank you to all who donated and prayed!!



Tucson ministry to refugees receives surplus donations. All were blessed!

Furlough time in Tucson

What have we been doing???

Lucy Responds... Thank you for your prayers and continued support as we 'press into God' here in the states. We have benefited from wonderful teaching at our Calvary churches, extended prayer and study time daily, one day a week 'away from distractions' to pray, study and spend 'couple time' together.

God has blessed me with many special friendships with women. Some mentor and teach me. Some are encouragers. And some have asked me to mentor them. I am meeting with these women weekly for times of worship, prayer and reading of God's Word. It is such a blessing to share what God's Spirit has been teaching me with others one-on-one. I have been blessed with being discipled and with the opportunity to disciple others (both in Mexico and here in the US). Wow! It is awesome to watch God move in women's lives!

One of the study materials I am using in this mentoring time is Restore My Heart, God's Passionate Love For His Bride by Denise Glenn. This is a powerful teaching using the Hebrew wedding traditions to communicate God's love to us. I would highly recommend this study workbook for individual or group study!

My journals are filled with wonderful entries of recording my prayers, requests and questions to God...and His beautiful responses. If you don't already *journal your* "God time", I would highly recommend this discipline. I simply write "She said..." and journal my prayers. Then, I write, "He said...." and listen to what I sense the Lord saying to me. I begin to write and am always amazed to read what He says to ME!

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 (NKJ)

Family Vacation in Coronado, CA!

My brother and his family (from Houston, TX) joined Dennis, my Dad and me for this wonderful family week get away. We spent hours at the beach, took the ferry, went to a baseball game and simply enjoyed being together. My niece, Priscilla (9) and nephew, John (8) are growing so quickly! It is so important to keep family ties strong and celebrate loving God and each other! Thanks, Dad, for treating us to this wonderful trip!



Dad, brother John and wife, Elvira Priscilla, Lucy & Johncito

DennisResponds... It has been a long, hot summer which has encouraged me to stay inside during the mid day heat and I have obliged. Being inside has given me the opportunity to read and study more and do research. I have also done many studies on books of the Bible and certain scriptures and will post them on my blog site (www.manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com) in the future.

I even had the privilege of giving a message (on the book of Job) at a Senior Retirement Home last month while the pastor was away. It was a blessing and a joy to be with and share His word with our senior citizens.

What have I been reading? I have read some older, but valuable books. One is Freedom of the Christian by Brian S. Mackay. It was published in 1965 but contains a lot of basic Biblical information on the books of Galatians and Romans. I am in the process of reading The Message of the Corinthians by David Prior. This book goes into detail about the description of the scriptures and how they can relate to us in modern times.

I just finished How to be Heard in Heaven by Eddie Smith. I also read another old book that has resurfaced (I think it was written in 1960). It is Nine O'clock in the Morning by Dennis J. Bennett. I want to say that we have to be very careful with the books we read that claim to contain truth about God. We need to make sure that what they are stating is actually verified in scripture. These last two books are a little too far from scripture to suit me as being accurate. If you have read one (or both) of those books and disagree with me, I would be happy to discuss our differences and have scripture be our guide as to the accuracy of what is stated. Just let me know.

The past few months I have also had the opportunity to collect physical donations from our supporters. These donations have been sent to our pastor friends in Mexico and given to local organizations that help those in need such as; The Giving Tree, Hope Recovery Center, Salvation Army, Crisis Pregnancy Center, & Southwest Medical Aid.

What's next? Don't know, so I guess I better wait for instructions from the Lord! And I will keep you informed.

5th wedding anniversary celebration

Dennis planned a wonderful celebration for our 25th anniversary, complete with Marriage Covenant renewal ceremony! We were blessed to have 25 of our friends celebrate with us and pray over us.!



"So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33 (NLT)