



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

August 2014 Newsletter

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



Five Apache girls begin school in Tucson! ...by Lucy



'(she) is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever she does prospers.'

Psalms 1:3



High School students' 1st day of school! Jacy, Stephanie (host sister) , Riscilla & Drelyn

We awoke in Tucson on August 13th. I said in amazement, "It's a miracle! There are five Apache girls going to Desert Christian School today!" We praise God for the way He has provided so wonderfully to bring each of these beautiful young ladies to Tucson. They are enrolled in a school that includes God in every subject from math to English, and from Western Civilization to computers. Each teacher loves Jesus and expresses love to their students. There is prayer in school and chapel is attended by all students. The girls are playing on school athletic teams and learning teamwork and discipline from godly coaches. They are living in safe, loving homes with consistent guidelines. They are learning the ways of society and being encouraged to grow, mature and strive for high standards. Praise you, Lord! We trust these girls will fulfill Psalm 3:1 as written above!

**5th grader,
Naomi (on top) &
6th grader,
Thearsa in their
school uniforms**

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Host families are such a blessing!! ... Lucy



Jacy, Mariah, Drelyn, Riscilla & Stephanie
(Mariah and Stephanie are host family sisters!)



“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...” I Peter 4:8-10

God knows what is best and His plan is always good. We have been trusting Him for host families for the three high school girls. Ron and Tina stepped up and said they would be delighted to host Jacy. She had been a student last year at the Desert Christian K-8 School where Ron is the principal. Tina is a nurse who works one to two days a week in the prenatal area of a local hospital. They have three daughters. Mariah is going to college, working and living at home. Brittany has been living in California. Stephanie is a junior at Desert Christian High School. When Rena announced (only two weeks before school was to begin) that she couldn't host Riscilla again this school year as she will probably need to be moving for a new job, we prayed. And then we went to Ron and Tina and asked if they would be willing to host Riscilla along with Jacy. They graciously agreed saying they love Riscilla, too. Riscilla and Stephanie had played together on the JV basketball team last year.

As the time for school to begin drew closer, we continued to pray in faith for a host family for Drelyn. She was enrolled in the High School and wanted to come! When the day came to go pick up the girls we talked with Ron and Tina. We said we were trying to decide whether or not to bring Drelyn to Tucson to begin school at Desert Christian without a host family in place. They offered to have Drelyn live with them...with their two daughters AND Jacy and Riscilla until a host family could be found! Wow! What attitudes of service and love! So, school started with three Apache girls living with Ron and Tina. What a busy household! Recently Mariah became engaged to a fine Christian young man. And Brittany announced that she wanted to



move home. So, it has become even more apparent that a host family needed to be found for Drelyn. At the time of the writing of this newsletter there are two families interested in hosting Drelyn! Our next newsletter will share the joyous news! Praise God for His plan and perfect way!

Jacy, Drelyn &
Riscilla

Host families are such a blessing (part 2) !! ... Lucy



Naomi and Thearsa's family brought them from the Reservation to Tucson to begin school. Shown here with Naomi and Thearsa: Tierra (their sister), John (mom's boyfriend), Yash (mom) and Ira (brother)

"Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the highest heavens. You have done such wonderful things. Who can compare with you, O God?" Psalm 71:19 (NLT)



Sharon and Dan, Thearsa and Naomi's host parents

Imagine taking TWO girls into your home that you have never met. Sharon and Dan are that couple who, even though they do not have any children at home, have taken Thearsa (6th grade) and Naomi (5th grade) into their house and hearts! They come with a school-year of experience under their belts after hosting Jacy last year.

God has provided the exact parents these younger girls need. Thearsa and Naomi are a little behind their classmates as they come from lower academic schools. And being much younger than the other girls, they need more parent involvement and guidance. Sharon is compassionate, organized and a gifted communicator. Dan is a patient "Dad" and very involved in homework and activities. They love the Lord and provide a home that honors and exalts Jesus!

"Thank you, Lord, for these wonderful host families. Please strengthen and bless them as they parent these precious girls!"

LIFE ALTERING CHANGES...by Dennis

Some of us go through major life altering changes, both good and bad. We are blessed to say that we are seeing positive life altering changes in our two Apache girls, Riscilla and Jacy, as they live, go to school and worship in a safe, Christian environment. They are learning the ways of our Lord, how to function in today's society and how to resist temptations. And, scholastically, they are competing with their peers and excelling. They are also a benefit to the sports team they participate in and they love and are loved by many.

This year we have been able to bring three more girls, Drelyn, Theresa and Naomi (sisters) to Tucson so they can take advantage of the same experiences and blessings.

It has been difficult for the parents and their children to be separated for long periods of time but they both agree the benefits are worth it. The host families find it challenging but also worthwhile. Lucy and I find our mission a 'labor of love', and are sometimes concerned, as we try to find host families for our girls, search for financial assistance for our mission and for the girls, and maintain relationships with the growing number of families we are involved with (along with our other mission activities).

We strongly believe in our mission to help these young ladies as they grow, learn and walk closer to Jesus as they make those *life altering changes*. And that, my brothers and sisters, is PRICELESS!

Purpose ...by Dennis

In my life I have discovered humans must have a purpose. Believers and non-believers alike, deep down inside, need to have a purpose in life. Without that purpose I think we drift aimlessly in life with an empty feeling in our being.

As a Christ-follower I have a more important purpose in life, one with real meaning and one that lays the foundation for who I am. My Christian purpose is to love God and to glorify, worship, praise and be obedient to Him. Also, my purpose is to show that I love Him by using the gifts and talents He has given to serve others, thus also glorifying Him.

The reason I am bringing this up is because a few months ago I was struggling physically, mentally and spiritually and it took me a while to figure out what was wrong. It started last October when I had two major spine surgeries that left me unable to do almost anything while recuperating. Lucy was the perfect wife and nurse. She did everything for me; it was like I had my own personal servant. However, it was too much of a good thing. God created man to work and I was being a couch potato, which worked for a while and then I became antsy. I needed to do something.

That's when I got into trouble. In February I was feeling pretty good so I carried two five gallon buckets of *Cool Coat* rubberized paint up a ladder and painted our roof. That mistake caused me to become almost crippled and led to having another surgery in March to repair a disc I had herniated (just above my first surgery). This led to more restrictions on my activities and after a short while I noticed that I was becoming nervous, edgy, and had no energy to study or read scripture. I had no desire to do anything. I was becoming depressed.

Not liking my situation, I prayed, thought about what was going on, reasoned as much as I could, and then talked with Lucy about how I was feeling and my diagnosis of what was going on. I was depressed because I did not have a purpose. I felt useless. Lucy was doing everything for me. Others were helping also and there was nothing for me to do but sit there and accept help. I began getting used to this condition, but fortunately I fought that feeling and resisted becoming dependant on others. With more prayer, less pain medications, and just knowing what was happening to me, I was able to rise up and start to return to normal.

Now you may be thinking, "why is this article in the Manos de Dios newsletter?" Good question. I will explain. While I was feeling I had no purpose I thought of the people on the Apache Indian Reservation and the struggles they are going through. I thought of the men, women and (yes) children that feel they don't have a purpose. I won't get into analyzing whose fault it is because there is enough fault to go around. However, my new understanding of the feeling of not having a purpose and feeling hopeless makes me look at the Apache people in a little different light.

From what I have learned about the Apache people many don't have a purpose and they feel hopeless. And yes, they need to get themselves out of that rut, but it is a very difficult task. I was able to understand my situation, had resources (prayer, friends support and knowledge) available and knew how to get better. That is not so for many of our Apache brothers and sisters. For many of them, their lives are so full of contradictions, violence, depression and addictions. Then add the fact that their culture (right now) does not lend them to seeking help from others (for a variety of reasons). Therefore they have no clear idea what to do. And sadly, some of them have been without a purpose for so long they have accepted their condition and it becomes a way of life.

Please pray for the Apache people. Pray that they discover Jesus and the wonderful plans and purpose He has for them.

....Dennis, a growing Christ follower



***Mission Statement:
To assist men and women in
making choices that
remove obstacles, build
strong families and honor
life.***



Living Hope Women's Center in Whiteriver.

(for more information go to

www.LivingHopeCenters.org)

Our home church in Tucson (Calvary Christian Fellowship) will be sending their young adult group to paint the outside of this center in October. We will be housing all 15 volunteers at the Heart House!

Services offered at the Whiteriver LHWC

***free pregnancy tests
prenatal counseling and classes
parenting classes
post-abortion counseling
prayer and encouragement***

New volunteer opportunity!...by Lucy

As our girls get settled in Tucson and we find that most of the major work projects are completed on the Heart House...we are ready to 'dig in' on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. We have been praying about where to plug in and how to build relationships. AND we have one answer! Our friend, Jackie, introduced us to Naomi, the director of the Living Hope Women's Center (LHWC) in Whiteriver. (This is the ONLY crisis pregnancy center located on a reservation in the USA!) We immediately were drawn to her compassionate attitude toward the hurting, her and her husband's powerful testimonies, and her wonderful experience (that she is willing to share) of ministering on the reservation. The LHWC offers wonderful training for their volunteers including classroom instruction and shadowing of client advocate counselors in the centers. Dennis and I both feel that this is one place God is leading us to focus our energy and time. We are going through the volunteer training in September. Naomi is especially enthusiastic about having a male volunteer who will be able to talk with the many men who come into the center. They may come in with their girlfriend or wife or come alone for counsel, prayer, parenting classes, or encouragement. Dennis will be a wonderful addition to their volunteer staff! And how wonderful to work here together!

We are so thankful that we have this opportunity to receive training and be mentored by this knowledgeable staff. We look forward to being used by God to share hope, life and truth with the Apache people!

**Naomi,
director of the LHWC in
Whiteriver**

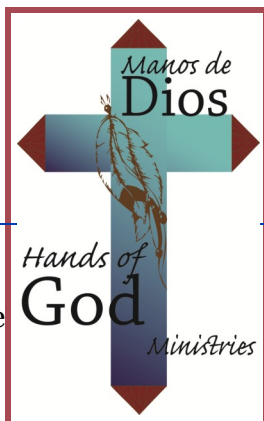




Lucy and Dennis in front of the Heart House

Contact us: New "Heart House" phone 928-468-3171
520-404-5045 (Lucy voice or text)
520-245-2039 (Dennis voice)
GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

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



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NEW CHALLENGES FOR US

Activities this fall have increased for Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries. In addition to registering our two returning girls to Desert Christian School, we have been blessed with being able to bring to Tucson three more Apache girls. This will involve more traveling expenses, school and sports fees, tuition and miscellaneous extra costs. As part of our mission, Manos de Dios has committed to paying these costs. Fortunately last year's tuitions were covered by scholarships and the Income Tax Credit offered by the state of Arizona. The host families cover some of the other expenses incurred by having a student in their home. With five girls now enrolled in school, the expenses have increased greatly.

Lucy and I have also made the commitment to assist the Living Hope Women's Center on the Rez in Whiteriver. We will be doing some counseling and I will also be doing physical labor around and in the center. This will also increase our living and travel expenses. (It is 86 miles round trip from the Heart House to the LHWC in Whiteriver.)

With that said, the needs we are facing are as follows:

PRAYER for our Apache students attending Desert Christian Schools and for their families as they miss them; for Lucy and me as we discern and make major decisions concerning our girls, the direction of our ministry, and the people we minister to at the Living Hope Women's Center (LHWC) and on the Reservation.

DONATIONS (for LHWC): shredder, telephone, flat screen TV's, baby items.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: We need additional financial support as our mission has grown and so have our expenses. We could also use DONATIONS of cars – trucks – RV's etc. that we could sell and use the monies as needed for our mission (tax deduction forms are available).

We sincerely thank you for your support in all areas. We also know that the success of our mission is not only because of what Dennis and Lucy are doing and may have accomplished. If we are successful, and I pray we are, it is because we have followed the calling that the Holy Spirit has put on our hearts, had the assistance of our Lord, and many types of support from the rest of our team – and that means YOU.

Blessings to you, Dennis