



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

August 2016

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



God makes it very clear: ***Spend some time in Tucson...*** by Lucy



Drelyn, a junior at Desert Christian High School, enjoys living with Chaco (and us!)

We brought Drelyn to Tucson to begin her junior year at Desert Christian High School. God hadn't provided a host family yet so we moved her into our home office building, converting one room into her bedroom. We didn't know how long we were to commit to being in Tucson, but we totally surrendered our time and our wills to God's plan. Then, Dennis' back surgery (scheduled for October 27) was moved up to August 19th!! He needed six weeks of recovery in Tucson, with my help. My Dad was scheduled for an MRI of his back and subsequently required at least one injection for leg pain and numbness. "OK, Lord. I know you want us here in Tucson for a period of time! Thank you for making that clear! We are yours. Use us. Our time is yours!"

So, Dennis and I are busy being 'parents' of a 16- year-old! Rides to and from school. Staying on top of homework. Packing lunches. Dinners. Youth Group. Friends. Monitoring Social Media! Whew! This will keep us young! "God, please give us

Your wisdom for this time!"

Drelyn is working hard at being a good student. She loves her Christian Perspectives class this year and she and Dennis have in-depth conversations about everything from the Bible to politics!

Drelyn and I get along very well. We talk, worship and pray. We work on the "issues" that she struggles with. It is obvious that God has Dennis and me here for "such a time as this"! We are resting in the Lord and cherishing this time in Tucson. Drelyn and I pray often for a host family, but trust that she is in our home now because it is God's will. ***Thank you for continuing to pray with us for God's perfect will and timing...for His very best for Drelyn and for us!***

Thank you!

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

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Thank you, Lord, for providing two new host families!...by Lucy



**Naomi's new host family: The Browns
Bobbi (mom), Marty (dad) and Naomi**

Last spring the decision was prayerfully made to have Thearsa (8th grade) and Naomi (7th grade) to live in separate homes this school year. These sisters, 11 months apart in age, had never lived apart. But, Sharon and Dan (their former host parents), Dennis and I and even Thearsa and Naomi themselves sensed it was time for them to become independent and grow into individuals. We prayed that God would provide the exact host families each girl needed.

During the summer the girls talked about having second thoughts about agreeing to live separately. But God was at work. Marty and Bobbi Brown were at their church the Sunday Dennis and I presented the need for host families. They reported that they each (independently) felt a tugging at their heart while we spoke. They prayed about offering their "empty nest" home to one of the students coming from the White Mountain Apache Reservation. Their four children had graduated from Desert Christian High School, but are grown and well into their careers. We met and felt that God was leading us to place Naomi in their home. Naomi came to Tucson and spent a couple nights with them this summer. It was a match made in heaven! Naomi now reports that she loves Bobbi and "Doc". She is thriving on the attention, independence and love.

Thearsa struggled with believing that God had a host family for her in Tucson. We prayed together and read verses about having faith. *One week* before school was to begin we received an email asking if a family with an 8th grade boy and a high school girl in the home would be a potential host family. We prayed, spoke with Thearsa's mom, and then responded, "Yes!" Applications were completed, references were checked and a home visit was completed. The Sunday before school began, Thearsa met her host family and the next day she moved into her room in their home. She is thriving in a busy household with siblings, a swimming pool and lots of support. ***"Lord, You are so awesome! Thank you for your work in these young ladies' lives. You have a plan and it is wonderful! Praise be Your Name!"***



**Thearsa's new host family: The Halls
Alex (attending U of A), Clara (senior at
Academy of Tucson High School), Erin
(mom) , Thearsa, David (in 8th grade at
Desert Christian Middle School) & Ned (dad)**

Being in Tucson has its benefits!...by Lucy



Swimming with all four girls-Drelyn, Naomi, Thearsa & Riscilla-over Labor Day weekend in Tucson



Riscilla drives herself to her first day as a senior at Desert Christian High School!



(above) Naomi plays flag football for Desert Christian Middle School
(left) Riscilla plays for the Desert Christian High School varsity volleyball team



Being in Tucson for an extended period of time allows us to spend time with each of the four girls attending school at Desert Christian Schools. They love to get together and so we facilitate that every chance we can fit it into the busy schedules. Dennis and I also make ourselves available to help with transportation, respite weekends and extra activities. It is so important to stay involved with Riscilla, Drelyn, Thearsa and Naomi as they mature, dream, and grow in their understanding of the world and God!

We encourage the girls to dream big and ask God for His plan for their future ...schooling, major, career, family....all of it! We pray together about their futures and model trusting God for everything!

(below) Naomi's family comes to watch her flag football game! Left to right: Tiera (Naomi's sister), Naomi, Delilah (Tiera's daughter), Yosh (Naomi's mom) & Thearsa.



Update from Dennis

Over the past days, weeks, months and years of reading, studying scripture and the time I have spent in the mission field, I have grown spiritually (and I pray that I will continue to grow as long as I live). That is a good thing and one that Jesus asks us to do. However, growing also means that I have been confronted with and had to admit my mistakes and shortfalls (sins). To those I have offended in the past because of my trying to dish out meat while I was still on milk, I ask your forgiveness (if I have not already done so). In the past I have also judged others too quickly without much thought. And that sin has come full circle because now some people are judging me without asking me what the truth is! Now it is my time.

For now, I would like to pass on a short list of what I have learned.

- To test everything, hold fast to what is good, and resist evil. (1 Thess. 5:21)
- When judging, judge righteously. (John 7:24)
- Experience does not always make me wiser. (Eph. 5:15)
- Don't allow my passion to get in the way of God's truth.
- Speak the truth in LOVE. (Ephesians 4:15)
- I don't have the right to withhold forgiveness.
- Head knowledge and heart knowledge are different.
- Following and speaking on scripture will cost me. (Ephesians 4:15)

And the list could go on and on. In the future it will contain the things I have learned from this day forward, Lord willing.

Blessings, Dennis

My life at the present time:

Back problems and my latest back surgery three weeks ago has put a damper on my physical activities and helping out at the Living Hope Centers doing maintenance. But prayerfully, I will be OK to resume being physical in four to five weeks and I can get busy again!

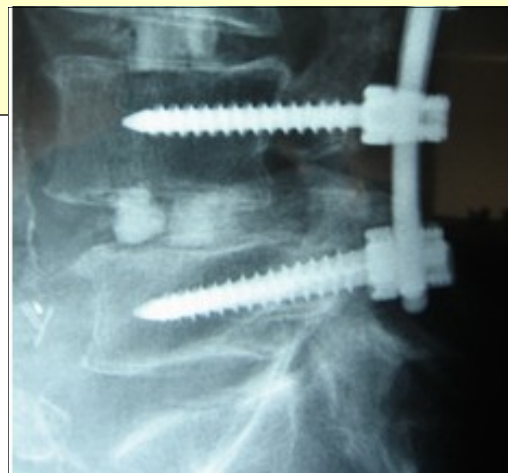
However, things are still interesting and challenging. We are temporarily hosting one of "our girls", Drelyn, while we wait for the right host family to step up and host her for the rest of the school year. I am so grateful she is easygoing and has a good attitude, which makes it a pleasure for her to be around. And she likes to talk with me about politics and the weather. What a way to my heart! Right on, Drelyn! ☺

Being that I have no BLT (no Bending, Lifting, and Twisting) for six weeks I have more time to study scripture and what it is to be a Christ-follower. I am enjoying having that time, learning a lot, and growing in my walk with Jesus.

I read a devotion in *In Touch Ministries Devotional* today and it brought up a great point that all of us could consider pondering. 1 John 5:3 says, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Scripture shows there is a great connection between loving Jesus and being obedient to Him. To me, if you truly have one then you will have the other.

Scripture tells us that in the end times Christ-followers will fall away and listen to false teachers and believe things that lead them away from Christ. If we look around we will see that this is happening today in great numbers. It seems that many of us don't have the time to "test everything" we hear, because we are too busy enjoying all the blessings God has given us! May I encourage you to take time to be in His Word, to follow His instructions, to test what you hear (and read) making sure it is in accordance with the truth in scripture. If it is not, turn away from that person even if they are a favorite pastor of yours. Our allegiance is to Christ and His truth. Be truly obedient by loving Jesus and obeying His word no matter what the cost.

His servant, Dennis



Dennis had surgery to clean out some arthritis and insert two screws and posts in his back. This was his fourth (and hopefully his last!) back surgery.

"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Ron & Tina Smith host Riscilla...again



Riscilla, Susie (a friend from Desert Christian HS) and Ron (host dad) go to Pasadena, CA to cheer on Stephanie (2nd from left) as she plays soccer for Providence Christian College.

Ron and Tina's three daughters have all graduated from high school. Their youngest, Stephanie, earned a soccer scholarship and is now a freshman at Providence Christian College in Pasadena, CA. Some couples in this situation might be ready to enjoy an "empty nest" and time to themselves. But Ron and Tina told us last spring, "we'll host Riscilla next year." What a blessing! They know Riscilla well from having hosted her two years ago. Plus, they know how to navigate the challenges of senior year at Desert Christian HS! Thank you, Lord, for this family that loves all the girls from the White Mountain Apache Reservation and is blessing Riscilla by hosting this her final year in high school!



Riscilla and friends cheer on Stephanie's soccer team in team color-ORANGE!

*"I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable. One
generation shall commend your works to
another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will
meditate. They shall speak of the might of
your awesome deeds, and I will declare your
greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of
your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness."*

Psalm 145:1-7

As Drelyn is living with us, we asked her to write an article for our Manos de Dios newsletter.

by Drelyn...

This past month getting back into the swing of school has been nothing but good for me, although some classes are a little tough. I think this year has to be the hardest for me, comparing it to my freshman & sophomore year. I only say that because summer was fun this year. My mom took my siblings and me to see a lot of different places to enjoy the views that she liked when she was a teenager or young adult. It was nice to hear my mom's stories because, well, she usually doesn't tell much. Another reason would probably be that I had a job. I miss working. Although I'm pretty sure that's the reason why my back hurts more than before, the experience was amazing! I got to meet a lot of people my age and see more of my Reservation. It beats sitting in a chair for seven hours a day (like in school).

This year my goals are to get my back better and focus on school. Also, please keep me in your prayers as I continue to pray for guidance in a decision to possibly go on another mission trip to Haiti. If it's God's will, I'd like to go again before I have to start with next year's *crazy* senior year responsibilities!

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made on our website: ManosdeDios.org



(above) Drelyn with her siblings this summer.

(below) Drelyn (on far right) with her work crew on the Rez.

