



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

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

August/September 2012 Newsletter



Dennis and Lucy take position as dorm parents at Christian boarding school for Native American students



Students in our dorm at AICM-Cameron, Viscena, Drelyn, Tia, Riscilla, Jacy, and Nicole with 'dorm dog' Chaco

Wow! Life has changed for us! We have been earnestly asking God to lead us to where He wants us. We sensed we were to be reaching out to Native Americans with His love and Good News! But, we were finding it difficult to begin building relationships with Native Americans. We could not live in their neighborhood as we did with the Mexicans in Mexico. (The only whites who may live on the White Mountain Apache Reservation are federal employees living in federal housing compounds and those who live with an Apache.) We continued to enjoy favor with and volunteer at AICM (American Indian Christian Mission) in Linden, AZ (outside Show Low in the White Mountains). In August we were asked to volunteer as dorm parents for their Christian boarding school until permanent dorm parents could be hired. We began 'parenting' Apache girls. We didn't have experience at this, but realized we brought many "tools" to this position, most importantly PRAYER! It was exhausting, but fulfilling. We began asking God "Is this where You want us??" We prayed, fasted

"We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves."

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

Inside this issue:

Dorm parenting (cont'd)	2
Labor Day parade	3
Volunteers come to help out	4
Prayer at AICM	5
Closing prayer	6

New Dorm Parent position (cont'd from page 1)

and asked others to pray that God would make His plan clear. We were being offered an opportunity to live with Native American young ladies, pour into their lives for the school year and, hopefully, get to know their families, too. We counted the cost (leaving my 85 year old Dad alone in Tucson; living in a small 2-room apartment on the back of the girls' dorm; dealing with girls and their families who are deeply involved in alcohol and drug addiction, suicide, abuse, and idol worship). But, we wholeheartedly told Jesus, "We totally surrender to You. Use us where You want us." By the end of the third week, we both sensed that this was where God was calling us. So we agreed to be the "Older Girls' Dorm Parents" for the 2012-2013 school year at AICM boarding school for Native Americans.

It has not been easy. We have had to expel 4 (older) girls due to drug use and inappropriate behavior. Now we have seven precious girls— 4 middle schoolers and 3 fifth graders. We are working hard at making this a 'home' environment full of love.

We make every effort to be 'hands of God' not only with our girls, but in the lives of the other staff here on campus. We take every opportunity to pray with others and encourage our fellow Kingdom workers in their walk with the Lord. I continue to go to the Apache jail on the Reservation as many Mondays as I can. Dennis loves to be a part of the men's Bible study on the Reservation at White Mountain Apache Christian Church. We plan to continue encouraging marriages and fellowship with our partner church in Springerville, Calvary Hills Christian Fellowship. God is at work. And as one prayer supporter said, "God will not only use you to impact these girls' lives, but He will prune you along the way." Yep. We're being pruned. It's not comfortable, but we do desire to be "purified like gold." Amen.

Love, Lucy Lucy@ManosdeDios.org



Swimming is a favorite activity at AICM! Even though the water is COLD, our girls still swim!



One of our girls, Cameron, is a talented artist. Brett, a student from the boys dorm is gifted artistically and musically, too.



AICM participated in "meet you at the pole" day, joining students all over the USA to pray around their school flag

There are 34 students living at AICM. 28 attend school on campus and 6 go to Show Low High School. Students go home to the reservations on the weekends.

White Mountain Apache Indian Fair and Rodeo

The biggest event of the year on the White Mountain Apache Reservation is the week long fair and rodeo which includes a big parade on Saturday. Many different tribes attend the fair, participate in the rodeo and set up vendor booths with everything from Indian fry bread to traditional jewelry and clothing. Many police agencies from all over central Arizona and northwest New Mexico come to assist the White Mountain Apache Police Department in handling the approximately 20,000 to 30,000 people who attend the festivities.



Serving a home-cooked meal to many police in Whiteriver during the busy Indian fair week.

Everything went well for us. We went to Whiteriver on Friday to work with the White Mountain Apache Christian Church in serving dinner to the 7 different police agencies that were there for crowd control. Later, we helped serve traditional food at the church's food booth until about 11 pm. Lucy and I crashed on cots in the youth room to get some sleep before the big parade day.

Saturday morning, the day of the parade, Lucy and I set up our "Got questions?" booth and were ready to talk about Jesus to any who would listen. Sadly there were not many people interested in talking about Jesus that day. It was the parade and fair that they came to see. That was OK though, we were there, ready, and did what we were called to do. The rest was up to God. We shared



the shade of our 'EZ-up' with families from the church and watched the 2-plus-hour parade together. The fellowship was wonderful! Keep teaching us, Lord!

Dennis

Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

What is a dorm parent?

...by Dennis

As dorm parents, we live in a dorm with the girls. They have their sleeping, living and dining area and we have separate quarters at the rear of the building (a bedroom, bathroom and a dining-living-(mini) kitchen). We are responsible for the girls from when they arrive at 6 pm on Sunday until they get on the bus to go home on Friday at 3:15 pm. Our responsibilities include making sure they eat balanced meals (in the cafeteria) and snacks, get enough sleep, attend school, complete their homework, learn social skills and, most importantly, learn to love Jesus and grow in their walk with the Lord. These things sound simple on the surface, but they are not. We are working with pre-teen and teenage girls that may have only a little knowledge of Jesus, few social skills, and come from families who struggle with addictions to alcohol and drugs, violence, and abuse (physical and sexual). Along with that we are faced with living with kids from an entirely different culture and way of life. It is a challenge, but we trust that the Lord has put us here and He will provide all we need to serve Him.

I never pictured myself being a 'dorm parent' to seven girls! But, God has a way of putting us in places we feel ill-equipped so that we will depend totally on Him. "Have your way, God!"



Rick and Sherrie and their two sons came up to visit us and help out on a long weekend. Rick and Dennis built an awning on the back of our dorm-apartment to protect our bedroom from sun, rain, and (soon-to-come!) snow. Sherrie went to the Apache jail with Lucy and prayed with many of the women prisoners. She also shared skin care hints with our girls in the dorm. Thank you, God, for friends who love us and encourage us. See below for Sherrie's comments.

"I do not know how to express how much this trip impacted me. I can certainly appreciate the complexity of your ministry and why it is so hard to find a 'person of peace' (in this culture). But, this is not unlike going to a foreign mission field. I truly believe you are where God wants you and He will bless. He wants to reap a harvest there. These are His people. Keep loving on the girls! There is a sweetness in them. They need to see that it is safe for them to be women and especially women who want to honor God." ...Sherrie, Manos de Dios supporter, after visiting us at AICM

Diane comes to PRAY at AICM....by Lucy



Our middle school girls Drelyn, Riscilla, Cameron and Jacy with Diane

“One thing” girls' memory verse:

“One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the
LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek Him in His temple.”

Psalms 27:4 (NIV)

We want to thank our precious Tucson friends for purchasing a Serta pillow-top bed and box spring for our dorm-apartment bedroom. We had been sleeping on a well-used mattress. They sensed how important a good night's sleep would be for us as we fall exhausted into bed each night. Thank you, also to other friends, for donating gently used furniture. We are so blessed to have friends who care so much for us and give so generously! Love you, our friends!

Diane, our friend, prayer intercessor, and supporter spent 2 and 1/2 days with us in our girl's dorm. Diane came from Tucson to get to know our girls and encourage them to seek after Jesus with their whole heart. How powerful to read the Word together and ask God to show us how it applies to OUR lives. Diane emphasized choosing the best thing, as Mary, the sister of Martha did. That is sitting at the feet of Jesus!

“But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10: 41-42

Diane and I prayed individually with some of the girls and they were all so encouraged by her visit! Our girls (in the dorm) and I have since decided to call ourselves the “One Thing” girls!

Diane also prayed with the group of women AICM staff that meet at our dorm-home each Thursday morning for worship and prayer. All were encouraged and filled up with Holy Spirit that day!

Afterward, Diane and I prayed with some of the leadership here on campus. What an impact prayer has. We must always make/take time to pray with and for those around us.

Thank you, Diane, for your heart for these students, these Indian people and this mission school! We appreciate you so much!



**Lucy & Dennis Smith
with John, Lucy's Dad.
We were blessed to take
a quick 'family' vacation
to San Diego in August.**

**Dad really enjoyed
getting out of the
Tucson heat! We are so
grateful that Dad is
willing and able to
share our home in
Tucson. His being there
allows us to be where
God calls us to be.
Thank you, Dad, for all
you do for us.
We love you!**

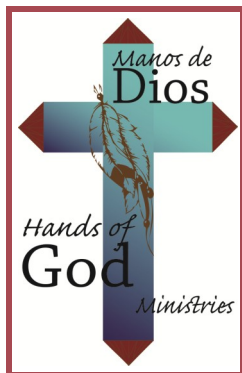
Contact us:

520-404-5045 (voice or text)

GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org

Address at AICM: 924 Mission Lane, Show Low, AZ 85901

**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***



Closing prayer...

***"Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to live here at AICM
with these precious girls. We know how much You love them.***

***They are beautiful and so valuable to You. Please use us to
demonstrate Your love to these girls during this season of their
lives. Capture their hearts with Your awesome love for them
and teach them to love You back! Set their families and people
free from their captivity to alcohol, drugs, violence and idol
worship, we ask in the name of Jesus. We pray for
transformation of the First Nation's People by the power of
Your Spirit! Bring justice where there has been injustice. Bring
peace where there has been conflict. Bring grace and mercy
where there has been condemnation. May Your will be done
here on earth as it is in heaven. We love you Father God, Lord
Jesus, and Holy Spirit! Amen"***

Dennis and Lucy