



*... Partnering with the Holy Spirit to
empower Mexican people to grasp God's
full purpose*

*Dennis & Lucy Smith, missionaries to
Mexico*

This Newsletter includes...

www.ManosdeDios.org

September 2010 Newsletter

- Kids start school...again
- Mexico celebrates Independence Day
- Margarita shows her love for us
- Men's Rehab Center and Prison Ministry update
- Prayer Requests



Damien reviews his new school supplies for Kindergarten.

Alexa shows off her new backpack. She has so many books for second grade she needed a backpack with wheels!



Renaldo and Cici have 7 children! 6 are attending school. Your support helped provide for their school supplies!

Thank you!

The Mexican government provided one (1) school uniform for each child who needed one for this school year. Parents are thankful for this assistance, but still needed to provide school supplies for each school age child. We found that supplies for *kindergarteners* cost from \$35 to \$100 per child! Thanks to Manos de Dios supporters (some INSISTED that we would need contributions this year!), we were able to provide funds to pastors and families to help provide supplies for needy children.

It is a blessing to see the enthusiasm the children have for education. They value the school supplies they have and express their heartfelt thanks to God and their brothers and sisters in Christ who provided for their needs.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

¡Viva Mexico!

Mexico celebrated 200 years of independence from Spain on September 16th. We spent this day in Desemboque and were invited to observe the celebration at Caleb's (Pastor's son) kindergarten. Many of the children dressed in traditional Mexican costumes. Much of the celebration was around eating traditional food! We enjoyed spending time with these precious children and their moms in this small fishing village.



Independence Day
celebrated at
kindergarten in
Desemboque.



¡Feliz Cumpleaños, Dennis!



Margarita threw a 'surprise' birthday party for Dennis. 35 of our closest friends in Puerto Peñasco came to celebrate and bless us. Margarita demonstrated sacrificial love by giving of her limited resources to put on this great party. Renaldo and Cici's family provided music (Alabanzas, of course!) and we enjoyed a night of fellowship we will not forget!



ESPERANZA MEN'S REHAB CENTER, PUERTO PENASCO, MX.

Pastor Jose Cruz, Director and Pastor of the Men's Rehab. Center has made major changes and updates since taking over directing the center. The men are in the center's church building for personal prayer and repentance at 6:30am. They then join together corporate worship and receive a teaching everyday at 7am.. They work either on the center grounds or in the community and they have other responsibilities while living there.

There is 'life' as well as personal and spiritual growth in the men and I sense a feeling of (good) pride in the men as they turn their lives around by focusing on Jesus and with the direction from Pastor Cruz. It is a privilege and an honor to speak and present a message from scripture each Thursday morning. The men and women make me feel welcome, listen intently, participate in reading of scripture and answer questions when asked. It has been a challenge on some mornings this summer when it was extremely hot as there is no air conditioning or even a fan in their chapel building. (A possible project for next summer, huh?)

Occasionally other pastors will come to listen to the message and participate in singing and playing the guitar. One pastor from the community had one of his young men from the church slip into the use of illegal drugs. He immediately asked the young man to go to the rehabilitation center for help. The young man and the pastor attend the services together each weekday morning (for support and accountability) and when working during the day the young man is either with his pastor or Pastor Cruz. What dedication to a brother in desperate need!

Please continue to pray for Pastor Cruz, the center, and the men attending and receiving treatment. The people of Mexico are struggling with many hardships, especially with addictions. Please pray for them to be strong in their faith ("***ser fuerte en la fe***"). If you are interested in the messages I have given at the center, check out my blog. Go to: www.manosdediosmissions.blogspot.com/

Dios te bendiga, Dennis



It is our privilege to call the directors of the Men's and Women's Rehab Centers our friends! We spend time together encouraging one another and enjoying their family! Shown here: <back row>

Elizabeth (client of Women's Center), Ana (Director of Women's Center), Ely (Ana's daughter and assistant at the Center); <middle row> Alexa (Ely's daughter), Dennis, Jose Cruz (Director of Men's Center); <front row> our 10 month old Golden Retriever, "Chaco" and Carlos (Ely's son)

a September Sunday afternoon, Playa Bonita, Puerto Peñasco

The local women have stepped up to take over the leadership of the Women's Prison Ministry. Yeah! This is an answer to prayer as these women (Pastora Rafa, Ana, Ofelia, and Leo) have grown and are 'grasping MORE of God's full purpose' (see Manos de Dios' vision statement on page one) for their lives. Please pray for God's sevenfold Spirit* to pour out on them as they minister to the women in the Puerto Peñasco prison! Rafa will be the leader of this team.

***"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -" Isaiah 11:2**

A Season of Change

God is SO good! How amazing that He has called us to represent Him in Mexico.

As you will be noticing in future newsletters, we will be spending more time in Tucson and not as much time in Mexico for the next six to twelve months. This is due to the fact that we are being called by God...to spend more time to deepen our relationship with Him; to focus on some personal issues; and to realign our plan with His plan. We are also prayerfully considering attending a three to five month missionary training and equipping program.

During this time we will continue to support, pray for and encourage our Mexican friends and pastors. We will also facilitate occasional mission activities.

To serve Him effectively we need to be in tune with God's heart, aligned with each other, and clearly hearing His direction. We are setting aside time to focus on these areas.

Your continual prayer and financial support are much needed and appreciated.

We covet your prayers and would love to hear from you if you have any questions.

May God continue to richly bless you "according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Dennis and Lucy Smith, Manos de Dios

Thoughts from Dennis

EMPLOYMENT IN MEXICO

If you can't find a job in the US, I don't advise going to Mexico to look for work. First, you would have to compete with too many Mexicans that want that job and second, I don't think you would accept the pay scale, working conditions or hours.

Let's take mining for instance. South of Puerto Peñasco (about 60 miles) there is a gold mine. Everyone knows it is a gold mine, but the official papers state that it is a copper mine. The company that owns it is from Spain. They pay taxes to the government on what little copper that is dug up. However, the real ore is the gold and silver that is produced. It is mined, then sent to a port to be loaded on cargo ships to be shipped to Spain. And since it is a copper mine, there is no mention of gold and silver – and no taxes. The miners, that do the hard work in the open pit mine during the 10 hour day, get \$12.00 US dollars or \$144.00 pesos PER DAY (Oh, and, I forgot – which includes the provision of a bus ride to the mine and back home).

How about working in the migrant fields? Would you like to try that? In one particular grape farm in the Hermosillo area of Sonora you could get a job (maybe) picking grapes for 8 hours a day and make \$28.00 pesos a day (\$2.40 in US dollars a day). You can work extra hours for a few more pesos a day. And I will not even get into the working and living conditions you would be subjected to. That's a little different that the \$8.00 per hour the workers are paid in the US.

Some people think that many poor Mexicans do not pay taxes. Wrong! They pay taxes on their earnings and they also pay a fee to the government for the free medical assistance some of them get (not all qualify). And to add another burden to the poor in Mexico there is an additional 17% tax (new law as of this year!) added to their earnings if they make over \$3,000.00 pesos a week (\$250.00 US dollars). And what do they get in return for their taxes paid? Very little.

And by the way, gas is around \$4.00 a gallon in some areas, milk cost the same as in Tucson and many items on the grocery store shelf are also equal to what we pay. There is relief in the price of fish, fresh baked items and some fresh produce. I'm telling you this so that the next time someone says to you that we should not be helping the poor in Mexico, you can share this information with them and may be they will understand a little better why help is needed from the outside. Please continue to pray with us for God's transformation in Mexico... from corruption, financial and physical abuse, and the oppression of the working class in Mexico.

Paz (Peace), Dennis Comments welcome: Dennis@ManosdeDios.org

In each newsletter we share what CD we are worshipping with and what book we are reading. We were privileged to be able to attend (and study!) a module of the Leadership Institute (for more info go to www.LTIWorld.org) being offered at Compañerismo Cristiano de Peñasco church. We learned a lot about personalities, spiritual gifts and how to work together using each others individual gifting.

Reading

Revolution in World Missions

K.P. Yohannan (free book from [Gospel for Asia](http://GospelforAsia))

Worshipping with

"Overtaken" CD by Christ for the Nations (CFNI)

Prayer Requests:

“I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” **Ephesians 3:16-19**

Every Friday morning (6-7 am) Christians from many churches in Peñasco gather to **pray** for their churches, pastors, families, city, state and country. Please pray for unity among the pastors and for guidance from God’s Spirit for this prayer time. Why not consider joining them in the Spirit to pray for Mexico and the United States on Friday mornings?



Continue to pray for Alejandra’s (Margarita’s daughter) complete healing. We are believing in her physical healing and will continue to persevere in prayer, believing in God’s goodness and power! ***“May Your Kingdom come, Lord, here on earth as it is in heaven! Amen!”***



Pray for families in Mexico. Ask the Lord for protection from evil and deliverance from oppression. Pray that their spirits would be encouraged daily by God’s Spirit and that they would **KNOW** that they **KNOW** His love for them! Pray that God would reveal His plan and purpose for their lives and they would choose to walk in it!

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