



# Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

## September/October 2016

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



### Hosting teenage girls a full-time ministry!...by Lucy



**Our “family of four” in Tucson: Drelyn, Dad, Lucy, & Dennis**

Our life is very different these days...rides to and from school, parent-teacher conferences/emails/phone calls, HOMEWORK, prayers for wisdom in everything from technology use to choosing extracurricular activities. But, it is a good life! Being a “family of four”, as my Dad fondly proclaims, is right where God intends for us to be. We have an opportunity like-no-other to shape Drelyn’s life by living day-in, day-out with her. Prayer encompasses our day...from my early morning God-time before the house awakes to prayers for the day as Drelyn and I drive to school. Dennis and I pray as we struggle with how to provide guidelines without being overly controlling. We humbly ask for wise counsel and prayerfully implement new strategies. These helpful hints include: listening intently *without interrupting* to what Drelyn is sharing. Validating her with positive affirmation and setting aside time to nurture (love her) without any confrontation or advice. This nurture time might be a date night with Dennis or a shopping trip or stop at Starbucks with me. Teaching responsibility by equipping her to do what is needed, from chores to prioritizing homework tasks. We often do things together at first. Then, (proudly) watch her

perform well in a self-directed manner! And of course, apologizing when we didn’t take responsibility for what WE were to do.

Wow! These are helpful skills in all interpersonal relationships! “God, You are growing us as much, if not more, than You are growing Drelyn! Thank you, Jesus!”

And, EVERY day we do this HOSTING we are more grateful to the other host families that “parent” three other girls from the White Mountain Apache Reservation daily! Thank you for sharing your lives, homes, resources, family time and love with Riscilla, Thearsa and Naomi!



**Riscilla, being honored at Volleyball Senior Night, with her host parents, Ron and Tina**

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## Desert Christian Schools sports program develops athletes and students with Christ-like character!



*Thearsa played on the “A” volleyball team for Desert Christian Middle School this fall.*



*Naomi played on the co-ed flag football team for Desert Christian Middle School.*



*(above and above right) Riscilla is celebrated on “Senior Night” as one of 6 graduating seniors on the Desert Christian High School varsity volleyball team.*

**Desert Christian Middle School's** fall sports award assembly provided the opportunity for coaches to give awards to student-athletes. Students are encouraged to develop godly characteristics as well as athletic skills.

The **“All My Heart”** Award given to the student-athlete demonstrating total effort, by exhibiting the character traits of diligence, patience-*expecting a favorable outcome because God is in control* and dependability-*met the needs of those around him/her in a way that brought glory to God.*

The **“Coach Honoring”** Award given to the student-athlete demonstrating a teachable spirit by exhibiting the character traits of attentiveness, obedience, and gratitude-*feeling thankful appreciation towards others and showing it.*

The **“Christian Love”** Award given to the student-athlete demonstrating spiritual unity by exhibiting the character traits of encouragement-*Christ was honored by his/her attitude and actions, love, and unity.*

The **“Christ Like”** Award given to the student athlete demonstrating leadership by exhibiting the character traits of wisdom-*seeing and responding to life situations from God's frame of reference, loyalty, honesty, and initiative.*



## High School “Spirit Week” lots of fun!



**Drelyn & friend, Nick, on *multiplicity day* as Kellie & Lane Frost, professional bull riders.**



**(above) Drelyn wears her tribe’s traditional Camp Dress for *America day*.**

**(left) Riscilla & Drelyn on *character day***

**(below) sisters, Drelyn and Riscilla enjoy a moment together on Mt. Lemmon**





## Challenges and Change....by Dennis



Riscilla Ashley Colelay's senior photo

"Our" high school senior, Riscilla, is in her final stage of being dependant on her mom, Ron and Tina (her host parents), and Lucy and me for immediate guidance, direction and correction when necessary. She is becoming aware that this phase of her life is almost over. Reality is finally setting in. I would imagine it is frightening!

Next year she will be on her own, something most kids long for but have no idea what they will really be up against. She will be responsible to get herself up in the morning on time, make it to class on time, eat properly, study and get her homework done when due. The list goes on and on.

Prayerfully we (her host families and Lucy and I) have, over the past four years, helped provide the tools she will need to succeed in college and beyond. That was one of our primary goals. Our objective was/is to provide Riscilla (and all the girls) with a firm foundation of the education she will need to compete in the world as she enters adulthood. And to provide her with a foundation of the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ

which will also enable her to stand up against the enemy, Satan and the secular world.

Our goal is not to remove "our" girls from their Apache heritage but to infuse it with the saving love and grace that Jesus offers for their salvation, and to prepare them to succeed in all they do. That challenge was and still is difficult. However, because of the patience and willingness to grow and learn shown by "our" girls, this challenge is not as bad as it could be. Through a lot of prayer, positive and corrective feedback, patience, understanding and perseverance by all involved, these young ladies are succeeding. They are becoming the mature, strong, dedicated Christ-following young ladies that Jesus wants them to be and ones that their parents, host families, extended family and Lucy and I have strived for them to become.

It is being accomplished because these young ladies are facing challenges and conquering them, confronting change and accepting it, and growing through all the adversity they constantly face. Personally, I believe it is a *miracle* from God that they are here, that their parents see the importance of an education and a close walk with the Lord, and that these KIDS are doing so well.

***Thank you, Lord! And heartfelt thanks to all the people that are helping to make these dreams come true!***

***"I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong."***

Ephesians 3: 16-17

Prayer included in Riscilla's senior yearbook parents' ad.  
Our prayer for all four girls!

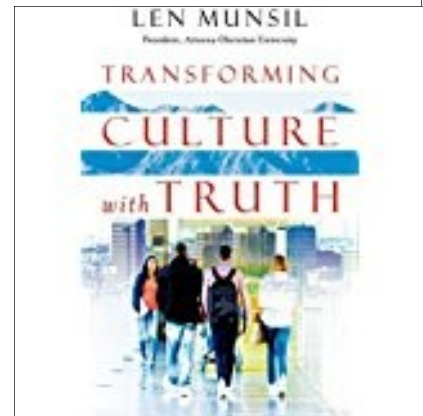
## ***A difficult decision: Christian or secular education...by Lucy***

Whether it is time to enroll a child in elementary school, middle school, high school or college, there is a decision to be made. Do we send our children to a public school or provide an education based on Christian principles (whether in a private school setting or home schooling)?

With our first Apache student finishing her last year in high school, we are in the midst of comparing universities. Many offer the majors, campus, location, housing, activities and clubs that she is interested in. BUT, a important difference is the reference point for all academics. Is it a worldly view or a Biblical view?

Arizona Christian University (ACU), located in Phoenix Arizona, has as its motto, "Transforming Culture with Truth". The ACU president, Dr. Len Munsil, has written a book by that name that describes the core commitments they as a Christian University have adopted. They believe in preparing students to be salt and light in their world, while they are in school and especially afterwards in their chosen profession. The first of these listed core values is, "Before all else, be committed to Jesus Christ-accomplishing His will and advancing His kingdom on earth as in heaven." Wow! Love that!

There is always the debate of whether it is better to be in a secular environment and have numerous opportunities to shine brightly as a Christian or to be in school full of Christians and be strengthened to live out your faith throughout the rest of your life. Another factor is that each class, from biology to history, is taught from a Biblical world view in a Christian university, whereas public schools come from a worldly view and are often anti-God in their presentation. (See *God's Not Dead* movie!) For our girls, in this world, in this day and age... I vote for choosing to be strengthened for four more years before going out in the world. My opinion is, "Make sure you can give a reason for the hope that is within you in an intelligent, bold, yet loving way."



**Book by Dr. Len Munsil  
about Arizona Christian  
University's  
Core Commitments**

A large piece of the decision is also that in a Christian college there are less opportunities to be side-tracked by drinking, drugs and sex (not non-existent, but LESS) and there is more accountability by staff and fellow students to walk the walk you are talking. Chapel, Bible classes, Bible study in dorms, and Christian Professors, staff, Resident Assistant (older student who assists on each floor of a dorm) and fellow students all help students stay on track with their walk with the Lord.

Private Christian Universities have a much higher tuition than state/public schools. But, we are finding that scholarships are plentiful, and many are specific for Native Americans. We have always trusted God for His provision for the girls and their school expenses. It is quite a testimony to His faithfulness and provision that He has provided 100% of their tuitions for the past four years at Desert Christian Schools (averaging \$9,000 per year, per student).

We advise the girls to pray. Pray about where they are to go to college and ask God for His direction. I believe that if they do this, and truly sense His leading to attend a Christian school, and they commit to follow His lead, then He will provide for them to attend. Faith. God honors faith so much. Jesus says, "Follow me." If these young ladies reply with all their heart to Jesus, "Yes, I will follow You. Teach me how to do this well," He will move mountains on their behalf. Will you join me in praying for wisdom for Riscilla as she goes through this decision-making process?

***Thank you!..... Lucy***



## ***Prayer requests/updates....***

- For wisdom as we teach, model for and guide Drelyn.
- For a teachable spirit and sharp mind for Drelyn as she make choices in her school work, personal life, and walk with the Lord.
- That Riscilla would seek God for His plan for her college schooling.
- That Thearsa would desire to continue her education at Desert Christian High School next year.
- For the Living Hope Centers in the White Mountains. That God bless and lead as the staff/volunteers provide loving options to women in crisis pregnancies.
- For Naomi, employee of the Whiteriver Living Hope center, and her pre-mature baby, Willard Junior.
- For continued healing and relief of pain for Dennis' back.
- For health and stability for Dad as he enters his 91st year!

***“...that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” Philemon verse 6 (NKJV)***

***The word acknowledgement comes from the Greek word “epignosis” meaning deep knowledge of the facts, well-instructed, intensive. This is a good summary of what this season is about for us. We are studying to KNOW what we have in Christ Jesus. We are studying His Word and asking Holy Spirit to help us apply it fully to our lives. Dennis is sharing what he learns via blogs and emails. We are teaching and leading Drelyn and the other girls by principles of The Word. We are modeling and teaching an ‘attitude of gratitude’ for EVERYTHING we have in Christ Jesus. We are continuing to ask for opportunities (and seizing them) to share our faith with those around us. We are thankful for family and willingly caring for my 90-year-old father in our home. This is all an honor and privilege. It is not easy, but it is very clear that God has called us back to Tucson for “such a time as this.” The Lord is so good to allow us to continue mission work right in our home!!***

Devotion shared at our Manos de Dios Board meeting

## **Manos de Dios Ministry contact info:**

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***Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:***

**Manos de Dios, NFP**

**2914 N Indian Ruins Road, Tucson AZ 85715 OR**

**made on our website: [ManosdeDios.org](http://ManosdeDios.org)**

***Kudos for Riscilla***

***“I wanted to write and commend Riscilla to you. She gave her story this week in Senior Bible and did an amazing job. She was calm and courageous. She had the whole class intently listening. She is a wonderful story teller! I am greatly encouraged by her work ethic and determination. You have much to be proud of with this young lady.”***

***-John O’Hair,  
Headmaster Desert Christian School,  
High School Bible Class teacher***



Drelyn with “Grandpa” on his 90th birthday!