Manos de Dios Update Summer 2022

By Dennis (Dennis@ManosdeDios.org)

As you have noticed over the past years, our newsletters have changed. Some 20 years ago, or so, our newsletters describing the mission activities we were doing in Mexico revealed excitement, joy, and activities that showed substantial growth in the people we were ministering to toward Christian living. And they contained many pictures of people and children with smiling faces and joy in their lives. Those were successful times; not success determined by our standards but God's.

Fast forward to the mission of Manos de Dios/Pro-Love Tucson and it is noticeably different concerning the people we minister to, their circumstances and even their up-bringing and culture. Many other things have changed, too. The type of success, outward appearance of success, and the immediate and/or visual signs of success are different, but just as important. And, as we sometimes forget, success is judged by God and His standards and timing not by us or any ratio we may impose on our results. The goal of a servant is to serve in a manner suggested and approved by the One who sent us, God. He handles the changes in people, outcomes and timing!

Sometimes, we servants, get impatient and want to be able to see success in real time, share in the joys of success and not have to wait to see them, if ever at all. And if we don't, we are saddened. This is just one reason we need to remember Galations 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."



(left) Alejandra with mother, Margarita (right) Carlos with his son, Damian (now 18 years old and taller than his Dad) with younger son, Isaac (one-year-old)





Isaac Gamaliel, Carlos and Nati's son, 16months-old. Puerto Penasco, MX

Manos de Dios is still involved in the lives and ministries of our Christian brothers and sisters in Mexico.

Margarita and her daughter Alejandra (Ale) are doing well and struggling at the same time. Ale, now 22 years old, is healthy and taking physical therapy that helps her stay strong. Margarita has been protected by God and has stayed in relatively good health so she can take care of her daughter. Margarita is a woman of strong faith and prays for Manos de Dios supporters daily. She requests prayers for strength and wisdom in caring for Ale and for a smooth transition to a new house that she has totally paid off (with the help of Manos de Dios supporters!) A dream come true: She will own her own home!

One of the groups we supported and ministered to for many years has fallen on difficult times. A split in the marriage has caused dissension in the community, did some harm to the ministry and caused some people to make judgments without all the facts. This ministry was very successful in the past and can be again through the guidance and wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Please pray for healing, a breaking of strongholds and a return to following in God's righteousness.

We befriended Carlos & Nati some 14

years go in the barrio of Puerto Penasco, MX (see pic left). They have kept in touch over the years and call simply to say, "We love you and miss you. You have always been a blessing to our family!" Their daughter is now 20 and attending the university and their son is 18 and has a job. We continue to invest in their children's education.

Carlos and Nati have a new baby, who they want very much for us to meet. In God's timing, we'll return to Mexico!

Keep in touch!
GetInvolved@ManosDeDios.org

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Our ministry to the young ladies (they started out as young teenagers but are now some are passing that mark) from the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation is still ongoing. As usual, we are encouraging them to continue to grow in their walk with the Lord, continue their education and not to fall into the trap of being held down by the evils on the reservation.

After going through some struggles, Drelyn has accumulated enough credits at Northland Pioneer College and the University of Arizona (UA) online to register to attend the UA next year as a senior. It has been a long haul for her filled with setbacks emotionally, physically, financially and spiritually. But with help and prayers, she is working toward her goal of getting her degree in business from the UA.

Naomi is happily married, has a beautiful daughter (Moriah) and will be moving to Minot, ND soon with her husband as he is in the Air Force and will be stationed there. Thearsa graduated from high school, also has a beautiful baby girl (Zariah), is working at Amazon in Tucson, and is engaged to a great young man who also is working at Amazon.

Some of the other girls are struggling with drugs/alcohol and/or a worldly lifestyle while others are attempting to have a better life by working and avoiding the things that haunt so many. *Please*



Zariah & Moriah in native dresses when visiting the Reservation.

pray for, not just these girls, but for all the young people on the reservation - for a realization of their identity in Christ and a desire to return to Christian roots and beliefs!



Pro-Love Tucson sidewalk advocates volunteer team is a testament to

perseverance, patience, turning the other cheek, and resisting a very wide assortment of taunting, slurs, insults, threats, and barriers facing them from clients and passersby as they minister from the sidewalk to women going to abortion facilities. You may know that Pro-Love Tucson sidewalk advocates promote all types of lie-affirming health resources, but

abortion options are the main and most serious of their outreach. Due to Pro-Love Tucson's grace-filled approach and God's favor, they have seen many parents change their mind and turn away from considering aborting their child! They continue to offer the hope and help women and men need to THRIVE during and after an unexpected pregnancy. Many have been educated to both being told the truth concerning the dangers of abortion and that God can still love them even if they carry out the abortion (and forgive them upon repentance.) Many have turned to faith-based medical clinics for assistance and realized the genuine love and compassion shown to them by the non-judgmental Christian pro-life advocates they met on the sidewalk.



Lucy at Planned Parenthood abortion facility

Our new partner ministry, "The Forgotten Partner Network" offers encouragement to the single partners of pregnant women. Help get the word out! <u>TheForgottenPartnerNetwork.com</u> is a helpful resource!

(Pro-Love Tucson continued) Due to the increase in threats, angry posts and even physical threats at the sidewalk, we had added (concealed) armed security at the locations to protect the volunteers. Along with me, we have recruited two Christian brothers to act as security and occasionally, a Pro-Love volunteer's husband will come over to help out.

The director of Pro-Love Tucson sidewalk advocates, Lucy adds, "Currently, due to Roe being overturned and Arizona law going back to pre-Roe, abortion is only legal to save the life of the mother. All the abortion facilities in Arizona have ceased committing abortions. Praise God! What an answer to sooooo many prayers! We are praying that numerous pro-life candidates will be elected in November to maintain this current status. (And we know things could change in our Arizona abortion laws in the future.) In the meantime, Pro-Love Tucson continues to offer referrals to lifeaffirming clinics to those few clients who come to Planned Parenthood for birth control and sexually transmitted infection testing/treatment. We have an active social media campaign to educate and reach out to those in an unintended pregnancy, encouraging them that they can be strong and can choose life, for themselves as well as for their pre-born child. Pro-Love Tucson volunteers are also active educating church youth groups on topics including the truth about abortion, sexual integrity and birth control. We are also reaching out to churches with curriculum for programs to support single pregnant women. *Thank you for* your prayers that we will know God's will and direction for our ministry in these changing

times." (Contact her directly at <u>Lucy4ProLove@gmail.com</u>.)



Two-year-old "E" was saved from abortion when his parents interacted with Pro-Love Tucson sidewalk advocates and chose life!

In spite of all the hardships Pro-Love Tucson volunteers face, including vile comments, rude clients, potentially dangerous situations, extreme heat, and the heartbreaking scenes of women leaving Planned Parenthood after making an abortion decision, they stand fast in their resolve. Did they give up or give in? Absolutely not. They remembered John 16:33 "that we will have tribulation", and Ephesians 6:1-18 "that it is a spiritual battle and to put on the armor of God" and, finally, Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Those are the truths they live and serve by.

Chemical abortion or 'the abortion pill' (RU-486) is becoming the number one method of abortion. Sadly, it is painful and risky. BUT, if a woman has a change of mind after taking the first of the abortion pills, there is a reversal available. Over 3000 babies have been born healthy in the USA after the mother took the first of the abortion pills, but not the second! Spread the word! It is not too late to save her baby's life! AbortionPillReversal.com



With all the changes that are taking place in the world and our country, and the challenges to laws that effect our health care, safety, rule of law and the direction of our democracy, Manos de Dios and Pro-Love Tucson will be adjusting to whatever changes we are prompted to make by the Holy Spirit. But what will not change is our call to follow the quidance and principals set forth by our Lord Jesus Christ; to love our neighbors as ourselves, forgive and seek forgiveness and appreciate the unmerited grace that has been so unselfishly given to us. We thank all of you for your prayers, words of comfort, comments, both physical and financial assistance and for the trust you have in Lucy, me, and our mission. Blessings, Dennis

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