



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

*Dennis and Lucy Smith, missionaries to Mexico*

[www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org)

October 2008 Newsletter

Ok, I know it is November and I am just getting to the October newsletter but it has been a busy two months. In early October we started out for Mexico with a few thousand dollars worth of building supplies and many winter donations loaded up on our utility trailer. We paid our 18% tax for the purchased supplies at the Sonoyta border crossing and in an hour or so we were in Peñasco.

### **The Rock Church Builds a Home for Armando & Diana's family**

One major project on this trip was to build a house for Armando and Diana. This home was financed by The Rock Church of Sahuarita, Arizona and was to be built by members of their church and a few volunteers from the Manos de Dios Life Group. We hoped to get most of the house (22 feet by 29 feet) built in two days. It was a challenge, but one we were up to.



Armando and a crew of volunteer friends had the slab poured and ready to build on when we got there. In two days, the 11 men and 1 woman accomplished what I had prayed for! By the end of the second day, the house was up and secure. The exterior walls were up, windows and doors in; roof was on with the exception of the tar paper and rolled shingles. Interior walls were up, wiring in and connected to the boxes, and insulation in and stapled in place. Armando and his friends were going to install the rolled shingles the next day and put up the drywall when he got the extra money. He

did contribute \$1500.00 for extra concrete and building supplies needed for the larger size house we were building. Tony (we built a house for his family last May) was there to help lay the plywood base for the roof and Enrique (a friend of ours and a great electrician) pulled and installed the electrical wiring. Pat, local missionary and another friend, was our foreman (also ordered the wood and concrete) assisted by John (from The Rock Church) and as many as could put in our '2 cents' worth.

It is amazing what can be accomplished by a group of people that are focused, work together well, are directed by the Lord and have servant's hearts. It was a fast paced two days but well worth it! And, it did not scare off the people from The Rock Church. They are planning on doing it again...along with



other projects!

In a touching dedication service, Pastor Tim of The Rock presented Armando and Diana with a signed Bible and the keys to their new home. Matthew 5:14-16 was quoted as we declared this home a light set on the hill with the purpose of declaring the glory and presence of the Lord.

Lucy and I offer a special thank you to the Lord and to all the people that assisted with this project. Your determination to serve, your donations, prayers and physical help made this build possible. Together we are a team that can accomplish great things through our Lord.



*Want to know how your group can build a house? Send me an e-mail and let's talk!*

To view a video of this house building project go to The Rock's website: [www.TheRockofSahuarita.com](http://www.TheRockofSahuarita.com). Click on Reach, then Missions, then Mexico Missions. Click on the large box labeled The Rock of Sahuarita to view the video.

*Dios les bendiga, Dennis*

## **Alcance (Outreach) for children and moms**

The Rock of Sahuarita Church also provided a wonderful outreach for children and moms in the street in front of the new house being built for Armando and Diana. What a blessing this event was to many children and their parents! The day before the event we split up into groups of 4 or 5 and prayer walked the neighborhood. We handed out invitations to the outreach, visited with neighbors and offered to pray with folks. Some of our groups were invited into the small homes to share and pray. We found the local people to be very warm and friendly.

The day of the outreach, we blocked off a large space by parking our truck and the El Sembrador Church bus across the dirt road running in front of the house. We turned up our music (Christian children's music in Spanish, of course!) and children started to appear. Our team of women and children from the US put together a program of games, crafts and songs. El Sembrador Church provided a program for women including pedicures and one-on-one visiting. The local women then put on a drama, led songs and shared the Gospel message with the large group that had gathered. We followed up with the message by handing out Gospel Message





tracts to the children and Bibles to the adults. The families also received a list of the local Christian churches. We introduced many to their new neighbors, Armando and Diana. They are looking forward to introducing their neighbors to their best friend, Jesus.



### **Donations taken to Mexico in October**

- 8 bags of groceries
- 2 bags of cake mix (for a small business bakery)
- 4 suitcases of winter clothes
- 9 children's backpacks for school
- 24 packs of paper
- 2 boxes of diapers
- 1 playpen
- 1 large bag of yarn
- 2 boxes of craft supplies



### **Sendas Antiquas (Ancient Paths) Conference**

An Ancient Paths conference (in Spanish) was held in Puerto Peñasco for the first time October 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>. A team of 8 leaders and intercessors traveled down from Arizona to join Manos de Dios to provide this Family Foundations International seminar focusing on Biblical teaching about blessings and healing from wounds. Fourteen pastors, missionaries and family members received instruction, personal prayer ministry and healing throughout the two day conference. One pastor wrote on his evaluation that “when a pastor’s marriage relationship receives healing it affects hundreds of families”.

Praise you, Lord, for:

- the powerful way you provided healing for and encouragement to these pastor and missionary families that are dedicated in full time service to You!
- the eight volunteers that traveled down to Mexico to provide this wonderful opportunity for growth. For their genuine love for the attendees, their language skills and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading.



**Sendas Antiguas Conference attendees: Pastors Angelita & Alfonso from El Diamante; Prayer Intercessory: Lucy Smith of Manos de Dios, Conference Leaders: Andres & Marysol Malo of Family Foundations International.**

We hope that these pastors will ask for a conference in the future for their church members. For more information about Family Foundation International Conferences held worldwide go to their website: [www.FamilyFoundations.com](http://www.FamilyFoundations.com) .

### **Margarita's hernia repair surgery a success!**

Most of you have been following the story of Margarita and Alejandra and know who they are so I will not go into detail about them. I will simply share what's new in their lives.

By the grace of God and assistance from one of our life group members that knew someone in Senator John McCain's office we were able to bring Margarita to Tucson on October 16<sup>th</sup> on a Humanitarian Parole pass. Her hernia surgery was scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>. The 1.5 hour surgery turned out to take over three hours to repair the huge hernia. An eight inch by ten inch web netting was put in place laparoscopically to repair the hernia. It was a miracle that she



**Margarita recovering from surgery in our home. She was blessed with many visitors who came to pray with and for her.**

received the surgery before the hernia ruptured. A *special, heartfelt thanks* goes out to **Dr. Jolly Schilling** of Agave Surgical Associates, the doctor that performed the surgery and who arranged for the donation of all the medication, medical staff, and hospital facilities. Thank you to the **Carondelet Foundation** that provided the hospital facilities and to Southern Arizona Anesthesia Services for providing the anesthesiologist and anesthesia at no cost. The entire procedure was funded by donations and no tax dollars were spent on her surgery or recovery! That turned out to be quite a donation, and one that was orchestrated by God! Margarita is still thanking us and everyone involved for her blessing.

We cared for Alejandra (including feeding tube and catheter) for the three days Margarita was in the hospital and continued to lift and transport Alejandra for a month after the surgery while Margarita healed.

And I want to thank all the women that came to our house for four days, to help me take care of Margarita and Alejandra while Lucy was at a prayer conference! What a blessing these women were!  
~Dennis

### **Men's prison ministry in October**

About 60 men attended the Ministry the Monday I was there. Each time there is a testimony, praise and worship singing, a time of prayer and the message of the day. Bread and lemonade is served at the conclusion of the service.

One of the men at the service has a shoe shine and cleaning business. (I help him purchase the polish and cleaner.) He is able to earn money cleaning and polishing the shoes of visitors on visiting day. Each time I see him he has me put my shoes (I wear tennis shoes) up on his little shoeshine box for a cleaning. As he is cleaning my shoes I can see the pride he has in his workmanship as he works in earnest on the dust and dirt collected on my shoes. In a small way I sense what it may have been like to have your feet washed in Jesus' time by someone who was dedicated to serving in this way. He expected no payment and I was grateful for his act of kindness.

### **Women's prison ministry in October**

What a blessing to have Diane and Imelda from the Rock Church team accompany me into the prison the week they were in Peñasco! The women in the prison loved them and especially related to Imelda as she is of Mexican decent and speaks Spanish. She translated the word that Diane shared and she sang a favorite song taught to her by her mother. This brought tears to the eyes of many of the prisoners. We all shared the commonness of being women in need of a Savior, a Bridegroom and a Friend...all of which we find in Jesus... our One Thing (Psalm 27:4). What a precious time with our sisters in Christ!

### **On a personal note...**

*From Dennis....Study habits*

*I have been working on writing a book/manual on serving God for the better part of the past year. I had no idea that writing would be so difficult. For me, it is even more difficult because I am writing about Scripture and what God is calling us to do. So, I have to get it right! No slants, no personal opinions or observations just God's word and what it means.*

*It can be frustrating and is at times. Like the time I accidentally deleted 4 pages of work and had to try and remember what I was saying or the many times I write and rewrite something over and over.*

*But no matter how frustrated I get, I still love writing. I enjoy the studying, taking a verse and investigating what it really means and putting my thoughts down on paper. That means I am spending a lot of time on Google and Bible Gateway doing research!*

*However, even if I am the only one that ever reads it after it is finished, I will still have enjoyed doing it!*

*His servant, Dennis [Dennis@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:Dennis@ManosdeDios.org)*

From Lucy...

God is teaching me so much! I pray that God will reveal the power of His Holy Spirit in your life and you will grasp the awesome truth that the “God of all Creation” desires a personal relationship with you!

**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**

Currently Reading: The Anointing of the Moment by Rev. Henry J. Falcon

Listening to Julie Meyer “Paint your Picture” CD. Title track quote: “God, pick me up like a paintbrush, dip it in the colors of my life, paint Your picture. Father, fashion a heart that is wholly Yours and sing your name on the picture...”

Thank you, Lord, for your extravagant love! Fill me with your love for you and for others. .... Lucy  
<mailto:Lucy@ManosdeDios.org>

Looking ahead to November 2008...

- Take Margarita & Alejandra back to Mexico.
- Prepare for and carry out four Los Niños outreach programs and house build project with Amor ministries and Pantano Christian Church, 11/6 thru 11/9/08.
- Distribute winter clothing and miscellaneous donations.
- Start preparations for Christmas Posada at Peñasco Prison.

Bathing Alejandra in our sink in Tucson home....



**Manos de Dios encourages and empowers families, pastors, prisoners and communities in Sonora, Mexico. We are trusting in God totally to provide for our needs and the needs of those we reach out to. Please consider partnering with Manos de Dios, a 501 c 3 not-for-profit corporation. Your tax-deductible donations will have ETERNAL value as they impact lives for Christ in Sonora, Mexico! Donations can be made on our website [www.ManosdeDios.org](http://www.ManosdeDios.org) or with checks made payable to Manos de Dios, NFP. Contact us for our mailing address and/or online banking donation information.**

Contact us: [GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org](mailto:GetInvolved@ManosdeDios.org) or 520-975-7356