



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

August 2015 Newsletter

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



God is faithful! *Jacy's story!* ...by Lucy

Two weeks before school was to begin, we were still waiting on a host family for Jacy! Summer had been difficult for Jacy and “the world’ was pulling on her. I sensed that she needed to make a choice before God would move on her behalf. I met with her one afternoon after volunteering at the Living Hope Center. We talked for over an hour about what her friends were doing on the Rez and the peer pressure she was under to join them. I told Jacy that she had a choice. Either do what she wanted to do...follow her friends and go to the high school on the Rez...OR allow God to choose her future for her. We talked a little longer and she asked, “What are my choices again?” “You can choose the world or you can surrender your future to God and ask Him to direct your life,” I said. After a few minutes’ pause Jacy said, “I want God to choose my future.” “Wonderful! Now tell God that!” I encouraged her. She prayed in her fifteen-year-old way. I hugged her and we committed to wait to see what God was going to do to provide for her.

The Friday before the Wednesday school would begin, I planned to drive to Tucson. Naomi, Thearsa, Riscilla and Drelyn were being brought to Tucson by their moms. We had arranged to introduce them to their new host families on Saturday. We prayed desperately Thursday night. “Please God, show us if Jacy is to come to Tucson now or wait until a host family is located.” Friday morning Dennis and I awoke with the conviction that I should take Jacy with me to Tucson, trusting that a host family would step up. I called Jacy at 8:30 am and asked her if she could be ready to go to Tucson for school in one hour. She said, “Yes!” I was proud of her good attitude and picked her up for the

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Jacy, Riscilla & Drelyn try out Drelyn's new bunk bed at her host home

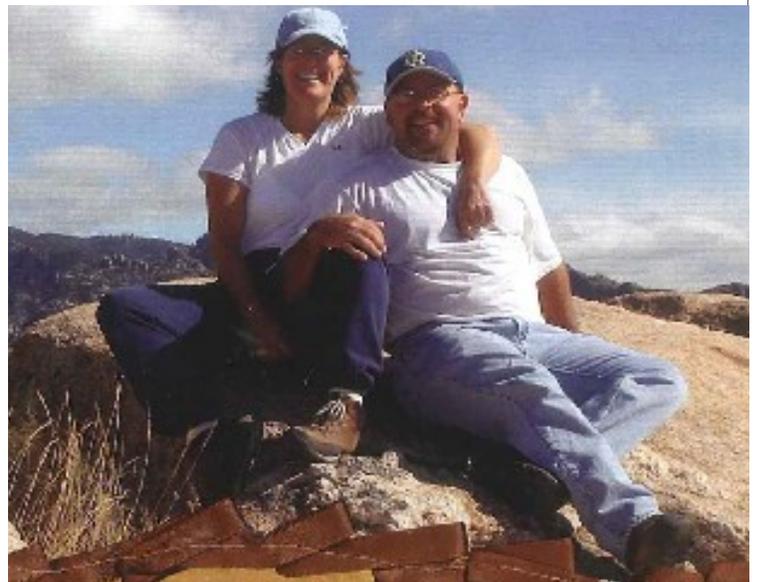
Jacy's story (continued)

drive to Tucson. All weekend we texted with potential host families. Each one had reasons why they couldn't take a 15 year-old Desert Christian School sophomore into their home. Jacy went with us to settle the other girls in their new host family homes, worshipped with us at church, and enjoyed a fun weekend in our Tucson home. A surprise call came from Jacy's former (8th grade) science teacher and softball coach. He and his wife have an 'empty nest' and live across town from the school, but they would be willing to host Jacy. We decided to meet Mr. Vance and his wife for lunch on Monday. His wife, Kelly, is delightful: fun, easy-going, yet straightforward and a proponent of open truthfulness. As we visited, Kelly said, "Jacy, we would love to have you come live with us. We have a bedroom for you, a puppy and a swimming pool." Jacy looked at me and with a smile told the Vance's, "Okay!" I prayed silently, "Wow, God, You are amazing! Your plan is different than what we expected, but it is awesome! Thank You for providing a wonderful home for Jacy. Thank You for taking her prayer of surrender and answering it with this wonderful provision!" Jacy exclaimed that this family was easier to move in with as she "already knows Mr. Vance!" Mr. Vance has the wonderful gift of encouragement. He is a skilled coach who will help Jacy with her sports. And of course, can help her with her science homework!

Jacy went to volleyball practice on Tuesday. We took her suitcases to the Vance home on our way back up to the White Mountains. Mr. Vance picked her up from practice Tuesday evening and took her to see her new home for the first time. AND school began Wednesday morning. "Wow, God You took us to the edge! But, You are faithful! Your timing is perfect!"

I suggested to Jacy that this be her new life verse:

*"He also brought me up out of a
horrible pit, Out of the miry clay,
And set my feet upon a rock,
And established my steps." Psalm 40:2 (NKJV)*
Amen!



Kelly and Bob, Jacy's new host parents!

God has grown our faith once again!

2015/2016 school year begins



Dreyln (right) with her host sister, Sarah, on their first day of school

Host families are amazing! They willingly open their homes to a pre-teen or teenage young lady. They provide room, meals (and these girls can eat!) transportation, homework help, spiritual mentoring, and love! Just 3 weeks into the school year we are already seeing how perfectly God has orchestrated just the right host family for each of the girls! Please pray for these host families! Prayer requests include:

- For wisdom in keeping in **BALANCE**. For example, knowing how much to be involved in school work while encouraging independence and self-motivation. Also, giving biological children in the home attention while helping their new “Apache daughter” adjust and feel a part of the family.
- For protection from spiritual attack as the enemy sees what a life-changing opportunity has been given to these five girls and may try to thwart God’s plan by attacking families, children, marriages, finances, etc.

Funds needed for sports fees! Last year a wonderful supporter contributed a generous amount to the girls’ educational expenses. That account has been depleted. Would you prayerfully consider making a donation to help with the girls’ sports fees? Athletics are a great way for the girls to connect, keep their bodies strong, and grow spiritually under the leadership of Christian coaches. The cost is \$150 per high school sport and \$105 per sport for middle school. The total sports fees for the school year will be \$1680. Thank you!



Naomi & Thearsa enjoy helping their host parents, Sharon & Dan, ready Naomi’s room for the new school year

Change and Consequences....by Dennis

You have read in our past newsletters that it is a true blessing to be able to work with our Apache girls and be able to offer the opportunity to the girls to attend Christian school off the reservation. We have also mentioned that giving them a life off the reservation is most likely saving their lives literally (suicide is rampant), figuratively (many young people get hooked on drugs, alcohol, sexual activities and having children at a very young age – and are never able to recover), and spiritually (most of the kids in these circumstances never accept Christ). Another very important comment we have made, and will continue to make, is that the impact we (host families, counselors, financial and prayer supporters, and Lucy and I) have on these young ladies is profound and life-altering. Lucy and I can't express how grateful and appreciative we are that God has provided us with such a wonderful team to minister to His children that are entrusted to us. We are very proud of these young ladies and their accomplishments as they mature as young women and as Christ-followers.



Girls who are making good choices! Naomi, Thearsa, Riscilla, Drelyn, Jacy and host sister, Sarah (in Lucy's 'God Room' in Tucson)

With that said, I sadly share with you what traditionally happens to young girls on the reservation who make wrong choices, don't have anyone that is a positive influence in their lives, and are willing to suffer the consequences just to have their own way. Jacy, Riscilla and Drelyn were in our dorm while we were dorm parents at the American Indian Mission School, so we know them well. Theresa and Naomi were in the younger girls' dorm and we did have a great relationship with them also. These girls had and have struggles like all other kids, but they wanted out and their determination to do better is life changing.

However, some of the other girls from our dorm chose a different lifestyle and were not interested in diverging from the destructive norm that is prevalent on the reservation. Their consequences have been devastating. While we were dorm parents three girls in our dorm were expelled for possession of drugs and getting high (on campus). Currently one of these girls is in very dire straights on the Rez. And the other

two have been sent off to boarding schools in other states because of problems. Another one of our girls, now 14 years old, has a two and a half year old baby and is living on assistance. And another girl from our dorm (13 years old now) had the opportunity to go to Tucson last year and investigate the possibility of going to school there. We even had a host family lined up for her to live with. Tragically she turned down the opportunity and is currently in juvenile detention for the next 6 months and then will spend six months to a year in a rehab center in Phoenix. She is involved in sex, alcohol, is in a gang, and has a host of other hazardous activities. Choices made and consequences of the choices compared between these groups of girls are as different as night and day and a type of 'life and death'!

I am not saying that we have the corner on providing the best way for a better life for these girls. We don't. There are many other people and organizations that can do just as good a job, or even better, than we can. What I am saying is that we all need to help young people make better choices in their lives no matter who they are or where they come from. We can do this by being an example of a true Christ-follower in all we do and say; stopping being hypocritical; loving them unconditionally but not loving the sin in their life; treating them with respect and expecting respect in return; and finally holding them accountable for their actions.

We can't give up on our children; they are the future that we are molding!

Living Hope Center Update...by Lucy



Mommies who have chosen **LIFE** for their babies! This is one of the highest blessings for me when volunteering at the Living Hope Center in Whiteriver on the White Mountain Apache Reservation.

But, this decision **is not always easy**. Jobs are very scarce on the Reservation so **families struggle financially**. Many live off TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and food stamps. Add WIC (Women,

Infants and Children) and AHCCCS and this is what the majority of our clients list as their income/support.

Relationships are strained.

Many daddies struggle with addictions to alcohol and drugs. Physical, emotional and verbal abuse are often the result.

The number of children in the family causes stress for the moms and they may **consider making a plan for adoption** for the baby they are carrying. Unfortunately the Tribe and Federal Law (ICWA: Indian Child Welfare Act) do not allow a mother to place her Native child with an adoptive family of her choice (if the couple is non-Native). The baby must be placed with a Native family if the baby is born on the reservation...even if there is no suitable family to be



**Clients with their new babies:
Deandra & Skylar Grace
Tishinna & Teenaya Abrey**



found. The mothers often end up parenting the child in an already stressful situation and the children become neglected and grow up in the same dysfunctional environment.

We **pray** with many of these moms and encourage them to make good parenting choices. We also share with our sexually active teen clients that **God's plan** for sex and children are within marriage.

For more information about how ICWA law affects Native children go to <http://caicw.org/blog> (blog of Christian Alliance for Indian Child Welfare)

Part II of “Discriminating Fellowship” article...by Dennis

In last month’s newsletter I posted an article on how I react when a person would approach me and ask for money. That article was written to expose a flaw in my character in that my reaction usually was not Christ-centered.

To my surprise, there were a few people who told me that at the end of the article they were expecting to read some suggestions on how to Biblically respond and whether to give or not.

With that said, I would like to follow up on the request for Biblical insights. In 2013 I did a study on helping the poor and what Scripture had to say about it. This is what I discovered from Scripture (Scriptures mentioned are just a few of many Scriptures in the Bible concerning this subject).

We are to help the poor and those in need. *John 3:17 says, “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”* **Helping those in need can come in different forms because we all have different gifts and talents and we should use them appropriately** *Romans 12:6 states, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.”* 1 Corinthians 12 puts it this way, *“There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.”* 1 Peter 4:10 says, *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* Helping those in need does not always mean you have to give them money or you have to help everybody that asks.

However, when we do help those in need Scripture also give us guidelines on how to do it, whom to give aid to, our responsibilities and when we can refuse to help someone. I read **we can refuse help if a person is lazy** (Proverbs 10:4). These verses guide us in **who not to give to**. Those **wasting their time and money on excess** (Proverbs 23:20-21); those **chasing fantasies and wasting their money** (Proverbs 28:19); and those **who can but are unwilling to work** <will not get to eat> (II Thessalonians 3:10); and those **who refuse to heed wise council** (Proverbs 13:18).

Matthew 10:14 states, “If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.” I read that this Scripture includes conditions on helping the poor or needy. If they squander their money, refuse wise council to help them out of the situation, refuse to work and just want a ‘hand-out’ then I feel I don’t have to give them money and, if I don’t, I am not rejecting God’s request that we help the poor.

Also, Galatians 6:7 states, *“Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”*

Now, how does all this information fit in with how to help us decide which people out of all those standing on the street corners to give our money to? First, I would say remember that we are not called to fix or help everybody (not our job anyway) and we couldn’t if we wanted to. Second, submit to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, not your emotions, feelings, or past experiences. If you feel you are being called by the Spirit to help that person – don’t refuse the Spirit; do it! Third, if you have feelings of guilt or shame because you did not help another when you thought you should have...and so you are tempted to give to this person...don’t. Go to Jesus and repent and ask for forgiveness and then learn from your mistake.

The final decision is between you and God as what to do when you are in conflict whether to give money to a stranger or not. The answers are in prayer and Scripture.

If you would like to read my study about giving to the poor, please let me know and I will be happy to email it to you. (It is 7 pages long.)

TO LEARN MORE CONTACT US!

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Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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or made on our website:

ManosdeDios.org



Dennis & Lucy enjoy a round of golf at the Snowflake (north of Show Low) public course on a Saturday.

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