



Arizona Reservation Ministries

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*“Many are the **plans** in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” Proverbs 19:21*

As our November Quarterly News was sent, we asked each of you to pray about the three projects we thought would be our focus for 2019: The addition of Sunday School rooms, restrooms, etc. at one existing church on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, the creation of a new sanctuary for yet another Apache-led congregation, and a 15-passenger van to meet critical needs within this ministry. *God had other plans.* Although we still plan, Lord willing, to accomplish the above-mentioned tasks, other needs have arisen as well. It is our prayer to also complete our 32nd home for a family in need as soon as possible, but two other Apache-led, Bible-based congregations needed assistance with their sanctuaries, and God is leading in mighty ways!



When people ask the ARM team, “What do you need?” Our usual response is to ask them to participate in a Prayer Journey on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Only God knows the hearts, gifting and abilities of those who are asking, and only He can orchestrate His perfect plans as they see the countless needs of this Reservation. On a Prayer Journey this past fall, a church in Mesa AZ had recruited their new pastor to join them. As we passed what originally had been built as an open-air revival Ramada but quickly transformed into a full-time sanctuary, this new pastor heard that, although walls, drywall and more had been added, the floor remained dirt beneath the carpeting. He challenged his congregation to raise the funds to make this floor concrete with their Christmas offerings. As this is written, that immense project is underway, concrete nearly complete, and then the walls, drywall, etc. will again need installed. What GOD intended was another blessing, too! This project is immense! Men from that congregation were joining ARMs with elderly men from that Mesa church and ARM team members. Men who are leading other men from the Reservation came to discuss the project, and then added the ARMs of strong Apache men to get this project done more quickly! TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), is a program on the Reservation that assists families in need find jobs, receive training so they can obtain the skills needed for these jobs and more. Not only are they a great answer to prayer on this huge and unplanned project, but they are now offering their services with future ARM projects! GOD continues to accomplish things in exceedingly abundant ways! In the meantime, the man who leads the family destined to reside in our 32nd home attends this church! His ARMs are added quite often to this project in addition to helping with the completion of his own home.



In addition to this project, a sanctuary we had built several years ago was given a beautiful garden by its congregants. However, the water, etc. that was added invited termites, which have caused extensive damage to this sanctuary’s floor. We’re working to repair this church as well.





In the fall of 2017, a house fire erupted in the home of Grandma Veronica. The need was evident, and we knew that God was calling us to help. What we didn't know was that this older home would need far more repair than originally anticipated. It wasn't just one bedroom of fire damage and a bit of smoke damage, but a complete renovation that would be needed because of old electrical wiring, etc. With the assistance of those from visiting Short Term Ministry Teams, her home has been transformed. A week before her House Blessing, Veronica walked through her home, tears falling as she praised God for such a great blessing. We thank God, too! Only through His provision of volunteers and funds could such a project be accomplished!

We are thrilled to introduce you to our newest ARM Team members! Vincent Stevens began assisting with ARM's construction projects this past summer. At our recent House Blessing for Veronica, Vincent smiled large and shared that it is a blessing to be able to work at what he's passionate about. Not only is Vincent a capable contractor, he is also a faithful pastor at one of the Reservation churches. His wife, Vermaleen, is also a great blessing to this ministry! Her words of wisdom are shared from a quiet and faith-filled heart. Their daughter, Aurelia, adds energy and smiles of her own to bless this ministry! Aurelia has often been the one to raise her hand and answer questions at a Vacation Bible School, or in the past on our Church Bus, even volunteering to pray, in spite of her young age! Please join us in welcoming the Stevens family. We would love for you to partner with them in financial and prayer support! Simply contact us for more information.



As mentioned, there were three requests presented in our November News. We thank God for those who generously gave toward those needs. Because of the projects mentioned previously in this news, we will need to wait, Lord willing, for just a few weeks, before we can begin on the first one. However, we are excited to report that \$14,650 has been provided toward a nearly-new, 15-passenger van! Already, our Friday night Youth Group has grown! One member of the team drives around the Reservation, picking up those who've let her know they want to come, depositing them at the church to pass through for another run to collect others. With just \$5,000.00 more, this delay in Youth Programming wouldn't be necessary. Two vans could collect the teens, allowing for more time to gather and grow. We're grateful to the two churches who have voiced their intent to pray *by first name* for each of these youth on a regular basis. With the challenges they daily face, having a safe place on a weekly basis to share their lives and grow in their newfound Hope means a great deal. The photo to the left was taken at their Christmas Party. They enjoyed creating and competing with their "gingerbread nativity sets." Thank you for praying for this area of Arizona Reservation Ministries!

'God's ARMs around the Reservation'



Although the final quarter of each year reveals a smaller number of those who join their ARMs in Short Term Ministry, we were excited to welcome those from LifePoint Christian Church, San Tan Valley AZ in October, Ambassador Christian Academy, Queen Creek AZ in November, as well as First Christian Church, Yuma AZ for two weekends in November, ladies from First Christian Church, Phoenix AZ in December and a group of men from LifePoint Christian Church, San Tan Valley AZ already in January of 2019. Groups are contacting us about bringing a team to work alongside us...even in 2020! The needs for additional ARMs are many. We are praying for the Lord to send others as He leads. For more information, contact ARM's Short Term Ministry Coordinator, Jon Lawrence at AzRezMinistry@hotmail.com or through our offices at (928) 425-8449.



As we look back at all we were able to be part of; opportunities to share the Gospel, as 2018 drew to a close, we are once again humbled to be part of 'God's ARMs Around the Reservation!' The Tribe's Wellness Center was extra-busy, and we were blessed to join them. Their annual Red Ribbon Parade proclaims the need to be "drug free." This year's theme was "Life is your journey. Be Proud Apaches and travel drug free." Our team added "with Jesus" (John 8:36) to the signs on our van as it traveled the parade route. That scripture was read by the parade's announcer to the hundreds in attendance! Just a few short weeks later, we were able to once again share at the Tribe's Fall Carnival. This agency also held a "Share the Warmth" event prior to Christmas. ARM's partners provided a significant amount of used blankets and winter clothing to help those who are in such great need. Although we are in Arizona, we're located in the "high desert" and have had snow in San Carlos already this year!



Because so many created beautiful Christmas stockings the past few years, we had an abundance of these blessings. This allowed us to share them with several Apache Churches as well as Tribal agencies. We were able to distribute over 1,150 Christmas Stockings; a large number of these were stuffed and then delivered to the children of San Carlos through our Church Bus prior to Christmas, 2018! We were also excited to have the blessing of sharing nearly as many hand-tied fleece blankets to those on the Reservation who cherish these warm reminders of Christ's personal love. Thank you!



Although it's only February, we want to assure you that we'll need backpacks and school supplies before the 4th of July once again! In addition to these school supplies, the San Carlos School District is now requiring their students in Kindergarten through 8th grades to wear school uniforms. However, being able to purchase these items is an added burden for many families. If a student arrives to school wearing something other than a polo shirt (no red or blue, please, as these aren't allowed because they are "gang" colors.), one is given to the student to use for the day, and then returned when school dismisses. If you would like to purchase shirts for the School District, we would be happy to deliver them for you! Simply send them to our address on this publication. Because we only have a small Walmart in the area, purchasing the needed shirts here is difficult at best.





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