



To our dear friends and Bus Buddies,

Please forgive the delay in sending this update to you! "Life" was incredibly hectic this past six weeks...but absolutely wonderful! Because of the generosity of so many, we were blessed to distribute 332 Christmas Stockings and fleece blankets prior to Christmas break. Because the

days are shorter right now, the time we can spend with the kids and teens on our Church Bus is a bit shorter as well. We don't like that, but because it doesn't do any good to arrive earlier since we need to wait for them to arrive home from school, and we do need to get everyone home for safety reasons before the sun sets, we have approx. 1/2 hour less than in the summer. The good news is that now the days are getting longer again! We had specific gifts for the stockings of those who regularly attend. We also had an additional 100+ stockings for any that came who don't typically attend the bus. Each afternoon, after the lessons, memory verse time, snack, craft and stocking distribution, we would rendezvous at a safe location and organize the designated stockings/blankets, and then do an additional "loop" to deliver those stockings for our regular attendees who hadn't been able to arrive during our shortened programming. This allowed everyone to receive their Christmas gifts prior to Christmas, which was a wonderful revision over past years.



Diana & Jean Stocking Shopping



Faye & friends on Stuffing Day



Bill on Stocking Week

Each day of "Stocking Week" we shared a brief video of Jesus' birth, and then we asked them, "If Christmas is JESUS' birthday, why do we get all the presents?" and, "What do you think Jesus would like this Christmas?" All of the kids and teens discovered that what Christ wants is *them*. So...while we took a short break, we were praying hard. Several of these kids are ready to make decisions for Christ AND show that commitment by being obedient in Christian baptism. Please pray as we work out the logistics of this. We would prefer that their parents take them to a Bible-based church on the reservation. Unfortunately, many don't live with parents, and many have no adult in their home that would take them to church. For those, we have become their "church;" at least until they're old enough to take themselves to an Apache-led, Bible-based church. (For many, the distance is far too great to walk.)



A FUN day!



Also prior to Christmas, we held two parties for all of those who regularly attended their Church Bus since the beginning of school this fall. We had a party for the 3-6 years olds in San Carlos; complete with pigs-in-a-blanket, macaroni and cheese and musical chairs. It was so fun playing with them...and sharing the story of Jesus' birth through an old nativity set that's been in my family for many

years. The next day, we took three 15-passenger vans down to Phoenix to attend a Christmas pageant at

one of the large churches in the valley; complete with live camels, an elephant and tiger! The message in that service, as well as the overwhelming drama, and special effects were wonderful! Thanks to Sun City West Christian Church for the use of their van and drivers, and to Cactus Christian Fellowship in Phoenix for hosting a great pizza party for us afterward. This church also blessed all the kids with a gift box each filled with special surprises.



During that same 24 hours as the above-mentioned parties, we also hosted ARM's staff Christmas party. What a blessing to have something worth celebrating so many times!

We were busy this past month, but the "busy-ness continues! As we look ahead, even this next weekend, we have a group of middle-school children each arriving from Tennessee with a parent to help us present another Family Fun Day. Since school is dismissed on the 17th, we plan to have an event there. Unlike the others, a skit is prepared by these visiting students AND one is being rehearsed by children in Moonbase on the Reservation. Both groups have been practicing the same memory verses to compete for prizes, hot dogs, popcorn, games and more are planned for a fun afternoon!

As we look ahead to 2011, we are excited about the number of short-term ministry teams already on the calendar! Typically, they add extra ARMS to ours; spinning a jump rope, playing basketball, helping with memory verses or roller blades. With a growing number of children and teens attending, that's a big blessing!

Again, we are humbled by your partnership and incredibly grateful! Thank you...and please spread the word about this part of Arizona Reservation Ministries, and our need for more Bus Buddies.

Sincerely,

Diana Lawrence

Children's Director



Prayer Requests

- ✓ Please pray for the logistics and those who are making choices that will lead to baptisms.
- ✓ Praise God for a hectic but wonderful month!
- ✓ Please keep Bill and Jean in prayer. Bill's cancer has returned so he's again taking treatments.
- ✓ Thank God the provision of so many Fleece Blankets, Christmas Stockings and stuffers!
- ✓ Please pray for the health and safety of ARM staff and the kids and teens of San Carlos.
- ✓ Please pray for the Lord to send more workers soon; especially to work with the teens.

Needs List

- ✓ Individually-wrapped snacks
- ✓ Small prizes for memory verses
- ✓ More Bus Buddies
- ✓ 25" televisions

