



Solid Rock Missions

P.O. Box 334, Wauseon, Ohio 43567 Website: www.solidrockmissions.org
Ph: 419-335-8046 Fax: 419-337-7827 E-mail: srm@solidrockmissions.org



January—February 2005

Another Year is Here

By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, the first month of 2005 will be past. The new year has brought a number of new people and projects. Hopefully this newsletter will allow you to catch the vision and excitement for what is going on in the Dominican Republic.

Our hearts do go out to the people of the world who have suffered from some great tragedies in the past year. We commend those who are doing relief work to help those people. This past year, the Dominican Republic has been graciously spared from some natural disasters. There was a horrible loss of life along the Haitian border last May. Hurricanes did buffet the coast line. The Dominicans still have tough economic storm times to recover from. It is good to know that in spite of "the mountains crumbling into the sea, you (God) are there." In spite of the tragedies, lives continue to be touched and changed for Jesus Christ all over the world. In the meantime, we continue to look for new ways to serve in our little corner of the world.

Malnutrition Is Still A Problem

For the last two months of 2004, some work was done in the region around El Cercado with our Infant Survival Program. Cora Hunse from Beamsville, Ontario spent time in the towns and villages along the Haitian border visiting homes and seeing mothers and children. Cora is a nurse practitioner. Her everyday work is to provide medical treatment for Indian tribes in northern Canada. For her vacation, she chose to raise some funds for supplies and head into the mountains of the Dominican Republic to help some of those children survive. Several churches were very gracious in supplying her funds to purchase milk, vitamins and food to help give these kids back to good health and an opportunity to survive. In most cases the kids improved. In one case, the child did not.

In one of Cora's e-mails, she wrote:

God is good! yesterday one of the little girls was weighed and she now is a normal weight. It is so satisfying to see that. Last Friday however I was worried about a little boy who I had seen the day before. He only weighed 14 lbs and he was 2 1/2 years old. We went into the mountains again about an hour drive to



find him. I was going to bring him to a nutrition centre they have in the next town run by Mother Theresa's order. We got there and the mom said that the centre was closed - she went there first before bringing him to us. I took a look around and wanted to see the milk and where it was kept. To my shock and horror - it was half gone- I had only given it the day before. The protein was half gone as well. Apparently she had made a big porridge in the morning and fed it to all her neighbors. Unfortunately it didn't seem to register that her child was in such bad condition

that he needed it. I told her that I was tempted to take the remaining milk with me because she wasn't giving it to the child anyway but I didn't have the heart. Hopefully now she will be

more conscientious and give him milk.

Our thanks to Cora for serving. The need continues. She did train some Dominicans to continue to work with the children and their mothers. Money given to the Infant Survival Fund is currently going to help meet the needs in this region.

Insider's Report

Tracy Roth from State College, PA is serving as one of our English teachers at the CCED school in San Juan. Here are some of her thoughts on her first five months:

A few months ago, I arrived in a new culture, a different language, and a tropical climate to teach students who have never experienced life in the United States or school as I knew it. Since then, I have been learning to live in the daily expectation of giving and receiving and to change my expectations while still pursuing the truth that God wants to teach me and those affected by the work that Solid Rock is doing here.

In the first months, I experienced the blessing of generous, supportive colleagues, the warm reception of fellow Christians, and the affection of the students, who are abundantly friendly outside of class, and more or less so in class (as is typical of any group of kids). It has been especially a joy to work with the youngest students, who are always full of joy and delight in songs, drawings, and stories. There have also been many difficult days and frustrations due to different manners of communication, fickle electricity, heat, large and noisy classes, and uncertainty about what my expectations should be. Each day is a matter of trusting that God has control, that he can renew relationships, create new possibilities and use this experience in a way that I may not be able to see or understand at this time. Even in the midst of the daily ups and downs, I am aware that the long term, and the eternal effects are where my focus should be. Whether they ever master the use of English pronouns, the students may be learning much from the missionaries serving here. Their view of Americans would likely be limited to Hollywood movies if there were no missionaries, including the continued commitment of Solid Rock, in this town. Moreover, the school is an opportunity for consistent interaction with the students. As my Spanish continues to improve, it is my hope that my actions, as well as my words, can be a vehicle for presentation of the Gospel.



The opportunity to live and work here is not only to impart a personal impact, but to give support to those doing the work of Christ here in their native country, and to send news back home about their commitment and faith. It has been a blessing, to repeat myself, to meet and work with the teachers at the school. They are strong models who demonstrate love in Christ and persistence in faith to their students and those around them. It is also clear that the school is in a position to strongly impact the surrounding barrio, where it serves both Christian and non-Christian families. In addition to daily devotions and Christian education in the curriculum, students are required to go to the service of a local church every month, if they do not already

regularly attend one. The school provides not only the opportunity for a better future for the students, but the possibility that students, neighbors, and families will be reached in spreading the Gospel. There is still a need for more support and sponsorships as the neighborhood grows, the economy continues to fluctuate and prices inflate. Some grades have separate afternoon classes to accommodate the overflow of certain ages, and classes have as many as 45 students. Many of the students are from the surrounding Barrio Nuevo, while others come from the central town of San Juan. Conditions in the barrio, and to a lesser extent at the school, demonstrate the meagerness of daily existence. There is little abundance, but the patterns of life and childhood continue for the kids at the school. My prayer is that hope will be available for each one of them through the service that the teachers, administrators and supporters are contributing here. In this time of year, as Christmas has passed, we are reminded of the hope that Christ has for us all.

Another Satisfied Patient

In Mid-November, Carolina Canario and her mother Delores, came to Waynesville, NC for surgery to correct Carolina's curvature of the spine. The surgery went as planned. After several weeks of recuperation, they went back to San Juan. Carolina will be wearing a brace for several months until all of the healing takes place. A special thank you goes to Dr. Bill Miller and his wife Maureen, the local hospital, suppliers and staff for making this surgery possible. Also a special thanks goes to those of you that gave funds to provide their airline flight to the U.S.



Solid Rock Missions is very grateful for the medical community and all of their help with special cases and special patients. Physically lives are being changed. Lives are being touched spiritually as well.

New Projects For a New Year

Last year some projects were wrapped up and there are a few that are in the process of being completed. This new year will bring a couple of sizable projects for some of the teams.

One project is the construction of two additional classrooms at the CCED. These new classrooms will allow for the school to begin full-day classes for all of the grades.

The second project is basically a continuation of the clinic project in El Cercado. This time the project is a multi-purpose building. When this building is complete, a Christian school will be started there. This is a long awaited dream come true for the people of El Cercado.

Construction teams are needed for both projects. Funding is also needed. If you would like to contribute to either project, please designate either the CCED project or El Cercado. Your help with these projects is appreciated.

Lucille Rupp School

As one more school gets on its feet, another school appears on the horizon with needs. And this next school is a long time, well established school that has a vision. The next school is the Lucille Rupp School in San Juan de la Maguana.

Lucille Rupp was a pioneer missionary from Archbold, OH who served the Dominican people most of her adult life. She was very instrumental in starting this school. She also served as its

Gifts to Solid Rock Missions are tax-deductible.

Our Mission Statement

The purpose of Solid Rock Missions is to glorify God in partnerships by ministering spiritually, physically, socially and educationally to those in need, in the name of Jesus Christ.

2005 Guesthouse Calendar

Jan 29-Feb 12	First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC
Feb 12-19	Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA
Feb 26-Mar 6	CrossWay Christian Church, Nashua, NH
Mar 5-12	Dr. Todd Beste / ECU, Greenville, NC
Mar 5 -12	Calvary Baptist Church, State College, PA
Mar 12-19	North Clinton Mennonite Church, Wauseon, OH
Apr 2-17	Dr. Lynn Hughes Team, Huntersville, NC
Apr 2-9	Dr. Pat Fox Team, Schenectady, NY
Apr 2-9	Wawasee HS Spanish Class, Syracuse, IN
May 14-24	Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, NC
Jun 4-11	Hope's Helpers, Ashville, NC
Jun 11-18	Northwoods Youth, Peoria, IL
Jun 11-18	NW Ohio Youth for Christ
Jun 18-26	Dr. Tom Robert's Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jun 25-Jul 9	Highland Youth, Wausau, WI
Jul 2-9	Dr. Diane Bernardi Team, Bryan, OH
Jul 9-23	Thom & Lyn Ross Team, Archbold, OH
Jul 23-31	First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN
Oct 15-23	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 22-29	Brookside Community Church, Fort Wayne, IN
Oct 29-Nov 5	Dr. Greg Pomeroy Team, Portland, ME

Please contact us for available dates and rates. The complete 2005 calendar is on our website at www.solidrockmissions.org.

first director. The school continued to exist, through good and bad times.

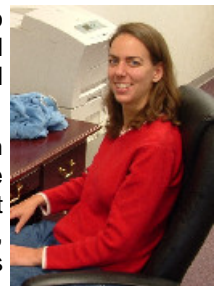
Recently the leadership of the school evaluated its vision and purpose. They discovered that there were kids that needed an education in a Christian school but their parents could not afford it. The school decided their mission field is to get 50 of these target kids in their school. Now they need funding. Solid Rock Missions is running a sponsorship program for those 50 students.

For more information about this program and the sponsorship programs at the CCED school and the Jim Smith School in El Rosario, please check out our website at www.solidrockmissions.org or call us at 419-335-8046.

SRM Is Growing

We are excited to announce a new addition to our office staff. Amanda Short has accepted the job of Administrative Assistant to Rod Meyer.

Amanda is a graduate of Pettisville High School and Goshen College. She served the 2003-4 school year as an English teacher at the CCED school. She is fluent in Spanish, so she is able to help with communications needs. Besides Rod and Amanda, Chris Mosier serves as our sponsorship coordinator.



General Fund Needs

The SRM General Fund is little publicized but it is very important. It does more than just provide an operating budget for our office. This fund also supplies over \$5000 per month in operating expenses for both clinics, English teachers, and emergency expenses. Please consider a contribution to this important fund.

In Loving Memory

James E. Smith

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory



Our newsletters and brochures are 100% recyclable. When you are finished with them, pass them on to a friend.