



# Solid Rock Missions

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January – February 2002

## News from CCSI

by Dr. Isaias Melo

The last three months at CCSI have been marked by the implementation of the FONAP project, a government sponsored primary care initiative directed towards the poorest segment of the provinces of San Juan, Azua and Elias Piña. The pay us a fixed amount (US \$20) per assigned patient per year to provide comprehensive medical care to the initially estimated 14,200 patients who inhabit the barrios surrounding the clinic plus one barrio distant about a mile from the clinic. Those services included both health prevention and promotion, along with the curative aspect, including providing medications, necessary labs, x-rays, and prenatal care including deliveries, which will be paid to the local hospital. In addition we have to address environmental issues with the community. The program is scheduled to run from October 2001-September 2002. The government will decide before that time if they will continue the program beyond that date.

As a result of the project, the office visits at the clinic have essentially doubled, going from 45-50 patients a day to 90-110 a day.

As part of the project, we did a census, which yielded a population for the barrios immediately adjacent to the clinic of 13,307 plus 3784 inhabitants for the additional barrio, for a total of 17091 people, which means an excess of 2891 people over the initially estimated 14,200. We absorbed that extra number of people with no further compensation so far, situation which we hope will be resolved this month. The census has shown us the exact composition of the barrios by age and sex, and their main medical problems. It has also shown us the specific living conditions of each family, as a house survey was part of the census. That information will allow us to develop programs to address specific needs of the community.

Another important piece of information was one that has particular interest for our school. In Barrio Nuevo/Corbano Sur, where CCED is located, there are 3816 children, between the ages of 1-19. The school enrollment right now is 1020 (900 in the regular school and 120 in the vocational school). That means we are educating 27 % approximately of the children of the barrio.

## Infant Survival Program

I reinitiated the program about two months ago with the accumulated donations from Highland Community Church, which I had saved until there was 1125 dollars. With that money I purchased milk and protein and have started to treat some of the children on the FONAP program (FONAP does not provide money for that). I also "adopted" a set of twins from a small community called Los Pozuelos (Little Wells). I have been providing milk for them and vitamins for the mother.

## Partners in Compassion

This program is a way to invest in the healthcare of the people in the San Juan Region. This fund provides money for the CCSI clinic and it's satellite clinics. It also helps to operate a number of health program. Gifts defray the expenses of these



**The twins Karin (L) and Escarin (R), born October 19, 2001. The mattress, recently donated by the local health department is the only bed the family of five has.**

programs to make them more affordable and available to the poor people in the area.

## Urgent Plea Update

Last September we put out an urgent plea for more sponsors for students at the Christian Center of Education for Development (CCED). We have seen a good response to that plea. We now have just over 600 students sponsored. But we still have 300 students that need sponsors.

The school's rapid expansion has been stretching most of its resources. Physically, the school now needs more classroom and office space (you will hear more about those needs in future newsletters). Space is not the only thing that is tight. Financially, the added burden is creating new challenges. 300 un-sponsored children translates in a drastic shortage of funds to operate.

The school and the clinic have been the catalyst of changes for the better in the barrios in San Juan. The school continues to be on the forefront of education in the region, winning many awards for their excellent programs.

For only \$22 per month, a sponsorship provides a child with the best Christian education in the region, one hot meal per day, one free dental visit and two free medical visits each year. We offer several different payment methods to fit your needs, including an automatic withdrawal program. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information on how you can help change children's lives for eternity, contact us at 419-335-8046 or e-mail us at [srm@solidrockmissions.org](mailto:srm@solidrockmissions.org). Check out our website at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org).

## Need a Speaker?

We appreciate any opportunity to share these programs with everyone whether it is 3 minutes or 3 days. We will customize our presentation to fit your needs. We would love to be a part of your mission's conference too. If your church or service club would like a presentation, please contact Solid Rock Missions at 419-335-8046.

### Developments in Development

The position of Director of Development has literally been expanding for the past several months and it is ending with a happy little development. Darla Rupp has been the Director of Development for Solid Rock Missions for the past year. The only sad part of this story is as of the first of the year Darla has left this position. The happy part is Mark and Darla are expecting their first child in February (not in time for publication, so you will have to wait for the next newsletter). Many of you got to know Mark and Darla while they were managing the guest house in San Juan. Mark is currently working for a local contractor in Wauseon, OH. And Darla is now employed as a domestic homemaker, soon to be a full time mother. Congratulations to Mark and Darla! Thank you for your service to this ministry. You can send your best wishes to Mark and Darla via Solid Rock Missions.

Many of you have been aware of the search for a new Director of Development and you have been praying for God's leading in finding the right person. God has answered our prayers.

Rod Meyer has started his adventure with Solid Rock Missions. Rod and his wife Carol come from Albany, IN. They have been active members of the Berne, IN Evangelical Mennonite Church. Both of them have been active with the ministry of Miracle Camp near Lawton, MI. Rod and Carol spent about seven years serving on the staff there working with Jim and Dorine Smith. They were also involved in the early years of the Lawton EMC church. In 1980, God led them away from Miracle Camp and on to Coca-Cola where Rod was part of the management team for a production facility. Carol worked on her education and became a registered nurse. She currently is working in the home health care field. Rod and Carol have both remained active as volunteers at Miracle Camp. Rod has been on the camp's board of directors since the mid-eighties. He is currently serving as the board chairman.

In July of 2000, Rod and Carol began sensing God's leading. The question was where. They explored various opportunities. The exploration lead to two trips to the Dominican Republic with different work groups in 2001. During those trips they developed a real heart for the ministry there. Shortly after that God opened the door to serve with Solid Rock Missions in the Wauseon, OH office.

Rod has already met some of you either through some work trips or through visits with Darla to some churches. He is excited about sharing this ministry with others. If your church or organization would like to hear more about Solid Rock Missions and the ministries it supports, please contact him at 419-335-8046 or e-mail him at [srm@solidrockmissions.org](mailto:srm@solidrockmissions.org)

### **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.

### 2002 Guesthouse Schedule

<b>Jan. 4 – 14</b>	<b>Oasis Christian Fellowship, Wauseon, OH</b>
Jan. 12 – 19	Southeastern Eye Associates, Raleigh, NC
Jan. 18 – 26	Fred Marcinak group, Seneca, SC
Jan. 26 – Feb. 5	Highland Community Church, Wausau, WI
Feb. 4 – 19	Michael Goble group, Adrian, MI
Feb. 5 – 12	Gaylord Rotary Club, Gaylord, MI
Feb	Spartanburg First Presbyterian, Spartanburg, SC
Mar. 3 – 10	Careforce Rotary, Canada
Mar. 9 – 17	Blankenship group, Danville, PA
Mar. 16 – 23	Dr. Diane Bernardi group, Bryan, OH
Mar. 30 – Apr. 7	Dr. Diller group, Toledo, OH
Apr. 6 – 14	Dr. Diller group, Toledo, OH
Apr. 13 - 21	Dr. Diller group, Toledo, OH
May 24 – Jun. 1	Dr. Joseph & Mary Miller group, Piqua, OH
Jun. 15 – 23	Dr. Roberts group, Spartanburg, SC
Jun. 22 – Jul. 1	Dr. Roberts group, Spartanburg, SC
Jul. 1 – 10	Evangelical Mennonite Church, Archbold, OH
Jul. 10 – 20	Solid Rock Community Church, West Unity, OH
Jul. 20 – Aug. 3	Highland Community Church, Wausau, WI
Aug. 3 – 10	Mountain of the Lord Church, Akron, OH
Sep. 7 – 14	Willow Creek Church, South Barrington, IL
Oct. 13 – 20	Dr. Diller group, Toledo, OH
Oct. 19 – 27	Dr. Diller group, Toledo, OH

### Passports Make Life Easier

Traveling to and from the Dominican Republic since September 11<sup>th</sup> has changed very little. Just like traveling anywhere by air these days, it is recommended for travelers to be at the airport a couple of hours before your flight. Passports are not an "official" requirement for travel to and from the Dominican Republic. However, it is extremely helpful and a whole lot faster to have one when going through Immigration. One last thing to remember.....SMILE. The security and immigration people are only trying to do their jobs and they are trying to make traveling safer for all of us.

### Keep SRM In Your Prayers

1. Pray for the Dominican leadership as they continue to follow God's leading into new areas of ministry.
2. Pray for Jesse, Andrea and Noah Schumacher as they continue to serve work groups at the guest house in San Juan.
3. Pray for the Solid Rock Missions board as they seek God's help in finding ways to fund the various programs.
4. Pray for safety and good health for the many volunteers traveling to and working in San Juan

**Thank you** for supporting Solid Rock Missions with your gifts of time, talents and money.

