



Solid Rock Missions

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Solid Rock Missions In The Laundry Business?...Not Quite

What do WorldCom, Enron and Solid Rock Missions have in common? Not much. Two of the three have been in the news a lot this past year and the news has not been good news.

WorldCom has a bronze emblem which is a globe in front of their worldwide headquarters. Enron has that big tilted "E" in front of their worldwide headquarters. What does Solid Rock Missions have? The answer is nothing. We thought about buying the big "E" statue and converting it to "SRM" but that was rather expensive to do with three letters, so we thought again. Maybe a big tilted "I" would work for us, other than it would probably be misinterpreted for someone having a big ego. Our thoughts were more in the line that the big "I" could represent the importance of this ministry. Better yet, the big "I" could represent integrity. It could serve as a reminder to those of us in the "worldwide headquarters" of Solid Rock Missions. But then again, we don't need that reminder. That is something we believe in and we will never stray from it.

As our thoughts continued on something to put in front of our office to reflect our mission and our integrity (and the main subject of this newsletter), we looked at our budget and decided on a piece of used clothesline and some clothes pins. It is time for us to hang out our laundry for everyone to see. So, where are we going with this?

First, we are very grateful to those of you who have entrusted us with funds to operate the ministries we are associated with in the Dominican Republic. Some very startling articles in USA Today and other newspapers have indicated that the American public's charitable giving has dropped this past year from 3.7% to 2.4% of their annual income. We watch these reports and praise God that this has not been our case. Your giving has matched our budget for the first six months of our fiscal year (July 1-December 30). We thank you for your faith in us and the ministries which we serve.

Now this newsletter may get a little dry as far as reading material goes, but we do want to "hang our laundry out for all to see." We have nothing to hide. (If there is a question you have regarding our finances, please contact us with your question and we will reply to your question as soon as we can.)

The first piece of laundry is the effectiveness of the gifts given. Solid Rock Missions does its best to investigate the recommended projects that come along from time to time. Once in awhile, the snowball is rolling downhill before SRM gets on board, but we do ask the appropriate questions and offer some suggestions that make sense to us. Along with that, SRM also follows up on the projects to make sure that they remain true to their design and function. We also check to make sure funding that comes through SRM is used properly.

The second piece of the laundry is how efficiently we (SRM) administer those funds. Compared to many non-profit organizations, Solid Rock Missions is very efficient. Solid Rock Missions' goal is to never, never, never go beyond its 10% operational overhead goal. Translated, that means for every dollar given, at least 90 cents goes to the ministry. The remaining 10% covers our expenses in doing the things we do here in our office in Wauseon. We will always

keep those overhead expenses below 10% (many times doing better than that).

So what are some of those expenses in operating Solid Rock Missions? First is salaries for SRM personnel (one full time Director of Development and our part time bookkeeper/child sponsorship coordinator) and related expenses (like medical insurance). We currently do not have any rent expenses or utility bills thanks to some gracious people. Our biggest expenses relating to operation of this office is postage and printing. We send tax-deductible receipts, sponsorship reminders and newsletters. The increase of postage to 37 cents this past year took a big chunk of what we felt was the very small amount of cushion we had. We have now been able to offer invoice and receipt options via e-mail. We also have additional expenses traveling to make presentations. Anytime an honorarium or mileage is paid, it goes directly to the SRM General Fund and not to the individual.

Our most active regular fundraising is through our Student Sponsorship Program for the CCED School in San Juan, DR. As of this writing we now have 677 students sponsored at the school with the need to sponsor an additional approximately 225 students to completely fund the school. Each sponsorship is \$22 per month per student. Out of that money \$20 goes directly to the school for the individual student's support. Our bookkeeping indicates that we are currently sending 90.7% of the funds raised to the school. Solid Rock Missions adjusts the monthly transfer to the school depending on the number of students sponsored and on the amount of money flowing into the fund.

This past six months we have been able to increase the funds to the school regularly. We also make adjustments every six months when we drop sponsorship commitments that have not been paid. This past adjustment (Jan 1st) resulted in 30 students losing their sponsorships. We then put them in the active group we are trying to find sponsors for. As you can tell, prompt responses to sponsor's commitments are very much appreciated.

The general rule for the remainder of giving through Solid Rock Missions' funds is that 10% is kept for overhead expenses and 90% going to the fund it was specified for. This includes funds for personal support. Depending on the individual needs, we also do the tax reporting and other necessary legal requirements (as needed). 100% of the funds given to a project, capital project, the general fund and trips (room, board and airfare) go to the funds where they appropriated.

If, for some reason, we cannot use the money as you have asked us to, we will contact you for your choice on the direction of the funds. In some cases, we have even sent checks back to the benefactors because we were unable to use the money as it was designated. That is Solid Rock Missions' commitment to all of you as you give.

The money that comes in for missions trips goes to cover the expenses for these trips. They cover such expenses such as food, transportation, lodging, etc. The unused funds go into the SRM General Fund. We also pay "rent" for the Guesthouse. The rent is really SRM's commitment for subsidizing the clinic. That subsidy is approximately \$39,000 annually. Most generally these trips do not produce the amount of money needed to cover the subsidy. It is made up from other General Fund giving.



As long as we are talking about the SRM General Fund.... that is a fund that covers a lot of territory. Besides our operational expenses and the clinic subsidy, its funds are also used for special needs and projects that are either relatively small or in some cases an emergency. This past year we sent money for several projects at the school to facilitate their immediate needs. We have also helped out the clinic by giving them some extra funds to cover rising electricity costs.

We also have the many designated projects in the DR. Some current projects include the clinic in El Cercado, completion of new restrooms for the new classrooms that were finished last fall, and the new vocational classrooms at the school. Money designated for a specific project or a specific fund goes into that fund and is used only for the project for which it was specified. We will not use it for anything else unless the project is complete. At that point we will use it for a related project or contact the donors about their preferences. Another example is the money designated for our container shipment by 1st Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, SC. The money will not be used until we pay the shipping bills.

We want you to be assured that we will use your gifts as they are intended. If we can't, we will contact you for your help in making a decision.

Some Upcoming Financial Needs

Many of you are aware of our need for Guesthouse hosts. We are making some progress and we hope to make an announcement in the next several months. Part of the package is for the individuals to raise financial support. It is SRM's intent to help raise that support. Along with the added personnel comes the possible need for a second vehicle. We will keep you informed on both possibilities as decisions are made.

A major project was started last fall by a group from Holland. That is the construction of vocational classrooms at the school. The funds they brought have been used and now we are looking for about \$25,000 to complete the project. If you or your church or organization are interested in helping to complete this project, please let us know.

One of the next major projects on the drawing board is the dream of a new clinic/hospital in San Juan to replace the current facility which we found out is located in a flood plain. (That was found out the hard way in 1998 with Hurricane Georges). We have the money for property as soon as a proper location can be found. The new facility will not only be a surgery center, it will also have an emergency room, patient rooms, and all the related needed facilities. There are plans for this facility to be a teaching and training facility for the medical profession. We are also wanting to link this facility for telemedicine consultations with worldwide, world-class medical facilities. Current plans call for this to be built in four phases. This will be a long major project. We are currently working on the plans and then we will be looking for some funding and some work teams to build this facility.

Taxing Time

We don't have to tell you tax time can be a taxing time. If for some reason you cannot find all of your receipts for your SRM giving, please contact us and we will send you have the receipts for your 2002 gifts to Solid Rock Missions.

We have recently been introduced to some tax deferred long-term giving opportunities that are available for your consideration. If you are interested, please contact us. We would also encourage you to remember Solid Rock Missions as you prepare your will. Please contact us for more ways you can have a long-lasting effect on Solid Rock Missions' ministries in the Dominican Republic.

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.

2003 Guesthouse Calendar

Feb 1-8 First Presbyterian Medical/Construction Team, Spartanburg, SC
 Feb 10-17 Gaylord Rotary Club, Gaylord MI
 Feb 15-Mar 1 ECU-Todd Beste Medical Group, Greenville, SC
 Feb 15-Feb 25 Second Presbyterian Medical Team, Roanoke, VA
 Mar 1-15 North Broadway Baptist Church, Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada
 Mar 23-30 Dr. Diane Bernardi Medical Group, Bryan, OH
 Mar 24-Apr 6 Kristi Ross Group, Archbold, OH
 Mar 29-Apr 6 Dr. Diller Medical Group I, Toledo, OH
 Apr 5-Apr 13 Dr. Diller Medical Group II, Toledo, OH
 Apr 26-May 4 Dr. Jim Blankenship Team, Danville, PA
 May 17-24 Southern Eye Associates, Raleigh, NC
 Jun 10-20 NW Ohio Youth For Christ, Archbold, OH
 Jun 21-Jul 5 Northwoods Community Church Youth, Peoria, IL
 Jul 5-Jul 14 Salem EMC Youth, Gridley, IL
 Jul 12-26 Dr. Tom Roberts Medical Group, Spartanburg, SC
 Jul 26-Aug 3 Central Mennonite Church Youth, Archbold, OH
 **We are beginning to book the 2003 fall dates and 2004. Please contact us to plan for your group.

Something To Think About

Almost every trip to the DR has a story that makes you stop and think.

This one is a result of a sponsor sending their student a gift. One of the easiest things to give is some money. Someone from the school will go with the child to shop for needed items, such as clothing. And in this case, the sponsor sent money.



The student's name is Gabriela Marina (#944) and the gift was \$20 US for her to buy some new clothes. Gabriela saw her needs just a little differently. Five months earlier, Gabriela's father died, leaving her mother and family with little more than the roof over their head. Gabriela was grateful for the gift but she had another idea of what was needed. She asked her school chaperone if she could use it to buy food for her family. She knew what they needed. Food. So she spent her money to buy a box full of food for the family and they are grateful for this gift.

Thank you to Gabriela's sponsor. And for the rest of us.....think about that.

The Rotary Challenge

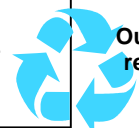
It seems like it is the time of year for Rotary Clubs to find projects worthy of their generosity. Depending on the project, some of them are able to have matching funds available for use. The Spartanburg Rotary Club is working on funds for woodworking equipment for the CCED vocational classes. The Gaylord Rotary Club is working on funding for a new generator at the CCED school and a generator for the clinic at El Cercado. We are looking for Rotary Clubs interested in some of our projects (both large and small). If your Rotary Club is interested, we would love to present you with some opportunities. For more information, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions.

Please contact us if you would like to have a presentation for your church or civic organization.

New Look: Check out our website at www.solidrockmissions.org. The site is under construction and we are hoping to have it completed in the near future. Please let us know what you think of the changes.

In Loving Memory

Orville Rueger from Archbold, OH
 William Frank James Sr. from Spartanburg, SC
 Ron Terrell from Spartanburg, SC



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