



# Solid Rock Missions

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January—February 2004

## It seems like a long time

Sometimes it takes us a little while to catch on, but it has actually been a long time since you have heard from us and we just figured that out. Our last newsletter was September/October 2003. We did send you a letter in November but it did not have much news. With that in mind, we have changed our plans to include a November/December issue in the future. You can see past issues on our website at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org). There are some other new features on the site. You can now view pictures of unsponsored children and select one (or more) to sponsor online. And our photo gallery has some new pictures as well. Please check it out.

## El Cercado Clinic: Open to Serve



Three years and a fair amount of sweat and money and it is finally open. We are talking about the new clinic in El Cercado. El Cercado is the mountain town of 30,000 people west of San Juan now with it's first clinic to serve the people. The clinic officially opened in November after several delays in getting the finishing touches in place. There are actually several minor things to complete but the clinic is in operating mode. Two Dominican doctors are working there along with a small staff. A fund to help provide start up costs has been established by First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, SC. They are providing funding for eight months on a graduated declining basis. Our "Healthcare Assurance" program will also provide funding to help the clinic operate for the long term.

## It Really Is the Economy

Here is a story that has not shown up on any cable network news stations. The economy of the Dominican Republic is in serious trouble. There have been some small stories in the Miami Herald and the Washington Times. It is a big story because it affects 9 million people....people we care for.

Last spring a series of things happened in the Dominican Republic that took this small Caribbean country down a road that has not been pleasant. Three major banks in the Dominican Republic failed due to mismanagement and corruption. The government did have a guaranteed insurance program but the bail out went farther than it was designed to. The money lost

equaled to over half of the Dominican economy. The results has been devastating.

The bailout started a series of things that continue at this writing. The government then needed to recover the money, so they raised taxes. They also failed to pay their debts on time. That in turn caused a lack of faith in the government which caused the Dominican Peso to be devaluated. In February 2003 the peso was being exchanged for 17 pesos for 1 US dollar. As recent as late January 2004, the exchange rate was as high as 57.5 pesos for each US dollar. The results have been devastating. The inflation rate of the peso is over 300%. That means that prices for the typical Dominican family has gone up by over three times. Interest rates on loans are now at 45 to 55 %. That is a lot for a group of people who do not have very much.



The string of government decisions have continued. They include the forced buyout by the government of the private electric utilities. They have also dropped the subsidies to keep LP gas, food and other commodities affordable for the people. Gasoline and Diesel have risen dramatically. So has electricity. There have been long lines for fuel as supplies have dwindled.

There have also been general public strikes that have turned violent resulting in about 10 deaths in November. Future strikes have been scheduled.

Throw in the one more item makes this extremely volatile. This is a presidential election year. The current administration's actions and corruption in the government add a spark to this mixture. The Washington Times says that democracy in the Dominican Republic is threatened.

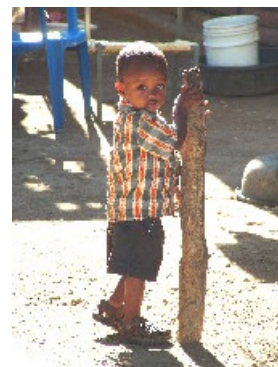
The really sad part is what it is doing to the typical Dominican family. A recent survey indicated that 25% of the families did not know where their next meal was coming from. Increased expenses in farming will create food shortages. Fuel for cooking is in tight supply. According to Dr. Canario, they are seeing more malnutrition in children every week.

And to top it off, there are troubles over in Haiti, their island neighbor. There are concerns that there will be a large number of Haitians entering the Dominican Republic as refugees from the government troubles and the terrible economic conditions there.

As we watch what is going on, we feel for the Dominican people. They don't deserve this. It seems hopeless.

That is opening the door for us to share the hope Jesus Christ has to offer. We are able to offer that hope as we meet the educational and medical needs of Dominicans. The schools continue to provide hot meals every school day. Low or no-cost healthcare continue to serve those that need help. Programs such as Healthcare Assurance and the Infant Survival Program are becoming more necessary.

This whole mess is affecting our ministries. It is also (cont)



affecting the costs of supplies and service they buy. The biggest impact is to our clinics because most of their income and expenses are tied to the Dominican peso.

There are a couple of things you can do; First pray for the Dominican people and the situation they are in. Second, consider a contribution to one of our ministries to help them meet their expenses as they meet needs and share the Gospel with the Dominican people.

### Power Problems

Simple problem: In North America, the electricity goes out and you call the power company. In most cases, your power will be back on in a couple of hours. In the Dominican Republic, try 30 plus days later.



In late October, the transformers behind the guesthouse caught on fire. Several clinic employees managed to get the fire out after two of the transformers were destroyed. The generator did kick in and ran for about 18 hours before it had a severe problem that needed attention. That put the

whole place in the dark.

There was one other little problem. In the DR, transformers are owned by the user and not by the power company. An electrical engineer was hired and work proceeded. Then came the wait for the electric company (which is owned by the government) to approve the work, and the dreaded word that there was more work needed to meet the requirements. And more money too.

The total repair bill came to \$8,700 before things got back to normal. People occasionally ask what we do with our General Fund monies. Our general fund covered a big share of this repair bill. (This gives you a little idea of what we use some General Fund monies for.) We also want to thank First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, SC for their help in completing this project.

### “Oh, What a Feeling”



We really did not want to steal the Toyota slogan but given the circumstances, we feel it is okay.

Our fundraising project last fall was to raise money to purchase a second vehicle for use at the guesthouse. Thanks to you, we raised just over \$28,000 to purchase a 2004 Toyota 4 door, 4 wheel

drive pickup truck. The truck was purchased and put into service in early January. This will eliminate the transportation problems we have had in the past as the guesthouse shares their vehicles with the clinic and school. Thank you for supporting this project.

### “Sarcasm—Another Service We Offer”

As long as we are stealing slogans (This comes from a bumper sticker hanging on Ed Meier's desk), we do have another service to offer (and it is not sarcasm). Actually we have many services to offer your church and service club.

During the fall of 2003, Solid Rock Missions was invited to help Crossroads Evangelical Church in putting together a permanent mission's display for their church. The church had an idea and we joined them to help make it happen. As you can tell from looking at the photo, it really turned out nice. There are still a few little details needed to complete the project. It looks great.

**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.

### Guesthouse Calendar

Jan 31-Feb 14	First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC
Feb 14-21	Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA
Feb 21-28	CrossWay Community Church, Nashua, NH
Feb 28-Mar 6	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Mar 13-20	Fox Plastic Team, Schenectady, NY
Mar 20-27	Spring Break Mission Team, Williams Co. OH
Apr 17-24	Dr. Lynn Hughes Team, Huntersville, NC
Mar 27-Apr 3	Jim and Mary Blankenship Team, Danville, PA
Jun 5-12	Hope's Helpers, Asheville, NC
Jun 12-19	Dr. Tom Roberts Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jun 19-Jul 3	Highland Community Church Youth, Wauseon, WI
Jul 3-17	Crossroads Evangelical Church Youth, Wauseon, OH
Jul 24-31	Gaylord Evangelical Free Church Youth, Gaylord, MI
Jul 31-Aug 14	Archbold EMC Church Families, Archbold, OH

We have prime Fall 2004 dates available. We are now also booking 2005 dates. Please contact us for available dates and rates.

Solid Rock Missions is willing to help your church put together a permanent display. It doesn't have to be this large or fancy. Please call our office for more information. Solid Rock Missions also has a portable display and brochures that are available for your use (for missions conferences, etc.). Please contact SRM to reserve it.



### Need A Speaker....We Can Help

If you need a speaker for anything from a big group to your small group, please consider someone from Solid Rock Missions. We are always willing to share what is going on in the Dominican Republic. This offer is good for civic groups as well. Please call Rod to schedule a presentation.

### Brrrr...It Is Cold Here

Occasionally, we will bring difficult medical cases to the United States for specialized care that is not available in the DR.

Wanda Nova was the last case of 2003 to come to the US. She had a frozen jaw that requires joint replacement. St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo, OH allowed Dr. R. Zigler to perform the work there. While in Toledo, a local dentist also took care of her dental needs. Our thanks to all who helped her back to great health.



Wanda saying goodbye to her hosts, Vickie and John Momenee

In June 2003, Manuel Garcia had a cardiac procedure performed on him. He is doing great.

We now have another cardiac patient lined up for surgery. We are waiting for a visa and for funds to provide for his airfare here. If you can help, designate your gifts to “Cristian Ticket Fund”.

### In Loving Memory

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory

Dr. Gordon Zimmerman—Wauseon, OH

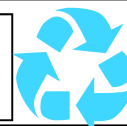
Jack Bonar—Wauseon, OH

Beth Ann Snyder—Portland, IN

James E. Smith

### In Honor

Dr. Don & Kay McClure, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Howell,  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Pemberton, and Dr. Diane Bernardi



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

# Solid Rock Missions—Letters from the Dominican Republic

January 2003

## News from the Nofzigers-

Since we last contributed to the Solid Rock Missions newsletter our life has taken on many changes and we want to thank each of you for your prayers and well wishes during our time of transition. We know that it is a result of the many prayers that continue to be offered for us that things have gone so well. Not that we haven't had our difficult days. Our month of language school with Ana as our professor was very intense. Classes were designed specifically for us with the realization of the work we would be involved in here in San Juan. They ran from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with two 10 minute breaks each day. We attended class every day from December 1 through December 26 except Sundays, two Saturdays and Christmas Day. Following class each day we spent most of the afternoon studying and completing homework and also answering email messages. But evening hours were our time with our wonderful Dominican host family, Tomy, Dorca and little 7-year-old Milvia. They helped us experience the Dominican culture first-hand in innovative ways. Our hearts go out to them as inflation has risen so drastically and they have both been out of work for months, even though he is an engineer and she is an architect. Presently dollar to peso ratio is 1 to 50!

The day after Christmas we completed our classes and immediately boarded the Caribe Tours bus headed for San Juan de la Maguana. We were very excited and the country seemed even more beautiful than when we were here this past June. Three hours later we stepped out into the world that we would claim as our home. We were blessed to have Doctors Peggy and Isaias Melo as our mentors for the first three weeks at the guesthouse. Their assistance and advice has been indispensable as we were helped to prepare ourselves to assume the responsibilities of hosts at the guesthouse and of teams who would come to serve. As with the language, we have much more to learn, but we can truly say that we are loving it here! It is so exciting to observe the deep spiritual commitment that group members have displayed. Their faith and selfless hours of service to the poor while they are here is most encouraging to us.

Today we have been to the Santo Domingo Airport three times bringing parts of the outgoing team to board their planes at their designated times and welcoming the new team who will serve with us for this next week. The out-going team was able to spend a day at the beautiful Capella Hotel before leaving for home, and the incoming team will spend a night at the Lina Hotel and then attend church at the Iglesia Menonita Principe de Paz held in an open sided pavilion called the Club Mirador here in the Capital before boarding the bus and heading out to San Juan. This is all great fun for us.

We would welcome all of you to come and serve with us for a week! If you would like to explore that possibility, do email us at [rsnof@solidrockmissions.com](mailto:rsnof@solidrockmissions.com) and we will be happy to give you details of how to become involved.

In closing we want to share a few prayer requests and thank you in advance for remembering us.

For our family as we are separated

For our wonderful staff here at the guesthouse

For the children and families here experiencing the terrible inflation

For God's love to come through clearly as we serve in this beautiful spot

For continued understanding of the Spanish language.

*Rod and Sandy Nofziger*

## Editor's Notes:

**Solid Rock Missions encourages missionaries to send letters for us to publish with our newsletters. Like most publications, we set deadlines for our mailing. Missionary letters received prior to printing are included in this publication.**

**Rod and Sandy Nofziger arrived in San Juan in time to host 2004 teams that began arriving on January 2nd. They are currently being joined by Hank and Joanne Strooband (Jordan Station, Ontario, Canada), Juanita Scheeler (Newville, PA), and David Lawrence. Amanda Short (both from Archbold, OH) and Kimberly Byrnes (Washington DC) are serving as English teachers at the CCED school. Dr. Isaias and Peggy Melo continue to serve at the clinic in San Juan. Please pray for each and everyone of these people.**

**Beside your prayers, Rod and Sandy also appreciate your financial support. Gifts may be given to their support by sending them to Nofziger Support, Solid Rock Missions, P.O. Box 334, Wauseon, OH 43567.**

**Randy and Mary Ann Kerr returned to Florida for some deputation time in November. While home, they felt God's calling in another direction and decided not to return to San Juan with Solid Rock Missions. We want to wish them God's best as they seek His direction in their lives.**

## Some Nuts and Bolts Information About Solid Rock Missions

Solid Rock Missions is pleased to announce that we have completed a full audit of our last fiscal year. We did this to provide us with information and assurance that we are operating as we say we are and to provide an independent look at our books to confirm that our financial house is in order.

Our complete audit is located on our website at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org). It is located on the "About Us" page.

The audit was conducted by the William Vaughn Company (certified public accountants) from Toledo, OH. Their audit met several professional auditing standards. They not only looked at our books, they also looked at our procedures, newsletter, minutes, website and brochures to determine that we were representing ourselves and our programs in a proper way. They checked to make sure that we are doing the things we say we are doing.

**The good news is they think we are!**

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors  
Solid Rock Missions  
Waukegan, Ohio

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Solid Rock Missions as of June 30, 2005, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Solid Rock Missions as of June 30, 2005, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

December 2, 2005

*William Vaughn Company*

**Note from the SRM janitor:** Rod gets so excited when he has extra newsletter space. It seems every newsletter is limited on space and he has to cut some things out of the newsletter. Now he has the opportunity to pass along some of the news and notes that were cut. As for me, I am excited too. That means that all of those little notes and scraps that fall off his desk and on to the floor will be cleaned up...at least for a little while.

### Help Wanted: ESL Teachers

It has been a while since we have been able to supply English teachers to the CCED school to teach English as a Second Language (ESL). This year we have been blessed with not only one but two teachers to teach classes from grade three all the way through high school. Amanda Short from Archbold, OH and Kimberly Byrnes from near Washington, DC have been doing an excellent job since the beginning of school in September. They both have been a wonderful asset to our program and the students and staff at the school really appreciate them.

These teachers are working through a volunteer type program we started to meet these needs. We are currently looking for funding to pay future teachers more than just a stipend. If you know of any organizations interested in supporting a teacher, please let us know.

We are also looking for ESL teachers for the next school year (Sept. 2004—Jun. 2005). For more information, please send Rod an e-mail at [rod@solidrockmissions.org](mailto:rod@solidrockmissions.org).

### Student Sponsorship News

	CCED School in San Juan	Jim Smith School In El Rosario
Enrollment	965*	127
Student's Sponsored	752	19
Un-sponsored Students	211	108

(\*there are several student's at the CCED that pay their own way. That is why the numbers do not add up to the enrollment total.)

We are excited that our sponsorships continue to grow. We are also excited about the positive results we are seeing from the students and the school. The CCED school continues to be on the cutting edge of education in the DR. The school is winning awards and getting recognition for their quality educational programs. Many students are going on to college and universities, continuing their educations once they graduate. They are doing well at the college level. Most are going to college locally. We do have a support program available to help them with those costs. For more information, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions.

We are also excited about what is happening at the Jim Smith School in El Rosario. Before we started the sponsorship program, the school was just barely existing and only because of the dedication of teachers who were not being paid. We have had teams do some fix up work. We now have some future opportunities to help them with their dreams for the school. Please contact us for ways you can help.

The one thing both schools are doing is preparing a hot meal for their students every school day. That is really important with all the things going on with the Dominican economy.

Please consider sponsoring a child. You can now select and sponsor a child on our website at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org).

### Here is a project for your Sunday School Class

Once a year we have some hogs donated to help with the food programs at the school. The meat is canned and shipped on one of our containers. We need to raise funds to process and can the pork. We can use your help. Please contact us for more information on how you can help feed these children.

***We do not say this enough.....Thank you for the part you play in helping us with the ministries we are involved with. You are appreciated.***