



SOLID ROCK MISSIONS

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July—August 2002

Tons of News from the Dominican Republic

No matter where you turn there is something new going on in the Dominican Republic. In this issue we will try to pass along some of that excitement. And when we say tons, we mean tons. The biggest project fits that billing. Tons of cement blocks.

Construction on the new classroom project at the school got underway in June. Duane Becker from Kansas has been helping us out as the Construction Coordinator for the project. Dominican labor dug and poured the footer for the four classroom building. In late June a group of fifteen people from Spartanburg, SC 1st Presbyterian Church laid over 1,200 cement blocks and used over 50 bags of cement. In July, several youth groups



hailed fill dirt into the rooms to prepare the floor for concrete. Several groups this fall will be working on the project. The anticipated completion date is January 2003. After this building is

complete, a building for restrooms will be built and hopefully completed in early 2003.

The first day of construction required some prayer. The team was on the site working when they received news that Duane Becker and his son Clark, had been involved in an accident on the way to the site. Duane had to swerve to miss a motorbike and hit a sign on the way to a hard landing. Clark had some minor injuries. Duane stayed overnight in the clinic. Duane had a compression fracture in his lower back. Through it all, God was in control and provided Dr. Don McClure. Dr. McClure is a retired orthopedic surgeon who was working with the construction team at the school.

All Good Things Must Come to an End

Jesse, Andrea and Noah Schumacher said goodbye to their friends and returned to the US on June 29th, ending their term of service as the guesthouse hosts. They had originally planned to stay until the middle of August but they needed to return to the states because of the illness and death of Jesse's grandfather. The Schumacher's are now living in Archbold, OH.

Peggy and Isaias Melo have taken over as temporary guesthouse hosts. We are still searching for new hosts. We are hoping to have several families help with these responsibilities. For more information on how you can become involved, please contact Solid



Andrea and Noah Schumacher

Rock Missions. Please keep this need in your prayers.

Partners In Compassion Is As Important As Ever

Partners In Compassion is the giving program that helps to defray the expenses of operating the clinic in San Juan. Recently the clinic has been involved in a comprehensive Dominican government program to provide healthcare to the poor. The program began last October with some great promises. It got out of the starting block with a great leap and has since caused some concern. The biggest problem is the government has been slow in reimbursing the clinic. Some of the staff have not been paid for several months. This program has basically replaced the general services the clinic was doing prior to its start. Now the question is how do we maintain the services and keep costs low. We need your help. Would you please consider a one-time gift or regular giving to this fund to help keep the clinic operating and providing medical services to those that need them?

Summer Break

The school year ended in late June with exams and the staff is ready for a break before classes begin in September. The school year concluded with a public exhibition of student artwork. Some vocational studies and other classes continue throughout the summer.

Several changes are in store for the next school year. The biggest will be the expanded high school program. In previous years this has been a half day program. This next year will be a full day program. A portion of the day will be spent in vocational training. The intent is to prepare the students for further education in a university.

The schools programs continue to excel in different competitions and activities that show it is leading the way to provide an excellent well-rounded education. Students are excelling in the arts as displayed by the music and art programs.

Student sponsorships continue to grow. We now have 650 students sponsored. That leaves approximately 250 students remaining to be sponsored. Sponsorships are only \$22 per month. That gives your student an education, books, a uniform, a daily hot meal and medical and dental care during the school year. For more information, contact Solid Rock Missions.

Canning Plans

Last year a local hog farmer donated some hogs which were butchered and canned for use by the school's lunch program. Fifteen hogs have recently been donated. We are now in need of about \$4,000 to process and can the meat to put on our fall container shipment. This would be an excellent project for your church, service club or Sunday School class. Please contact Solid Rock Missions for ways you can help supply meat for the school lunch program.



School Director Jose Ramon Rodriguez taking a needed siesta before the fiesta.

Annual Banquet - September 28, 2002

Solid Rock Missions' Annual Banquet will be held September 28th at 6 p.m. EDT at the Heritage Inn north of Archbold, OH. Special guests will be Dr. Isaias Melo and Jose Ramon Rodriguez. Our special guest speaker for the evening is Pat Miller from Fort Wayne, IN. Pat is a financial advisor and he hosts "The Saturday Morning Think Tank" on WOWO. His program focuses on current events with an evangelical Christian viewpoint. Pat's nick name is "The round mound of sound". You will enjoy listening to him as he shares with us. The total cost for the evening (including the buffet dinner with broasted chicken and roast beef) is \$17.00 per person. Reservations need to be made by September 7th. Reservations can be made by calling 419-335-8046 or e-mail us at srm@solidrockmissions.org.

Another Great Idea!

Student sponsors, here is an idea for you and it really works. Many of you are looking for ways to send gifts to your student(s). You can send these gifts to the Solid Rock Missions' office. We then make sure they are taken down with work teams traveling to the Dominican Republic. From time to time the timing may not be quite right to make sure the gift get there for their birthday, but they do get their gifts.



Here is an idea: Consider giving money to be used for a gift that can be purchased in the Dominican. It not only helps the child, guaranteeing that their clothing fits and is something they like, but it also helps the local economy. Money sent this way is sent to the school and an administrator or teacher accompanies the child to make sure the money is spent on what it was intended for. Money for gifts to your students can be sent to our office in Wauseon, OH.

Thanksgiving in July?

No, we are not breaking out the cranberries, turkey and pumpkin pie. We are however extremely grateful to God for your faithfulness. Normally, June is a lean giving month. That usually results in short fund transfers to the school and clinic in June. This year was different. Your faithfulness in giving meant we could fully fund our monthly commitments to all of these programs. We actually had \$20 left over in the student sponsorship account (which will go toward our July commitment). Thank you for your faithful regular giving to these funds. We could not do it without you.

While We Are At It

This is good but dangerous. That is to mention names and thank people for things they have done for us or items they have given to us. The dangerous part is forgetting to mention someone. If we don't mention you, please accept our apology (and let us know about it, so we can say something in our next newsletter.) Wayne Baker for a diesel engine for the mechanic's class. Dr. Diane Bernardi for air conditioning for exam rooms at the clinic. The Marion, OH Altrusa Club for donating new Spanish books to the school library. The Fulton County, OH Retired Teachers Association for art and school supplies. Mrs. Rose Cohen for lab and medical equipment. Fulton Co. Hospital (OH), Henry Co. Hospital (OH), Blackford Co. Hospital (IN) for used hospital equipment. St. Michael's Catholic Church (Ney, OH) VBS for sponsoring a student. Crossroads Evangelical Church (Wauseon, OH) VBS for contributing to the General Scholarship Fund. John Van Vleet, Luis Heredia, Luisa Negroni, Depuy Orthopaedics, and Johnson & Johnson for 24 computers for the clinic and school. A huge thank you goes to Ed and Sandy Meier for providing wonderful space for Solid Rock Missions' office needs.

2002 Guesthouse Schedule

Sept. 17-28
Sept. 28-Oct.12
Oct. 5-12
Oct. 12-20
Nov. 1-10

Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Northeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY
CrossWay Christian Church, Nashua, NH
Diller Medical Team, Toledo, OH
Diller Medical Team, Toledo, OH
John Van Vleet—Foot and Ankle Team

Schedule Your Group Now

There is still room this fall to organize a group to stay at the guesthouse and work on the various projects. We are looking for people that specialize in electrical wiring, and woodworking (to build doors and frames) for the new classrooms at the school. Your group does not need to be a large group. For further information on scheduling your group, please contact the SRM office by either phone or e-mail.

The 2003 schedule is rapidly filling up. January through March is full. The summer months have very few openings. If you are planning a trip, you need to set your dates as soon as possible.

Since groups are continually asking for possible dates, we need your help in keeping our schedule updated. After your group returns from a trip, we will keep your same dates penciled in for next year while we wait for your commitment to those dates. After 3 months (or 9 months before the scheduled date) if we do not have your commitment, we will open those dates for other groups. It is important that we keep the guesthouse in use, not only from the labor the work teams provide; it also provides monies for monthly support of the clinic.

Upward

Many of you may have had the opportunity to meet and get to know Andy and Esther Rupp. They and their family can be considered missionary pioneers in the Dominican Republic after spending a number of years planting churches and training leadership in the Santo Domingo and San Juan areas of the Dominican Republic. They laid the ground work that was involved in training our some of the current Dominican leadership. Since returning to the states, Andy has served as a pastor and a denominational president prior to their retirement. Esther has been suffering from a long term illness. She passed away on June 28th. Our sincere sympathy and best wishes go to Andy and the family. Andy and his daughters are planning a trip to the Dominican soon to visit with old friends.

New Address

Dorine Smith has recently moved from Clover, SC to northwest Ohio. Her new address is: P.O. Box 53122, Pettisville, OH 47306. Her e-mail address is: jimdorine@juno.com. Please welcome her to her new home.

A New (or not so new) Board Member

Our recent full board meeting resulted in a new member being added to our board. Darla Rupp has accepted the call to be on our board. Many of you already know Darla (and Mark and Aaron). Mark and Darla have served as guesthouse hosts. Darla has also served as Director of Development for Solid Rock Missions. The Rupp family live near Pettisville, OH. We look forward to having her on the board for many years to come.

SRM Tour Trip

We are planning a touring trip to see the school, clinic, and do some touring of the Dominican Republic from November 30 to December 8, 2002. For more information and pricing, call or write the SRM office.

No Developments in Development

It is not that Rod is in vacation or is goofing off. There are too many other good things going on that there is not enough space for him to expound on whatever. He is looking forward to seeing you as he visits churches this summer and fall, sharing about how you can become involved in touching lives for eternity. Please contact him about visiting your church.

Thank you for your support!

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.