



Solid Rock Missions

P.O. Box 334, Wauseon, Ohio 43567

Ph: 419-335-8046 Fax: 419-337-7827

Website: www.solidrockmissions.org E-mail: srm@solidrockmissions.org

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Ground Hog Day

What is this about? Several years ago there was a movie that came out that was called "Ground Hog Day" with Bill Murray. The story centered around the character played by Murray who somehow got into a cycle of reliving the same day over and over again. Life is not that boring or predictable for us but our newsletters are or seem to be. The lead headline for the last two issues have said "Big News". We really hate to be predictable or in a rut but we have more "Big News" (and some smaller news too).

Big News III

It is exciting to see God working in many different ways and there is not enough space on this paper to list all of the ways God has been working since the last newsletter. This one caught us by surprise.

The guesthouse hosting position is a lot of hard work and it seemed to us at SRM that we could use more than two people to serve the teams that go to the Dominican Republic. After Randy and Mary Ann Kerr accepted God's call to this ministry, we were content and not really actively searching for additional help, but the thought remained in the back of our heads. In the meantime God was at work. He had someone in mind and He started opening doors. It is a long fascinating story which leaves no doubt that God was leading....not only this new couple but also Solid Rock Missions.



Rod and Sandy Nofziger

Without further a adieu, we would like to introduce this new couple; Rod and Sandy Nofziger. They have been lifelong residents of Pettisville, OH. Rod has owned and operated Pettisville Grain Company for most of his working life. Sandy has been a mother (and now grand-mother), a developer, a volunteer and an associate

pastor. They are active members of the North Clinton Mennonite Church near Wauseon, OH.

God has been preparing them for service overseas. He had planted that seed in their mind a number of years ago and over the years He has been preparing them for this experience. Their desire was to serve in a guesthouse setting. For a long time they thought it would be in Bolivia, but God had different ideas as the door closed on an opportunity there. With the closed door He opened other ones

Missions is in their blood. Sandy shared how their family had a regular prayer meeting for an uncle and aunt who served in Africa. That aunt and uncle was Archie and Irma Graber.

Rod and Sandy are actively preparing to go to San Juan. They are planning to arrive in the Dominican Republic on December 1st to finish up their language study. And then the first of the year move to San Juan for their 3 year assignment.

Rod and Sandy will be busy in the meantime getting ready to go. They will be making time to share with those of you inter-

ested in hearing how God has called them. They will be soliciting prayer and financial help as they go. Please keep them in your prayers as they follow God's leading.

Another Amazing Story

Less than a year ago some North American physicians had the case of a young Dominican man called to their attention. His name was Manuel Garcia. He had a problem relating to his heart. Through an exam and consultations it was discovered he had a heart valve problem.

This young man was special to those involved with SRM ministries. He was a student at the CCED school in San Juan. So this was a very special case. Through the consultations, a plan of action was formed. Since the surgery was specialized, it was decided that he needed to come to the U.S for the procedure.

Dr. James Diller coordinated the things that needed to happen here in the U.S. Dr. Suarez, a cardiologist in Toledo, OH offered his services. St. Vincent Hospital and Mercy Children's Hospital offered their facilities and services. Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Yoder offered their home for him have a place to stay and their daughter and son-in-law, Phil and Tammy Leinbach offered to host Manuel, making sure he got to his appointments.

The surgery was originally scheduled for May, but Manuel's condition worsened and it required a hospital stay for him to gain strength for him to travel to the United States. That delayed things for a month and God had a reason for that.

On June 7th, Manuel returned with an SRM team. He was a twenty-one year old man with a serious heart condition. As a result he only weighted 98lbs....not a good weight for a man with a 6 foot frame. His condition even kept him from being able to attend his

church or being able to go to school. His church is located across the street from house. He did enjoy listening to the singing from the church while he was home in his bed.

His heart condition was a valve problem. A normal person's valve opening is about 30 mm. Manuel's was 7 mm. It severely restricted his blood flow. That resulted in severe pulmonary problems as well. He could not walk very far at all without being out of breath and being worn out.

The delay in Manuel's trip to the United States was God at work. He had a reason for the delay. A new procedure had been developed for cases such as this that required special double balloons for the catheterization. It was not available two weeks earlier. Along with this development, a cardiologist trained in this procedure was available to do the procedure and train Dr. Suarez. God had it all planned.

Another amazing part of the story was as Manuel was being prepped for the procedure, he was introduced to the anesthesiologist, J.R. Petersen. JR shared that he had been to the



Manuel Garcia with one of the Leinbach children.

Dominican Republic last year. As their conversation continued, JR told him that he had been to San Juan. And then to the same barrio that Manuel lived in. It finally ended up that JR went through a list of people he met and it turned out they were friends of Manuel. It is a small world. And Manuel knew he was in God's hands.

The procedure went well and Manuel's recovery is going well too. On July 16th, Manuel had a check up with an ultrasound that showed the valve remained open clearing him to return to the Dominican Republic to his family and friends. His cardiopulmonary system is recovering well and he is gaining weight. Tammy Leinbach was thrilled that Manuel had gained 6 lbs and she was working to put another couple on before he left. Manuel returned home with the Central Mennonite Church youth team.

Manuel's current plans are to return for his final year at the CCED. After that he would like to further his education either as a language specialist or as a civil engineer.

Manuel is a very special young man and God spared him for a reason. We may not know why yet. He has a testimony to share. He is someone we will keep our eye on as God opens the future to Manuel.

News and Notes

Our personnel continue to grow in numbers. On August 25, two teachers and an intern will be traveling to the DR for a nine month stay. Amanda Short from Archbold, OH and Kimberly Brynes from Boston, MA will be teaching English in grades 3 thru 12. David Lawrence from Archbold, OH will be interning to see missionaries in action. We have actually given him the title of "The official groundskeeper" for the guesthouse and the school.

Annual Banquet(s)

The SRM banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, September 13th at Heritage Inn at Sauder Village near Archbold, OH. We will have some guests from the Dominican Republic. We will also have a musical program by Lisa Williams of Wauseon, OH. Please see details in the insert with this newsletter or call or e-mail us to make your reservations.

Our guests from the DR will also be traveling to the Highland Community Church in Wausau, WI for an evening of sharing on Sunday, Sept. 14. On Sept. 15th there will be a banquet in Peoria, IL to share the work with friends at Northwoods Community Church.

This fall's fundraising project will be to purchase a needed 4-wheel drive, 4 door pickup truck which will cost about \$25,000. Our free will offering at the banquet will go towards this project.

Last Year's Project

Last year's project raised just a little over \$25,000 for the new clinic construction in El Cercado. The opening of that facility is just weeks away. There are a few finishing touches being completed. Equipment has already been moved in and personnel are getting excited. As we finish up the project, leftover funds will be used to furnish the facility. We are working on the budget for the new facility as well as working on some supplemental funding to help our Dominican friends to operate the facility. Please pray that God will use this facility to



Just About Finished

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

Sep 13-20 Dr. Lynn Hughes Team, Huntersville, NC
Sep 27—Oct 5 Diller Medical Team IV, Various Locations
Oct 4-11 Orthopedic Team, John Van Vleet, Ft. Wayne, IN
Oct 11— 19 Northeast Christian Church I, Louisville, KY
Oct 18—26 Northeast Christian Church II, Louisville, KY
**We are still have some Fall 2003 openings as well as 2004 dates. Please contact us to plan a trip for your group.
The 2004 calendar is on our website at
www.solidrockmissions.org

minister to the needs of the people not only medically but spiritually as well. Please remember to pray for the staff too.

Help Wanted...Fast!

We have some very immediate needs for medical people for several of our fall trip. In particular we need surgeons, anesthesia people and registered nurses (surgery and recovery) for September 27-October 5th and October 18-26th. Surgeons are desperately needed for the last date. If you are interested, please contact the SRM office by phone or e-mail as soon as possible.

"It's The Economy"

It really is the economy. Those of us at SRM are well aware of it through the reports we hear and the articles we read in newspapers. We see it in our day to day operations. Our groups sense it. We are not talking about the economy in North America. We are referring to what is going on in the Dominican Republic.

Earlier this year, the biggest private bank in the Dominican Republic failed. The money that was lost equaled about one-half of the Dominican economy. It failed because of corruption within its organization and also because of the corruption in the government. The failure has had a dramatic impact on the economy and the country and in turn the ministries which we work with.

Some results are the devaluation of the Dominican peso. For many years it traded at about 15 pesos for a U.S. dollar. In recent weeks it has been as high as 42 peso for a dollar. The results have been devastating to the Dominican people. Food and energy prices have gone out of control. Rice is a main staple of Dominican meals. Rice prices have gone up 95% in the last three weeks. Poultry has also risen 30+%. Fuel prices have increased 25-30%. Electricity prices have gone through the ceiling with another announced 40% increase in the next several weeks.

There seems to be no end in sight. Unemployment is rising as a result. Dominican salaries are remaining the same or dropping. The Dominican people are unhappy and they are blaming the current government and their policies. They can probably be blamed for some of the problems, but not necessarily all of them.

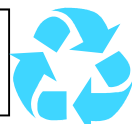
In some ways our ministries are doing well especially with the exchange rate buying them more pesos. As costs of supplies rise, the pesos go out faster. Our clinic in San Juan is having problems because it bought supplies on credit depending on government funds that never came. That has resulted in not being able to get needed supplies.

Our ministries' services are needed more. The people are becoming poorer. The Dominicans need the medical care and the education we are able to provide. More than our love, they need to know the Savior that loves them more than us.. Please remember them and their country when you pray.

In Loving Memory

Mrs. Susie Slone, Spartanburg, SC
Mike Sanders, St. Louis, MO

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory



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