



# Solid Rock Missions

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July—Aug 2004

## Solid Rock Missions Banquets

Fall is rapidly approaching and it is time to think about our fall banquets. That's right. This year we are having two banquets.

The first will be Thursday, September 16th at Northwoods Community Church, 10700 North Allen Road, Peoria, IL at 6:15 pm. Reservations for the banquet need to be made by calling either the Northwoods church office at 309-243-1550 or SRM at 419-335-8046 or by e-mail at [srm@solidrockmissions.org](mailto:srm@solidrockmissions.org).

The second banquet will be held on Saturday, September 18th at Crossroads Evangelical Church, 845 Leggett St., Wauseon, OH at 6:00pm. To make reservations for this banquet, please call 419-335-8046 or e-mail [srm@solidrockmissions.org](mailto:srm@solidrockmissions.org).

The cost for either banquet is \$14.00 per person (payable in advanced or at the door). Reservations for either banquet need to be made by September 10th. An offering will be taken for a major project for this next year.

Please join us for good food, good fellowship, good information and time to visit with some of our Dominican ministry partners.

## Insight From A Mission Team

During this year, Solid Rock Missions will have hosted around 27 different work teams to the Dominican Republic. Several churches have taken several groups to San Juan this year. One of those churches is Highland Community Church in Wausau, WI. From that church, there is one couple who have been a part of both teams. They are Brian and Linda Gottschalk. Here are some thoughts from their recent trip:

## Serving Our Lord in San Juan

One would think after serving on Mission trips to the same location year after year things would become comfortable, easy and commonplace. Not so, we have found when Christ is center each mission trip hones it's own flavor and passion. The Lord teaches us, grows us, molds us and sometimes breaks us into His will. We are ever grateful for his Faithfulness!

Our team of 20 landed in San Juan on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Only 3 of our 20 have ever been to San Juan so this group was absorbing every possible sense around them. They were on fire and ready to serve in whatever way the Lord would have for them.

The first week's mission was to construct a security wall for the school in San Juan.



We had few skilled block layers but many willing hearts to learn and help. Along with some special Dominicans, the wall was completed. (And fairly straight I might add). Our other project for the first week was to paint the interior of that school. The team worked hard to turn paint peeling dingy

rooms into a bright fresh place for the children to learn. It was especially fun to be able to interact with the Dominican families as we worked. Special relationships were built that week. Isn't that what it's really all about?

The second week was our Vacation Bible School week. We had worked very hard planning and preparing to share Jesus with

the kids before we arrived. We organized VBS with a different twist this year. The kids that live in the barrio behind the clinic

need to see Jesus. That has been on our hearts for years. Our goal was to reach them first. We decided to make sure they had a seat for VBS. Each day we would pack our props, our snacks, our games and prizes and head towards the barrio with our whistles and songs. One by one the children grabbed hold of willing hands. Even the naked babies wanted to come. We intended to send a strong message to the children about salvation. Our first day was *Creation*, the second day we focused on *Sin*, Our third day was the biggie— *The Cross* and we finished our week with "*Heaven someday*". I have to tell you that the Lord honored our prayers because I can't begin to tell you what it meant to see 100 kids on their knees on the playground praying to receive Jesus' free gift! Amazing Love, that is what that is.

At the end of each day we all gathered together for praise /worship and devotion. This is always "primetime" for our teams. I spoke to you about the 100 kids coming to know Jesus as their personal savior — there was one more. Her name is Lindsey. She is part of our team and she didn't understand these "Jesus people" when she signed up to go on this mission. Her ambition was to get what she could from the trip. Her testimony is powerful as she shared she didn't want to be like "us" yet the Lord drew her in day by day until she could no longer fight His working with her. She now is a Child of God. She got much more than what she intended — Eternal Life.

A somewhat silent but oh so diligent team player worked day after day, checking off the long list of "things to do". From plumbing to installing lights, to washer and dryer issue, coffee makers and to freezers, Brian's gift of fixing almost anything is a true blessing.

Matt Rohel, woodworker by trade worked in the wood shop non-stop as he constructed shelves for both the clinic and guest-house.

We are ever thankful to the Lord for his constant provision for these Mission trips. We are ever blessed to be part of Solid Rock Missions. We often think about where we would be had we not found out about this special Mission. We have been truly blessed by all those who serve our Savior Wholeheartedly... for they serve Him and not man. They will be rewarded! Thank you Solid Rock Missions!

We look forward to our next visit to San Juan de la Maguana God willing. - Brian and Linda Gottschalk/Highland Community Church - Wausau

This team worked on construction and painting at the Emmanuel School on the east side of San Juan during the last couple of weeks in June. This summer's work teams have concentrated their efforts into painting classrooms at several schools in San Juan. By the time the summer and fall teams are over, hopefully there will also be running water and a new fence at the Jim Smith School in El Rosario.



## Something to Think About by Rod Meyer

As a part of my job with Solid Rock Missions, I have had many wonderful opportunities to travel to the Dominican Republic. When I am there, I not only see needs and opportunity to minister, I also have the privilege of hearing how grateful people are for the help we provide. You would think after the numerous trips, I would be less sensitive to everything that happens on these trips. That is not the case. There are times when I really find out how tender my heart is. Sometimes it brings tears to my eyes and really makes me think.

One of those times happened recently. A couple times a year we try to get student letters from the students. One of the things we do is print a letter form for every student, both sponsored and unsponsored. We do that with the hope that by the time we receive the letters, we may have a sponsor. (We are in the process of sending out the end of the student letters. If you have not received yours, hopefully you will soon.) This batch of letters brought something I did not expect. Several of these letters were addressed to me. Here is one I would like to share with you:

Dear Rod Meyer,

Hi! How are you? My name is Carolina Canario. I don't have a sponsor but I have many friends in the United States and from Canada. Here the weather is very hot. (I guess you know that.) I am learning to play the piano. I am 12 years old. I have two dogs named Lana and Lucero. I have two sisters. My favorite sport is tennis and I love to listen to music in my room. I have a problem with my spine. Maybe I will go to the United States with my mother to North Carolina because it is necessary to operate on me.

When I grow up I want to be a newscaster on CNN in English. (I can speak English very well.) My favorite food is pizza with a lot of cheese.

I want to tell you that I love Jesus and I go to church every Sunday with my family.

This year has been a great year at the school. I forgot to tell you that my sisters and my two friends Sumaya and Lucille love tennis too and they can play it really well.

Thanks for Everything. Thanks for really being a friend. God bless you.

Love,  
Carolina Canario L.

I need to fill in the rest of this story. Carolina does have a spinal condition that will require surgery in the next several months. That is requiring her and her mother to come to the United States. Dr. Bill Miller in North Carolina has made arrangements for the procedure. Both Carolina and her mother have their visas. Once the date for the surgery is set, Solid Rock Missions will be arranging the tickets for their flight to North Carolina. If you would like to help underwrite the cost for their tickets, please send your gift to Solid Rock Missions and designate it for "Carolina's travel". One other note, Carolina is the daughter of Dr. Osvaldo Canario and Dr. Delores Lerebours.

I am not sure what that letter does for you but it means a lot to me. I cannot personally sponsor every student who touches my heart, even though I would like to. This one is a little different and I am going to consider this one. Please don't let that stop you. We have plenty of other students needing sponsors too. And do you know what? They are all just as nice and they do need your help. Think about that.

**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.

### 2004 Guesthouse Calendar

Jul 31-Aug 14 Archbold EMC Church Families, Archbold, OH  
Aug 15-22 Steve Driver Team, NW Ohio  
Oct 2-10 Dr. Jim Crook Team, Sylacauga, AL  
Oct 14-24 Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL  
Oct 23-30 Dr. Greg Pomeroy Team, Portland, ME  
Oct 30-Nov 6 Brookside Community Church, Ft. Wayne, IN

### 2005 Guesthouse Calendar

Jan 4-15 Highland Community Church, Wausau, WI  
Jan 15-22 Gaylord Rotary Club, Gaylord, MI  
Jan 15-22 Jim Goble Team, Lansing, MI  
Jan 22-29 VIMM / Dr. Fred Marcinak, Walhalla, SC  
Jan 29-Feb 2 First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC  
Feb 12-19 Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA  
Feb 19-26 Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL  
Feb 26-Mar 6 CrossWay Christian Church, Nashua, NH  
Mar 5-12 Dr. Todd Beste / ECU, Greenville, NC  
Mar 12-19 North Clinton Mennonite Church, Wauseon, OH

We are now booking 2005 dates. January, February and March are full. Please contact us for available dates and rates. The complete 2005 calendar is on our website at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org).

### A familiar Face

If you have been on a trip this year, you have had the opportunity to meet a young lady who always has a smile on her face. And if you are not having fun, she will usually try to find a way to direct some towards you. Her name is Juanita Sheeler from Newville, PA.

Late last year, Juanita applied for an intern position with Solid Rock Missions. She was originally scheduled to be there for about three months and return home in late March or early April. To make a long story short, she is still there. And we like that. She is a valuable member of the team that is serving the groups at the guesthouse.

Juanita has felt God calling her to a longer commitment of service at the guesthouse. She has made a commitment for the next year but she will need some help.

This year, Juanita has been living off of her own personal savings and those savings have dwindled just a little. She is now in a position to need to raise support for the next year. Her projected goal is to raise \$6,000 for this coming year.

If you are interested in supporting her with either one time gifts or monthly support, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions. If you cannot financially give, please pray for her as she serves at the guesthouse.

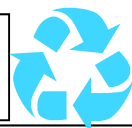
### Thanksgiving in July

No, we are not proposing a new holiday. However, we should be thankful all of the time. We at SRM are extremely grateful to our faithful God and to each of you for helping us end our fiscal year in the black. We once again have been able to meet our financial commitments to the ministries we serve. And the ministries have been able to count on that to keep their programs rolling. We want to first thank God. Then, thank you for your faithfulness



### In Loving Memory

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory  
Steve Tumbleson— Decatur, IN



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