



Solid Rock Missions

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July—August 2005

A Touching Letter

As much as we possibly can we want to share some of the blessings that are so meaningful to us. This is a letter we received from the director of the Jim Smith School.

*Jim Smith Evangelical School
El Rosario, San Juan de la Maguana, D.R.
June 13, 2005*

To Solid Rock Missions

As a school, we are grateful to God for your arrival to this institution.

Thank you for everything that you have made possible like: a wall fencing in the school, the cistern, painting the classrooms last year, the repairing of the kitchen, plus the help for each student. Also, thank you to all the groups whose work has made all of this possible for us.



Dorine Smith with Angela in front of the Jim Smith School in El Rosario.

Each time a group comes, the children feel very happy because of the activities that they do with them. For example: the Bible school, the games, the stories, and the presents.

The fathers and mothers in the community of El Rosario are very happy. Some fathers and mothers express

their happiness for this new mission in the community because they can see the changes in their children when they return home after meetings with the groups.

Once again, thank you to every member of Solid Rock Missions. Thank you to each group and thank you to each sponsor for their beautiful labor. God blesses the cheerful giver.

Continue praying for the needs that there are, that God will continue supplying for the rest of the needs and projects that we have ahead of us.

Greetings from the staff and the children and we keep all of you in our prayers.

Ángela Germán Acosta
Director of the School

This letter was addressed to Solid Rock Missions but it really is to all of you for your help and support for this school. As we have said many times, Solid Rock Missions really is all of you. We are nothing without you and your help.

One of the very special things we have seen in the community of El Rosario is the pride that town is taking in their school. They have taken the initiative to work on additional projects besides the ones we are working on at the school such as pouring some new sidewalks and clearing some brush.

Plans are currently underway to build some additional classrooms at the school. When we started helping the school with sponsorships several years ago, they had classes for grades

pre-school through grade five. Now they go through grade six. As children advance beyond their grades, the students are forced to move on to public schools which do not offer them the quality they are used to. Early next year, a team from Second Presbyterian Church of Roanoke, VA will begin constructing two additional classrooms for the purpose of adding more grades. We are also working on plans to build a new kitchen to replace the extremely small kitchen they are currently using.

We are grateful for the part all of you have played (from the work teams, to those who have sent books and supplies, to those of you sponsoring children).

Just so you know, there are currently 220 children in the school. There are currently 75 children that are sponsored.

While We Are On The Subject

Besides the Jim Smith School, Solid Rock Missions also operates sponsorship programs for the Christian Center for Education Development (CCED School) and the Lucille Rupp School, both in San Juan de la Maguana. There are around 960 students at the CCED and approximately 890 students are currently sponsored there. The Lucille Rupp School has around 300 students. Solid Rock Missions is operating a program for 50 students who are not able to pay tuition to attend this school. We currently have 15 students sponsored there.

These schools as well as others in the Dominican Republic have been financially stretched to the limit since the Dominican government mandated that educational institutions give all of their teachers a 25 percent raise. What ended up happening is that many of the schools did not have the extra money, so they reduced their teaching staff and increased the size of their classes. In the case of the government schools, the government just printed more money to pay the teachers. It just did not work that well with the non-government schools.

Solid Rock Missions was actually ahead of the request for more money when we increased our sponsorship fee on July 1st. That will allow the schools to break even but not get ahead. With not all of their students sponsored, the only real way we can help is by sponsoring more students.

If you are sponsoring a student, thank you for the life changing education you are providing your student. If you are not, please consider this opportunity to really make a difference in the life of a young child. It costs \$24 US per month or \$288 per year to provide a child with an education in a Christian school, books and supplies, medical attention, a uniform and a hot meal each school day. That is only 79 cents a day. You can select a child on our website or call us at 419-335-8046 for more information on how you can help give a child hope and a gift that will last a lifetime.



One of the many overcrowded classrooms in the Dominican Republic.

Some Passing Thoughts by Rod Meyer

I am actually writing this while riding the public bus to San Juan on a bright and sunny morning. The bus ride is one of the few times when I have a chance to reflect on the things I am hearing and seeing. My first 24 hours in the Dominican Republic included a visit to the Voice of Light radio station in Higüey. Even though the purpose of the visit was to discuss the radio station's needs and budget, it was also a great time of blessing for me to see these ministry leaders at work. They are taking some initiative and they are stepping out in faith to continue their work to share the Gospel. They are also an encouragement to believers by teaching the Word over the air.

Junior Castillo (who runs the Voice of Light radio station) is a very godly man who not only has faith but he also seeks God's guidance through his prayer life. Junior's father, a retired pastor, passed away several months ago. Junior had the benefit of growing up with Christian parents. Even though Junior did not decide to become a pastor, he has a very intense desire to see others come to know Christ. That is his passion.

Another spiritual giant in this land of need is Jose Ramon Rodriguez. Jose Ramon and his wife, Yoselyn, serve as leadership



Please pray for the leaders serving on the frontlines

for the CCED school in San Juan. Besides being the full time director of the school, Jose Ramon also pastors a church that ministers to professional people in San Juan. The people there are very warm and loving. Besides the school and church, Jose Ramon also volunteers his time to other organizations. Most important to Jose Ramon is his family.

I can see that I am going down a road that can be rather dangerous. I am likely to miss someone. There are so many wonderful people that are committed to leading their ministries. All have a passion for seeing others come to Christ. There is Larys Mateo who directs the Lucille Rupp School. Angela Acosta who directs the school in El Rosario. Pastor Morales and Grecia in El Cercado. Isaias Melo at the CCSI clinic. And Pastor Wilson who shepherds a small church in the barrio. The list can go on and on. The point is, all of these have passion and zeal for their ministries. They are dedicated and they are definitely committed to those they serve.

That is also the sense I get from most of the teams that go to serve. They could actually spend their money to vacation somewhere really nice. Instead they are serving those in need and paying to do that. That is a concept most people do not understand. Those of us who have gone on at least one trip understand what I am talking about. Some of you have made the choice to give of your resources to help these ministries and needs. Some of you have been called to be prayer warriors. No matter what level of involvement you have, you are part of the team that is ministering to those in need. God is asking us to help. If you are doing that, you are heading the right direction. That goes a long way in making you a spiritual giant. 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.

2005 Guesthouse Calendar

Jul 30-Aug 6 Grace Community Church, Washington CH, OH
Oct 1-8 Dr. Jim Crook Team, Sylacauga, AL
Oct 15-23 Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 23-29 Brookside Community Church, Fort Wayne, IN
Oct 23-24 Jared Burkholder Family, Omaha, NB
Oct 30-Nov 5 Dr. Greg Pomeroy Team, Portland, ME
Nov 12-20 Missouri Medical Team, Lake Charles, MO
Nov 22-29 Smith Family, Pettisville, OH

Out Trip Groups

Nov 12-20 Shore Mennonite Church, Shipshewana, IN

Please contact us for available dates and rates. The complete calendar is on our website at www.solidrockmissions.org.

For Your Consideration

As always, we have some needs and can use your help.

- The first need is for student books for the English classes at the CCED. This coming school year will be the first year for the English classes to follow an established curriculum. We need to purchase textbooks for the students. The cost of purchasing these books will be \$750. Please designate your gift for *English Books*.
- Next, our plans to bring pastoral training to San Juan. Harry Hyde will be presenting Evangelism Explosion training in October. We do need help in underwriting the cost to allow more pastors to attend. Please designate your contribution for *Pastor Training*.
- SRM has a General College Scholarship Fund that helps a few CCED students with their college education. Most of these students are in either 4 or 5 year programs. We are looking for people interested in committing some funding for the student's college career. In particular, we have two students that are under funded and desperately need help. A typical college education in the DR costs \$270 US per month. We would appreciate any gifts to help underwrite this program. Please designate your gifts to the *College Scholarship Fund*. One time and long term gifts are welcome.
- We are very grateful for the financial assistance that has been committed for the construction projects for the El Rosario and El Cercado projects. That leaves us with one construction project currently underway that needs to be funded. That is the classroom project at the CCED School. Please designate your gifts to the *CCED Project*.
- Most faith-based organizations hesitate to mention their General Fund. Solid Rock Missions has a General Fund that not only covers the operating expenses of the mission but it also is used to send monthly subsidies to both the San Juan and El Cercado clinics to help with their operating expenses. Please designate gifts to the *General Fund*.

A project list can be found on our website at www.solidrockmissions.org. Thank you for thinking about us.

In Loving Memory

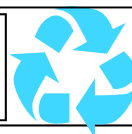
Janice Perrine, West Unity, OH
Eldon Wagner, Wauseon, OH
Dennis Barber, Ojai, CA

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory.

In Loving Honor

Dr. & Mrs. Tom Roberts, Spartanburg, SC
Dr. & Mrs. Don McClure, Spartanburg, SC

Thank you for gifts of love given in honor of these individuals.



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