



Solid Rock Missions

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And Now Page 2

Paul Harvey has made those four little words famous. We check out the front page of the newspaper carefully and we listen to the first five minutes of the evening news thinking that the most important news is presented during that short time. We then read on or listen longer, but usually our attention is drawn to something else and we give little time to other items that should really be important to us.

One of the best ways to tell what is happening in a community is to check the local newspaper's classified ads. You can learn a lot. Solid Rock Missions' newsletter is no different. There is a lot of important information on the second page. With that in mind, we are presenting Page 2 on the front page of our newsletter.

SRM Classified Ads

Help Wanted - Guesthouse Managers

Solid Rock Missions is looking for a couple to manage the guesthouse in San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic. Responsibilities include picking up guests in the capital, arranging transportation during their stay, providing a good facility and good food for the guests, maintaining relations with the Dominican ministry leaders. Qualifications include being able to manage finances, good working with the public, provide for the needs of work groups, ability to speak Spanish and a calling from God to serve. Salary depends on needs and abilities to raise support. For further information, call 419-334-8046 or e-mail srm@solidrockmissions.org

Help Wanted - Assistant Guesthouse Managers

Solid Rock Missions is looking for a couple or single individual to help with the managing duties. They will be responsible for groups when the manager is away. It is very important for them to be able to work with guest groups and nationals. Management experience is helpful but not necessary. Skills such as cooking or construction are a plus. Ability to speak Spanish a plus. Desire to serve God a must. For further information, call 419-334-8046 or e-mail srm@solidrockmissions.org

Help Wanted - English Teacher(s)

Solid Rock Missions and CCED are looking for committed individuals to teach English as a second language in our Christian School. We need teachers that are willing to commit to a minimum time of one semester or longer. It is a eternally rewarding experience. For more information, call 419-334-8046 or e-mail us at srm@solidrockmissions.org

Help Wanted - Student Sponsors

Solid Rock Missions and CCED continue to hunt for sponsors for the Christian School in San Juan. Out of 900 students, only 625 are sponsored. 72.3 cents a day (\$22 a month or \$264 a year) will provide students with an education, medical and dental care, uniforms, and a hot meal each school day. This is a rewarding experience. For further information, call 419-334-8046 or e-mail srm@solidrockmissions.org

Personal Ad – Thank You

The students at the CCED school would like to thank the Uitley Foundation from Spartanburg, SC for their generous gift to fund the music program at the school. Some new instruments and music have been purchased. The band is improving by leaps and bounds. They have already been involved in some community events such as concerts and parades. They are hoping to someday come to North America to perform. The director is extremely happy with this gift and it's results.

Help Wanted - Construction Groups

We have two major construction projects either underway or in the works. Work on the clinic in El Cercado is moving ahead. We are looking for both construction crews and gifts to complete this project. El Cercado has a population of 30,000. This clinic is the first one serving this area. We already have our first doctor for this clinic. We need to get it finished. The second project is a building to house three new classrooms. Construction is scheduled to begin in June. For further information on how you can have a part in helping with either of these projects, call 419-334-8046 or e-mail srm@solidrockmissions.org

Wanted - Cymbals

The CCED band is in need of 2 pairs of cymbals. If you know where we can obtain some cymbals for the band, please call 419-334-8046 or e-mail srm@solidrockmissions.org

Personal Ad - Thank You

Jesse, Andrea and Noah Schumacher have served as the guesthouse managers since last August. They have decided to leave this ministry in August. Noah is interested in having a new playmate and mom and dad feel that would be easier here rather than there. We would like to thank them for their service to this ministry. Please pray for them as they continue to serve the visiting work groups. Hank and Joanne Strooband are returning home after a 3 month stay in the DR to work with groups and special projects. Duane Mock returned home after teaching English at the school for a semester and translating for medical teams. And Joe Wickey has served with various work crews this winter. Our thanks to all for their gifts of time to this ministry.

Developments in Development

by Rod Meyer

Before I start rambling on about who knows what, I need to pass on the important information you have been waiting for. Mark and Darla Rupp are the proud parents of a healthy baby boy. Aaron Michael was born on January 28th. If you would like to see some pictures of him, you can check out Mark and Darla's website at <http://members.tripod.com/mrupp2/>

This newsletter definitely looks a little different than most. This issue highlights a major part of what Solid Rock Missions is all about. Our organization is nothing more than a name without the involvement of all of you. We rely on people like you to join this collective body to help make a difference in the Dominican Republic. This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. A look back at those 10 years show that we are making that difference. Who would believe that Presbyterians, Mennonites, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans and Rotary Clubs could work together to advance health, education and the Gospel to the needy in the San Juan area (Please excuse me if I missed your group, but it shows we all have a common goal). One thing that amazes me is that this is a continual learning process. Sometimes we learn our lessons the hard way. We make the best of it and move on. But it is working. I wish each of you could see the change in this small part of the world. It is an amazing and rewarding sight. But there is still more to do.

A week ago I returned from a trip to San Juan de la Maguana. The most memorable part of the trip was the time I spent at the school. I took a lot of pictures for promotional use while I was there. But the most rewarding time was the time I spent in the classrooms with the students. They are receiving an excellent education and they appreciate it. They communicated that with me in many ways. My Spanish is not very good and most of them do not know English, but they left no doubt in my mind that they are grateful. That gratitude needs to be passed on to each of you. Thank you for your help in making this school a reality. Your support (both financial and physical) is changing lives, not only for now but for eternity.

I also had the opportunity to see two medical groups in action at the clinic. The clinic has been in operation since 1989 and it has made some profound changes in the health of the poor in the area. Many of the problems that were first addressed by medical teams have seen drastic improvement. Healthcare still has a long way to go to meet the expectations and care we receive in North America. One of the teams that worked four days while I was there saw over 400 patients. Another group was using the surgical facilities. They performed 200 surgeries in 10 days. These are some of the many ways to minister to the needs of the poor in the Dominican Republic.

There are so many ways to become involved. This summer we will have some church youth groups going down to have Vacation Bible Schools, sports camps, work and evangelism. We will have some medical students that will be spending a month to volunteer their services to the clinic. We will have some volunteers to help with construction of school classrooms and the clinic at El Cercado. We will have a surgeon and his family there this summer serving at the clinic. Volunteers play a big role.

I definitely want to thank those of you who give financially either

through student sponsorships or through giving to specific projects or to our general fund. Our sponsored students numbers continue to rise. We now have 625 out of 900 students sponsored. We still have more work to do.

We are in need of funding to get the clinic in El Cercado up and running. Our goal is to see this clinic operational within the next year.

If you can do nothing else, please pray for this ministry. The front page of this newsletter makes a good prayer list. Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth workers to work in the Dominican Republic. The harvest time is here. How will you become involved?

2002 Guesthouse Summer Schedule

May 24 - Jun. 1	Dr. Joseph & Mary Miller group, Piqua, OH
Jun. 15 - 23	David Ellis group, Spartanburg, SC
Jun. 22 - Jul. 1	David Ellis group, Spartanburg, SC
Jul. 1 - 10	Evangelical Mennonite Church Youth, Archbold, OH
Jul. 10 - 20	Solid Rock Community Church Youth, West Unity, OH
Jul. 11 - Aug. 8	Clint Cheng - Medical Students
Aug. 3 - 8	Mountain of the Lord Church, Akron, OH

2003 Guesthouse Schedule

It is not too early to consider booking your trip in the 2003 calendar. A number of groups have already reserved their weeks. Youth groups....now is the time to think about a summer trip in 2003. For more information, contact us by phone or e-mail.

Packages Overseas

UPS and Fed Ex have been advertising their shipping services overseas, sometimes with even overnight delivery. They fail to tell you that once packages get there they have to go through customs. That can be an experience. Some recent packages to the DR took almost 4 months to get out of customs. It also took a sizable amount of money. If you have something you would like to send to the DR, please send it to us in Wauseon, OH. We will make sure it gets there as efficiently and timely as possible.

Budget Time

A lot of work goes into that piece of paper that is titled "2003 Budget". It is an important planning tool. It presents a good picture of what is important to your church. Your church may be strong in local outreach. It may be strong in the local programs of the church. Or it may be strong with overseas mission work. A well-balanced church is involved in all of these and more.

While the church budget is in the planning stages is the time to consider your church's involvement with Solid Rock Missions. Solid Rock Missions partners with individuals and churches to work with Dominican organizations to minister to the poor spiritually, physically, socially and educationally. We are changing lives for eternity. Your involvement may be a child sponsorship, a building project, or giving to our general fund. The choice is yours. Please contact your Mission's Committee or Budget Committee and ask them to include Solid Rock Missions in your church's budget.

Thank you for supporting Solid Rock Missions with your gifts of time, talents and money.

Our Mission Statement

The purpose of Solid Rock Missions is to glory God in partnerships by ministering spiritually, physically, socially and educationally to those in need, in the name of Jesus Christ.