



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

March—April 2003

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

Big type and bold letters have a tendency to draw attention. We probably did not need to do that for this announcement, however this announcement really is big. For the last 9 months we have been asking you to pray for our search for new guesthouse managers. Your prayers have been answered and we are excited to make this announcement.

Randy and Mary Ann Kerr have accepted God's call to serve as the managers for our guesthouse in San Juan de la Maguana.

God used a computer to get us together. Last September a decision was made for Solid Rock Missions to put this position in the Interchristo database. A computer then compared our need with the information of people seeking places of service. Out of that search, sixty-five people were matched to our need. They were then contacted by Interchristo. Out of that group, only one couple contacted us. That was Randy and Mary Ann.

Randy and Mary Ann's background has been leading them to this point. Randy has sold life insurance and then owned his own business in landscaping when they felt God's calling to serve with the Gothard organization in Russia. They served there for four years. At that time, Mary Ann's father became ill and died, necessitating

their return to the states. Several years later Mary Ann's mother died. The Kerr children also grew up and moved out on their own. Randy and Mary Ann still had the desire to serve God. They were both involved in a variety of things at D & D Missionary Homes in Florida. Randy began to learn new skills which led to them building their own home in Brooksville, FL.



Randy and Mary Ann Kerr

Randy and Mary Ann attend the Community Bible Church near their home. The congregation has about 125 attendees on Sunday mornings. It is a non-denominational church. The church set a goal to build their building debt free. They would then be able to give fifty percent of their resources to missions. They moved into their new building in early February, debt free.

Randy and Mary Ann paid a visit to San Juan in early February. They not only had the opportunity to see how the guesthouse works, they also had the opportunity to interact with the group from First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, SC. They also had the opportunity to interact with Dominicans in a variety of ways. They came away understanding our love for the Dominican people and why we do the things we do. They also came away with the vision we have for the future.

Randy and Mary Ann are hoping to be in language school in Santo Domingo in April and May. They will then move to the guesthouse in early June prior to the arrival of the summer teams.

They will be very busy until then, preparing to move, going through some orientation and out raising support. This is where we need your help.

Solid Rock Missions is not only committed to this couple, we have

also committed our help and resources to help them raise their support. We have identified their needs as being \$2,000 per month. That will cover their medical insurance, social security, transportation to and from the Dominican Republic, etc. The remainder will be used for their salary.

Please consider the part you can play either as an individual or as a church. Most important, pray for them and for their ministry in the Dominican Republic. Next is the need for regular monthly giving towards their support. Please consider what God would want you to do.

Construction News

Where do we start? There are a number of things going on as far as construction is concerned. We will touch on them briefly.

The finishing touches are underway on the clinic in El Cercado. Several teams have worked there this winter. The roof has been completed, painting done, concrete poured, doors built and the list goes on. There are still many little details to complete. We are hoping to have the building in operation in late spring/early summer. Thank you for your help with the labor of love and of funds to complete this building. We hope to have details concerning its opening in our next newsletter.



The New Clinic In El Cercado

Phase II of the classroom project at the CCED school is underway. This phase is building new restrooms next to the recently completed classrooms. Construction started in January with Highland and Oasis doing the underground plumbing work. Shortly after that a team from First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, SC put up the walls. A local contractor will be doing the plastering, then we will be ready for future teams to finish up the building. Thank you to First Presbyterian for providing the funding for this project.

Construction began on a new five classroom vocational classroom for the CCED school. World Servants from Holland provided funds and labor last fall. They have sent additional funds to have the walls plastered. We are hoping to use fall work teams to finish the building. We still need some funding to complete this building.

The big news is the purchase of land for a new clinic in San Juan. The new land is located on the main highway about 1.5 miles west of the current facility. The site is about 4.5 acres in size.

We will be working with a Christian engineering organization on building design in the very near future. The preliminary plan calls for this facility to become a mini-hospital, providing for overnight stays for surgical patients, emergency services, rooms for other specialties, and residence training for new doctors and other medical personnel. This facility will replace the current facility that was flooded by Hurricane Georges in 1998. The new site is located outside of the flood plain. Please continue to watch future newsletters for more information on construction plans.



The New Restrooms For The School

News and Notes

Sponsorship of students continue to increase. As of this writing we have 719 children sponsored at the CCED school. As the number increases, funding to the school increases. We appreciate your help in sponsoring these children.

Prompt payment of sponsorships is also appreciated. We send the sponsorship money to the school on the 28th of each month. We appreciate your promptness in keeping sponsorships current.

Occasionally we will have some delinquent sponsorships. We will make every effort to contact those involved. Twice a year we take a look at those sponsorships. If they continue to be inactive, we will unsponsor the student and we will try to find the student a new sponsor. On January 1st, we had to make an adjustment by unspending about 30 students. If you are unable to continue to sponsor a child, we would appreciate you letting us know, so we can find that child a sponsor as soon as possible.

On The Web

Some of you are aware that we have a web page at www.solidrockmissions.org. Late last year we began a remodeling project on our site. It turned out to be a lot of work and it is still not finished. But little by little, it is getting completed. Check it out.

One new feature that we have kept as a secret until now is that we are keeping 12 unsponsored student photos and profiles on the site where people can go to find a child to sponsor. We are working on an online form to sponsor a child. It is still not working, but hopefully it will be soon. In the meantime, choose a child, remember their student number and call, write or e-mail us with your choice. We will keep the page as current as possible.

The Economy

As your retirement funds continue to shrivel, we continue to complain that the economy is terrible. That is just one perspective. The US dollar remains pretty stable, inflation is relatively small and we can usually count on our income from our employer and relatively stable prices where we shop. That is something to be thankful for.

That is not the case in the Dominican Republic. The past six months has shown how fragile and unstable the economy is. Yes, they normally have double digit unemployment. The big problem is the economy is gradually falling apart. In the last 9 months, the Dominican peso has gone from 16 pesos for one US dollar to as low as 25 pesos per one US dollar. Since most of the durable goods are imported, their prices have risen according to the exchange rate. Petroleum prices have continued to increase. Electricity and transportation have seen some major increases. With all of that, Dominican wages have not changed. With the devaluation of the peso and increased prices, the Dominican's buying power has decreased and decreased significantly.

Recently there have been some protests to the government's economic policies. On February 4th there was a general strike called to get the government's attention. Not much was accomplished besides getting an unpaid day off. Almost all businesses were closed that day, which again took money out of the economy.

Sometimes it is hard for us to understand. Here are some numbers to think about. Here we consider doctors, lawyers and teachers to be well paid positions. Here are some facts from San Juan de la Maguana. The average high school teacher in San Juan makes about \$3,024 (US\$) per year. Most doctors make about \$3,600 (US\$) per year. We are not sure what Dominican lawyers make. They do have legal things to do such as contracts and land transactions. There is very little litigation, thus very little work and very little income for them.

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

Mar 22—30	Dr. Diane Bernardi Medical Team, Bryan, OH
Mar 24—Apr 8	Kristi Ross Work Team, Archbold, OH
Mar 29—Apr 6	Dr. Diller Medical Team I, Various Locations
May 17—24	Southern Eye Associates, Concord, NC
Jun 10—20	NW Ohio YFC, Archbold, OH
Jun 21—Jul 5	Northwoods Community Church Youth, Peoria, IL
Jul 5—14	Salem EMC Youth, Gridley, IL
Jul 12—26	Dr. Tom Roberts Medical Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jul 25—Aug 3	Central Mennonite Youth, Archbold, OH
Aug 15—25	Physicians Assistants Team, Metamora, IL
Sep 20—28	Dr. Diller Medical Team III, Various Locations
Sep 27—Oct 5	Dr. Diller Medical Team IV, Various Locations
Oct 11—19	Northeast Christian Church Team I, Louisville, KY
Oct 18—26	Northeast Christian Church II, Louisville, KY

**We are currently booking Fall 2003 and 2004 dates. Please contact us to plan a trip for your group.

If you consider what these professionals are making, it really makes you wonder what the typical non-professional Dominican makes. Most Dominicans do make enough money to feed their families but at times those are pretty modest meals...mostly rice and beans.

From time to time, we will continue to give you an inside look at life in the Dominican Republic. In spite of their lot in life, they continue to be a happy, warm group of people that need Christ. Think about that.

Who Was That Masked Man?

Most of us with a few gray hairs know the answer to that question. Why, it is the Lone Ranger...the hero on a white horse named Silver (don't forget Tonto too).

We have a "Lone Ranger" who has single-handedly done some amazing things and he does it with little fanfare. We have not seen him ride off on a white horse yet. However, he does have a small dog named Jack.



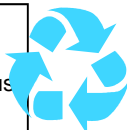
We are referring to Dwight Pemberton from Spartanburg, SC. In the last year Dwight has approached a lot of people asking them to consider sponsoring a student at the CCED. We do not have an exact number but we know that Dwight has played a part in helping find sponsors for around forty students. We are sure all of his friends, neighbors and relatives have heard his plea.

Dwight, thank you for your commitment to finding sponsors. And for the rest of us, what a great challenge. We can't do it all ourselves but little by little as we get the word out we are touching lives for eternity. That is something else to think about.

In Loving Memory

Lt. Col. JD Allen from Spartanburg, SC
Mrs. Vera (Alfred) Rupp from Wauseon, OH
James E. Smith

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



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