



Solid Rock Missions

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Caribbean History 101

Haiti has been in the news for the past month. Their president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was whisked out of the country after opposition leaders mounted an armed take-over of the government. There are about as many stories as to what happened as there are reporters telling the story. Some good. And some bad. The bottom line is the people there are poor and they need help.

There is not a huge difference between Haiti and the western Dominican Republic, other than the Dominican Republic has trees. You may think we are joking. If you have ever been to the Haitian border, you know what we are talking about. In their insatiable desire for lumber, the Japanese made a deal to harvest all of the mahogany for money and the promise to replant the island. They lived up to the promise of giving someone



some money but they never did replant the trees. The other thing that did not help is the Haitians also use trees to manufacture charcoal to cook with since other fuels are not available. A tree in Haiti never has a chance. In the same way, any riches that Haiti had, have been stripped and the people were left without.

There are some other distinct differences. Haitians are descendants of the slaves from Africa. Dominicans are a blend of Indians and Europeans with a dash of others. Other than that, there are some similarities. Both are poor. They need health-care. They need education. And they need God.

Solid Rock Missions does not have any ongoing work in Haiti but the Clinica Cristiana in San Juan does occasionally treat Haitians. Recently, Dr. Isaias Melo shared with me an e-mail from a US medical team that had been working in the mountains of central Haiti. They found a very undernourished infant with a cleft palate. They were hoping that one of our visiting surgical teams could help out. Their other concern was getting some formula to the infant to get the child healthy enough to handle the surgery. There is hope of getting the child to the clinic this summer or fall for the needed surgery

San Juan is located about 50 miles as the crow flies from the Haitian border. Getting there is another story. Apparently in Haiti, where the child lives, there are no roads or boarder crossings. There is only one way there. Over the mountains and across the border by burro. That alone will require stamina. Please pray for this little child and his family. This is an ongoing story. We hope we are able to share a happy ending in the very near future.

Dominican Republic Economics 201

Why does this newsletter's headlines look like a directory of college courses. The general idea is that this newsletter does have some educational value (sorry, we cannot offer any credits). But knowledge is good.

As a follow up to our last newsletter, even the Dominican government statistics say something. The Central Bank (who are about like Alan Greenspan in the US) declared the following stats: Inflation in February was 11.25%. Inflation this year has been 21.52%. And inflation for the past 12 months has been 61.42%. That is bad. But almost everyone recognizes that these figures come from the government who want to make things look better than they are. Independent analysts think the rates are nearly double that.

Prices have stabilized recently after the IMF granted a loan to the government. It is a short term fix but it has allowed for more electricity, food and fuel. It has also caused a slight decrease in food prices but electricity and fuel continue to rise. This has also allowed things to stabilize before the presidential election in May.

New Service at the CCED School

The needs are always there. One of the best things we see happening is the ways the Dominicans creatively work to help meet the needs of their own communities.

The school has had a dramatic effect on the families of the students and the barrios it serves. A natural extension of the ministry of the school is for the school to provide assistance for the families it serves. Jose Ramon Rodriguez, the director of the school, has been working on this dream. The dream is becoming a reality.

Many times, the students become born-again believers and receive spiritual food from the school and their local church. But what about their families? The door is open for something to happen. And it is beginning.

A few teachers at the CCED school have just completed training on counseling families. The goal is for every teacher at the school to receive this training. Once the class day is over, the teacher has some new responsibilities of checking up on their students. And more important, is to offer the parents the things they need to bring up their family.

Of course this training does not come cheap. It costs about \$75 US for each teacher to go through the 3 month program. For only \$25 per month for 3 months, you can help equip a teacher. There are 42 teachers awaiting this training. Please note your gift is for teacher's training.



Travel Advisory

The State Department issues these occasionally. Haiti is currently under one of those advisories. At SRM, we decided to issue our own. Our advisory is positive. Now is a good time to travel to the Dominican Republic. The situation in Haiti has had no effect on travel in the western Dominican Republic. We constantly are monitoring the news in DR as well as talking with missionaries and nationals. It is still very safe.

News and Notes

There is always something going on in the Dominican Republic. We don't always consider everything good but God is in control and He has a way of making everything work to His glory.

Dr. Osvaldo Canario left his position with ACPSI to pursue his dreams of being able to help his people through politics. Several years ago, he ran for a senate office and lost. This time he is supporting a presidential candidate and he is hoping for an appointment to a government position where he will be able to help the people of San Juan. His leaving will allow him more time to campaign and it will also separate ACPSI from politics. He may have left ACPSI but his heart is still there and it is our hope he will one day return to his vision of providing medical and spiritual care to the people in the San Juan region

In the meantime, Jose Ramon Rodriguez is filling in as the Interim Executive Director of ACPSI. Canario's wife, Dr. Delores Lebores, is accepting some additional responsibilities at the San Juan clinic in addition to her practice in San Juan, Las Matas and El Cercado. Dr. Gracia Vasques de Ogando (Pastor Morales's wife) was named the Director of the CCSI clinic in El Cercado. Gracie and Morales are expecting their second child in early June. With Jose Ramon accepting more responsibly, his wife, Yoselyn has accepted more of the responsibilities of operating the CCED school. Please pray for all of them!

Thrilled is the Word

The Student Sponsorship Program is going well for both schools. We now have 775 sponsored students at the CCED and 28 at the Jim Smith School in El Rosario. Both continue to grow and the funding is really helping out both schools.

We really do appreciate sponsors keeping their payments up to date. We cannot send money that we do not have. We can only send the funds already received for the program. Occasionally we have sponsors who are unable to maintain their commitment. We understand and we will do everything to either help or find the student a new sponsor.

We also want you to know we monitor the use of the funds given through the sponsorship program. We receive monthly financial reports from the schools. We try to make sure the money is used properly.

We still have 100 students at El Rosario and about 170 students at the CCED that need sponsored. It is easy to sponsor a child. Check out our website at www.solidrockmissions.org. And just in case you are worried about us running out, we are currently beginning work on adding a third Christian school to the program.

The Answer to the Most Asked Question

What happened to my student? We have some good ideas but we don't always know why they left school.

Throughout the school year we occasionally have to reassign the sponsors with a new student because that student left the school. The most common reasons for students leaving include moving from the area. Most move to Santo Domingo in hope of a better life. Some get married. And occasionally some are dismissed from school for disciplinary reasons. In most of the cases, we at SRM do not know the reason and sometimes it may be next to impossible for us to find out. In some cases, if you are on work trip, you may find out before us since we normally get the updates student information about 4 times a year. We apologize for that and we are trying to improve communications.

In the meantime, you need to know that your student is being cared for by the best gifts you can ever give a child in a third world country; an education and hope. What a gift!

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.

Guesthouse Calendar

Mar 27-Apr 3 Jim and Mary Blankenship Team, Danville, PA
Apr 17-24 Dr. Lynn Hughes Team, Huntersville, NC
Jun 5-12 Hope's Helpers, Ashville, NC
Jun 12-20 Dr. Tom Roberts Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jun 19-Jul 3 Highland Community Church Youth, Wausau, WI
Jul 3-17 Crossroads Evangelical Church Youth, Wauseon, OH
Jul 13-27 Goble / Ross Team, NW Ohio
Jul 24-31 Gaylord Evangelical Free Church Youth, Gaylord, MI
Jul 31-Aug 14 Archbold EMC Church Families, Archbold, OH
Oct 4-8 Dr. Jim Crook Team, Sylacauga, AL
Oct 14-24 Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 23-30 Fox Plastic Team, Schenectady, NY
We are now booking 2005 dates. January, February and March are full. Please contact us for available dates and rates.

Calling All CRNAs (and Anesthesiologists too)

Have you ever had surgery without the services by one of these important people? Probably not and you would not wish that on others either.

It seems like we always have surgeons but we do not always have "gas passers". We need your help. We would like to start a list of qualified CRNAs and anesthesiologists who would like to be on our on-call list. We occasionally have teams that cannot find this important person. We are looking for individuals interested in giving of their time and talents to provide this important service in serving others. When we are short-handed, we would give you a call to see if you would be interested in filling this need.

To add your name to the list or to ask any questions, contact Rod at srm@solidrockmissions.org or call 419-335-8046.

¿Que son las Horas de SRM Oficina?

Confused??? Well don't be. (in case you missed the title, it is "What are the office hours for SRM?") That is a good question and we are not always sure what the answer is.

Our office hours are flexible depending on what is going on. Chris works part time and Rod tries to be around the rest of the time when he is not traveling the countryside visiting churches or making trips to the DR or whatever it is he does.

Normally, the hours are from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Mon—Thur and Fri from 8:30 am until noon EST (or EDT in the summer). If you get the answering machine, please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. One of the best ways to get an answer fast is to send an e-mail..

Cheap Seat or

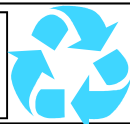
"I Went in the Wheels Because I Cannot Swim"

Those were the words of Junior Munoz after he arrived in Miami, where he was caught climbing out of a wheel well of American Airlines Airbus Flight 680 arriving from Santo Domingo. Munoz took the chance, he says because he can't swim, thus ruling out travel by water to Puerto Rico. Menoz's girlfriend had flown to New York a couple of days earlier. He told authorities how he had jumped a fence and crawled for 3 hours until he got to the plane, the whole time avoiding the guards. Menoz said the worst part of the trip was the noise from the jet engine. He actually feel asleep in the wheel well and awoke just before landing. This was an incredible feat being the plane flies at 33,000 feet. After being caught and medically checked by paramedics, he was congratulated and put back on a plane to the Dominican Republic. (from a dr1.com report)

In Loving Memory

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory

Ray Price of Pettisville, OH
Mrs. Louise Ryan, Niskayama, NY
Jim Smith



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