



Solid Rock Missions

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Once Again, Thank You

Before we forget again, it is time to say thank you to those of you who give of your time, money and talents to serve on one of the many teams that travel to the Dominican Republic to help and serve those less fortunate than us. Without you and your service, we would not be able to witness the good things that are happening.

The first several months of 2005 have been busy at the guesthouse in San Juan. We have had construction teams from Gaylord, MI, Lansing, MI, Spartanburg, SC, Roanoke, VA, Nashua, NH, Wauseon, OH and Concord, NC. There were some others serving with Volunteers in Medical Missions that came from several different locations throughout the country. And there was a group from Shipshewana, IN that stayed and worked in El Cercado. The medical teams did surgeries at the clinic in San Juan and out-clinics in various places throughout the countryside. The construction teams worked on three different projects: the fence project in El Rosario, the classroom project at the CCED school and the new multipurpose building next to the clinic in El Cercado.

Thank You

So we don't forget anyone, thank you to everyone for your labors of love, sweat and a few tears. Thank you to those providing funds for the projects. And thanks to all of you back home praying for the teams' safety.

Another Thank You Note

There are many unsung warriors working behind the scenes to help with funding projects. Those unsung heroes are Rotarians. Several Rotary Clubs have taken up the challenge to fund several of the projects SRM has been involved in.

We have a couple more unsung clubs to thank. The North Spartanburg Rotary Club from Spartanburg, SC has partially funded and found matching international money to help fund the woodworking equipment at the CCED school in San Juan. The last pieces are in place and now the vocational school is ready to train both students and adults with vocational skills that they can use.

We are also happy to announce that the Gaylord, MI Rotary Club has agreed to the challenge of funding hearing aids for the hearing impaired children at the community handicap school in San Juan. We are looking forward to completing this project very soon. We want to especially thank Markus Bollinger for his hard work and persistence in seeing the woodworking project through to its completion. And also a special thank you to John Crook for donating some other needed equipment.

These are only two of many Rotary Clubs in all of the areas where you live. That means there are many more clubs who could be helping improve lives in the Dominican Republic. SRM is always interested in helping Rotary Clubs explore the possibility of projects serving humanity. For more information or speakers for your group, please contact Solid Rock Missions.



Dr. Don McClure with some of the Rotary Club provided equipment.

The Voice of the Light

There is no better phrase to summarize what Solid Rock Missions desires to do. We are always looking for ways to enlarge the impact of the ministry we have and effectively share the Gospel. The phrase "The Voice of the Light" is one we are borrowing with permission as we begin work with a new ministry in the Dominican Republic. That phrase is really the title of a Christian Radio station in Higüey, a city of 90,000 on the eastern side of the island. This station will join the SRM family along with the schools and clinics we continue to work with in the Dominican Republic.

This Christian station was started in 1997 by a small group of Dominicans who felt God leading them into the ministry of radio. Their very first broadcast was with a transmitter capable of only 4 watts of power and a piece of pipe for an exciter. That small amount of power only allowed them to broadcast for a few city blocks. The station has grown in size and now it operates 24 hours a day with about 1000 watts of power, which covers a radius of about 40 miles and to a population of about 192,000 people. Their target audience is young people since a large majority of the population in this part of the island is under 25 years of age. The broadcast day includes a variety of Christian music in both Spanish and English. (a large number of youth are learning English). Along with the music there is local news, Bible studies and teaching programs. The station also airs special events such as area crusades and services from local churches. The station operates with 3 paid staff members and a large number of volunteers. The paid staff make less than \$10 per month.

This station was the only one on the air during the hurricane last summer. The Voice of the Light was the only official place people could get emergency information.

As SRM investigated the need for help, we asked how they as a ministry knew what kind of impact they are having. They immediately responded that they could tell from the telephone calls they received asking for people to pray the prayer of salvation with them, from people responding to their Bible studies, from people calling for prayer for their personal needs, and by people calling for advice on finding a local church. There is no doubt that God is using this station to open the doors into people's hearts. What a ministry!

The possibility of working with Christian radio as a tool to reach people has been in the back of our mind for a number of years and SRM has been investigating ways to start a station in San Juan. The road was difficult as doors continued to close. The ad hoc committee working on this almost came to the



conclusion that maybe we were not supposed to be involved with radio. It was a short time after that when one member came up with the idea of creating a Christian radio network in the Dominican Republic. That was a huge idea that seemed to be too big of a mountain to climb. But God was continuing to lead and a meeting was set up with the Voice of the Light to see what it would take to start a Christian radio station.

That visit turned out to clarify the vision of a radio ministry and our desire to help. We found that what had happened at the Voice of the Light has been happening at a number of Christian stations in the Dominican Republic. Most of them are operating with educational licenses (similar to some Christian stations here in the U.S.) In the past, the stations have been able to raise some funds by selling commercials even though their license prohibited it. Recently (because of pressure from commercial stations and a non-government organization), stations one-by-one have been told they can no longer sell commercials. That has forced a number of stations off the air. The remaining ones are barely hanging on. The director of the Voice of the Light shared that he was on the verge of closing the station due to the financial situation. As he sought God's direction, the answer he and others received from God was "wait, help is on the way." That was before he ever found out about Solid Rock Missions. And that was before we ever knew there was a need.

The result is we feel there is a very important ministry that needs our help. It may be in a different part of the Dominican Republic, but God still loves them and is working to bring people to Him. At this point, Solid Rock Missions is working to partner Christian radio stations in North America with Christian stations in the DR. It is our hope that this will allow a number of stations to return to the air proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ. And it will also allow us to bring Christian radio to the San Juan valley.

Sometimes our thoughts are not as large as God's plan for us. We do need your help in getting the word out to your local Christian stations. Please have them contact us at Solid Rock Missions on ways they can become a part of this great work. And we would also appreciate your help as we move ahead with this tremendous project. (If you would like to listen to the Voice of the Light for a short time, we have a link on the front page of our website).

"Think About That" by Rod Meyer

One of my favorite radio Bible teachers is Steve Brown. He always ends his broadcast by saying "Think about that". It seems like we always have things to think about. That is the whole purpose of this newsletter. I want to share a few more things with you to think about.

My recent trip to the DR was a very good one and exhausting for me physically. Part of that may have come from the fact that I became ill in the middle of the trip. After suffering for about 24 hours, I decided that since the Volunteer in Medical Missions team was stopping by our construction site that afternoon, I would talk with one of the doctors about my ailment. The one doctor turned out to be a consult with three or four doctors. And along with that came several ideas of the source of my problem. They then all looked at each other and said they could be sure if I had an endoscopy done to examine my digestive system. But they were sure we could not do that out in the middle of nowhere in the Dominican Republic. I already knew there was one available, just as Dr. Isaias Melo walked around the corner of the bus and told them he had one. The pressure was then on me to agree to do it, which I did. I hopped on the bus with the group, went back to San Juan and had the procedure done. Just to

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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

Apr 2-9	Dr. Pat Fox Team, Schenectady, NY
Apr 9-17	Dr. Lynn Hughes Team, Huntersville, NC
May 14-24	Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, NC
Jun 4-11	Hope's Helpers, Ashville, NC
Jun 11-22	Northwoods Youth, Peoria, IL
Jun 11-18	NW Ohio Youth for Christ at Camp Bethel
Jun 18-26	Dr. Tom Robert's Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jun 25-Jul 9	Highland Youth, Wausau, WI
Jul 9-23	Thom & Lyn Ross Team, Archbold, OH
Jul 23-31	First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN
Oct 1-15	Dr. Jim Crook Team, Sylacauga, AL
Oct 15-23	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 23-29	Brookside Community Church, Fort Wayne, IN
Oct 30-Nov 5	Dr. Greg Pomeroy Team, Portland, ME

Please contact us for available dates and rates. The complete 2005 calendar is on our website at www.solidrockmissions.org. We are now booking 2006 dates.

make a long story short, the results was there was nothing major wrong. But I did find out that I had an infection in my stomach lining. After some antibiotics, I am now over it.

What does this have to do with anything? The endoscope is one of the very few in the western part of the Dominican Republic. Dr. Melo saw the need a couple of years ago and so he borrowed some money to purchase a new unit, which cost him over \$25,000. He was actually using money from the personal support sent for his family to make the payment. Just over a year ago, when there was still \$18,000 remaining on the loan, the clinic decided to take over the payments. The burden of those payments then came to SRM and we began to make semi-regular payments from our General Fund. The outstanding amount remaining on the loan is now just over \$10,000. We are hoping to eliminate this debt in the very near future.

I am using this to give you an idea of some of the things the General Fund of Solid Rock Missions goes for. Besides the general operation of the mission, it goes for projects such as this as well as for the monthly subsidies we send for the operation of both clinics. There are a number of times when emergencies arise and this fund is used to meet those needs as well. Please consider a one-time or regular gift to this fund. That is the first thing to think about.

The next is the bottom line of Solid Rock Missions. No, I am not talking about money. The bottom line is what is happening in the DR. Pastor Morales told me about just one of the days the VIMM medical team had with an out-clinic set up in one of the towns near El Cercado. In just one day alone, besides all of the medical cases treated, fifteen people accepted Christ as their Savior. That is what we are all about. This is happening over and over as these work teams share their love and help with those less fortunate. That is another thing to think about.

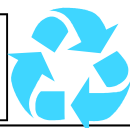
Since there is limited space left in this column, let's talk about you. How can you become involved? Giving of your time, talents, funds...there are so many ways that we cannot go into all of them here. One you can do is to remember to pray for the Dominican people. And one last thing...please don't keep what is happening a secret. Share it with others. Think about that!

In Loving Memory

James E. Smith (and in honor of Dorine Smith)

Mrs. Lisa Leland

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory



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