



# Solid Rock Missions

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## Effective? You be the Judge by José Ramón Rodríguez

Since CCED (school) opened its doors, God has given us the opportunity to affect lives and to see changes almost immediately. This has served to push us onward each day. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some stories that we believe will inspire you, as well.

Adriano D' Oleo arrived at CCED in 1996 when, in our second year of operation, the vocational school began receiving students from different locations within the region. He came to study agricultural production, graduating in this area one year later. During his stay as a student, the INFOTEP program (governmentally subsidized vocational program) was started and he enrolled in the welding class, standing out as one of the best students in the class. Although his chosen profession was in the area of agriculture, the majority of his opportunities for work have come in the area of welding. Here is where the story I would like to tell you begins: Adriano's mother came to us in church to thank us and to bring us a small present. When I asked her what the gesture was for, she answered that her son had studied in our vocational school and as a result he had earned enough money to replace the bed that the family had used for so many years. These days Adriano is part of our maintenance personnel. Perhaps before this story you did not know Adriano or his family but by participating as a sponsor or as part of one of the groups that have worked at CCED you have helped in the purchase of the family's new bed. With the help of CCED and his own hard work, Adriano is now studying to be a surveyor at the university.

The next case is about senior Eduard Valdez. He started classes with us in the seventh grade, having attended previously an old school in the barrio. His father approached us and declared his wish for his son to be enrolled in our school. That first year was a difficult one for Eduard, especially with the strict discipline and academic demands, which were much greater than those of his previous school. With time Eduard has become one of the students who has made the most of his time at CCED. He participated in the vocational school program of welding and reached the level of master welder. These days he works as a welder in the afternoon, after his morning class schedule is completed. He was one of the students whose painting project was selected to participate in the national and international Olympiad (when he arrived at the school he had never touched a brush or a canvas), he plays saxophone in the school band, and is a member of the volleyball and basketball teams. He had never before played sports because his previous school did not have courts, and there were none in the barrio, either. He hopes to win a scholarship to study art at Altos de Chavon. We support him in his dreams, even though he will most likely not win the scholarship. Students such as Eduard help us to believe that our work does not stop at graduation, but extends much further.

Along with these success stories, I wish to share one of pain: it is about Carlitos Encarnacion, a young boy who was introduced to a sponsor while they were working on the construction of the multipurpose building. The sponsor noticed Carlitos because of his hard work and his willingness to serve. She asked him about his



**Eduard Valdez (left) and Daniel Melo at band practice at CCED** studies to which he responded that he didn't attend school. She talked with us about enrolling him in the school. Upon meeting with him he told us that even though he was 14 he could not read or write. This gave us a big problem. He was too big in size and age to join classes with 6-year-old boys and girls, for that reason we decided to begin a grade level especially for persons such as him. We found a group of 14 young people with the same problem. That's where we started our work with Carlitos. However, he never wanted to dedicate the time required to learn and we frequently had to go to his home to find him and bring him to classes. This is the same attitude that his little brother, who was also enrolled in the program, seemed to have. They both quit school and though we continued to go to their home to encourage them to attend classes they never returned. Today both are serving sentences for robbery and assault. Because of cases such as Carlitos and his brother we strive to keep each child that God gives us the opportunity to serve. In this endeavor there are also success stories such as Adriano and Eduard.

## WOW!

Praise the Lord for His goodness and faithfulness to the work at the school. We are continuing to be amazed by the response of people like you that have decided to sponsor a student(s) at the school. We now have 631 students sponsored. The numbers continue to grow. That leaves us only 269 more students to sponsor. There are 900 students at the school at this time. Notice "at this time". There is a list of 300 students waiting to get into the school. A recent census in the two barrios adjacent to the school shows there are over 3000 children of school age. We still have a lot of work to do.

Please consider sponsoring a student. For only \$22 per month (72.3 cents per day, \$264 per year) you can help change a life for eternity. Please contact us about sponsoring a student today.

## Our Excitement Continues This Summer

Dr. Emilcar and Denise Exumé and their family have dedicated this summer to the medical ministry at the clinic in San Juan. The Exumé family reside in El Cajon, CA. Dr. Exumé is a general surgeon at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Diego. Denise is involved with public health. They are members of Santa Sophia Church in Casa de Oro. Please pray for them as they work and minister at the Clinica Christiana.

## **Developments in Development by Rod Meyer**

It seems like the last newsletter went out last week. Time is flying when there is so much to do and so many ways to become involved. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet some of you at recent Solid Rock Missions presentations. And I am looking forward to meeting many more of you in the near future.

My thoughts go some strange directions at times and I hope you will humor me for a few moments. Every year at this time the roadsides blossom with flowers and those big orange "Construction Ahead" signs. We are always hoping that those signs are an indication of some good things happening in the near future. During the construction we put up with some inconveniences and start anticipating the conclusion of the project. After that is all over with, we then enjoy the results of the process. In the meantime, in a small room somewhere, some engineers are planning and conspiring to do the same thing all over again somewhere else. It sort of reminds me of mission projects. We look forward to the completion so we can enjoy the results of the work. During the process we are always thinking, planning and dreaming about the projects ahead of us.

Still wondering what I am talking about? We not only have one construction project; we have two (one underway and one starting soon). The new project is a building to house classrooms for the younger children. The building will have four classrooms. An additional building will also be constructed for restroom facilities. Both buildings will be built in the general area of the multi-purpose building. Construction will be starting in June. We are hoping to have the building completed this fall.

The other project has been underway for several years and we are hoping to conclude it within the next year. The construction of the clinic in El Cercado is starting to move again. The next logical step is for Dominican laborers to complete the cement plastering on the exterior walls. Following that we will be using work teams to finish the roof, electrical work, plumbing, concrete floors and the finishing touches, installing doors, windows, fixtures, etc. We need to raise another \$500 for the plastering. We are then anticipating the need for \$25,000 to complete the project using volunteer labor. This is a desperately needed facility. El Cercado has a population of 30,000 people and no clinic for doctors and medical people to work in. We have our first doctor lined up to start working there. All we need to do is complete the building. We need your help. If you would like to participate in helping with this project, please contact us here at Solid Rock Missions.



**Our first doctor for El Cercado: Dr. Grecia Vasquez de Ogando  
In Loving Memory**

Thank you for the gift given in memory of William Goodwin

### **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.

## **2002 Guesthouse Schedule**

Jun. 15 – 23	David Ellis Medical Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jun. 22 – 29	1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jul. 1 – 1	Evangelical Mennonite Church Youth, Archbold, OH
Jul. 10 – 20	Solid Rock Community Church, West Unity, OH
Jul. 11 – Aug. 8	Clint Cheng Medical Students, Texas
Jul 21 – 27	Southern Eye Associates, Raleigh, NC
Aug. 3 – 10	Mountain of the Lord Church, Akron, OH
Sep. 7 – 14	Willow Creek, South Barrington Hills, IL
Sep. 18 – 28	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Sep. 28 – Oct. 12	Northeastern Christian Church, Louisville, KY
Sep. 28 – Oct. 12	CrossWay Christian Church, Nashua, NH
Oct. 5 – 12	Dr. Diller Surgical Group, Toledo, OH
Oct. 12 – 19	Dr. Diller Surgical Group, Toledo, OH
Oct. 19 – 27	Dr. Diller Surgical Group, Toledo, OH

### **Mark your Calendar**

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> will be our annual banquet. This year it will be held at Heritage Inn in Archbold, OH. We will pass along more details in our July – August newsletter.

Dr. Diller will be organizing 3 week long medical trips to the clinic in October. In particular, the last two weeks have plenty of needs for a variety of medical personnel. Now is the time to think about giving a week to serve in a much needed role. This is a great team to go with on your first trip. We want to make arrangement for flights as soon as possible. If you have gifts in the medical field, please contact Dr. Diller at 419-531-3111 or call or e-mail Solid Rock Missions.

We also need a doctor (or two) for September 18 – 28. If you are interested in this trip, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions.

SRM is also considering putting together a construction team for either late October or early November. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions.

### **Vacation?**

Everyone needs one of them every once in a while. SRM is planning a touring trip (Not a work trip) to the Dominican Republic for November 30 to December 7. Tentative plans include visiting the school, clinic and orphanage in San Juan. We will go to several market places. Visit El Cercado. Worship in a Dominican church. Visit historical sites. Stay at a resort or two. And enjoy our time together. For more information, contact Solid Rock Missions.

### **Prayer Requests**

Please pray for our search for new guesthouse hosts. We are looking for several families or individuals to host work teams to the DR. For more information about this team, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions.

We also have a need for some temporary help with the guesthouse in September and October. If you are interested in giving your time, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions.

**Thank you** to Shyanne Kasper from Highland Community Church in Wausau, WI for giving her summer to help at the guesthouse.

### **Vacation Reminder**

Before going on vacation, don't forget to hold the mail, stop the newspaper, board the dog and send your student sponsorship check to Solid Rock Missions.

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