



Solid Rock Missions

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May—June 2004

A Big Thank You

One of the goals of this newsletter is to make you aware of various needs and projects going on in the Dominican Republic. We are always pleasantly surprised at the responses.

Our last newsletter was no different. That request was for funding to provide family counseling training to the teachers at the CCED in San Juan. The response was great. The project needed about \$3,100 and we received over \$5,100 as of this writing. Thank you for such a tremendous response.

You are probably wondering what is going to happen to the extra funds. The training is now being extended to teachers at the Jim Smith School in El Rosario and the Emmanuel School (another Christian school) in San Juan.

Recent Floods in the DR

Heavy rains in the past several weeks have created a real disaster in both the DR and Haiti. The area effected has been right along the DR– Haitian border. The town of Jimaní was the hardest hit. (Jimaní is located about two hours southwest of San Juan.) To the north, El Cercado had a record amount of

rain with not much damage. Elias Pina was also effected. A raging river took out the bridge on the only road coming from the south to Elias Pina. San Juan did not have any damage even though they did have a lot of rain. About the only effect there is an increase in mosquitos.



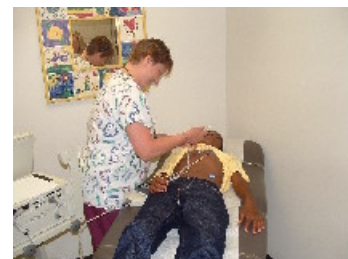
The storm did not do much damage in the areas where we are working. Governments (DR, Haitian, US and Canada) have activated their emergency response teams. Relief agencies are also active. We are monitoring the situation and as soon as we know what part we can play, we will make sure we communicate those needs to you.

Medical Care for Dominicans in the U.S.

Three times this past calendar year Solid Rock Missions has partnered with local individuals and organizations to provide medical care that is not available to the poor in the Dominican Republic. The most recent case happened in early April and the patient returned home in late May.

Thirteen year old Cristhian Ramirez was diagnosed with a condition where one of his heart valves was not opening adequately to allow blood to flow properly. He and his mother were flown to Detroit compliments of American Airlines. Lowell & Marilyn Yoder and Tammy and Phil Leinbach from Toledo provided housing, meals and hospitality. St. Vincent's Mercy Medical Center in Toledo, OH provided the facilities and Dr. William Suarez and his staff provided their services all for free. Cristhian had a valvoplasty procedure, which was a success. At the risk of not listing everyone who had a part, there are a few other individuals to thank: the US Embassy in Santo Domingo, Operation Plan in the Dominican Republic, Dr. Diane Bernardi and Bill Stockinger, St. Patrick's School in Bryan and so many friends who hosted them for meals, provided clothing, gifts, etc.

Cristhian is now healthy and happy and able to live a normal life for a thirteen year old.



We would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Suarez, his staff and St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center. This is the second surgery they have provided in the past year. Manuel Garcia benefited from the same type of procedure a year ago. Manuel is completing his senior year at the CCED. The procedure has changed his life. His most favorite thing to do now is to walk wherever he can. He could not do that before.

For more information on how you can become involved with future needs, please contact us at Solid Rock Missions.

English Teachers at the CCED

Solid Rock Missions has really been blessed this year with two wonderful English teachers at the CCED. Amanda Short from Archbold, OH and Kimberly Byrnes from Washington DC have been serving a one school-year assignment working with English classes from grade 3 on up. They will be returning to the US in early July. Both teachers have been asked to share some thoughts on their school year. This next article contains the thoughts of Amanda. We will share Kimberly's in the next newsletter.

Snapshots of the life of an Elementary English teacher in the Dominican Republic

by Amanda Short

- "Teacher, are you Mexican?" - Fifth grader
- "Oh, you want me to tell the colors/ numbers/ animals in English?" - all the grades
- After my lesson on "Happy Birthday":
 - "Happy baby to you!" - 5th grade
 - "Harry Potter to you!" - 2nd grade
- Notes given to me during class:
 - "Dear Amanda, I love you very much. Thank you for being so kind. I want you to be my teacher forever." - all grades
 - "Teacher, when you get back to the United States, send me a bicycle. You can send it by plane because you are rich." - 4th grader
 - "Amanda, you have to hit the students with a belt or they won't respect you." - 4th grader

Continued on reverse side

- "I am goose." - some of the students instead of "I am good."
- "Stop whistling at me!" - me to 5th grade boys
- "No, I will not teach you how to say 'give me dollars' in English." - me
- "The three of us are going to marry you so you can take us back to New York with you." - 5th graders
- "But you have to speak English there." - me
- "No problem." - my future husbands
- "Hello teacher! You have a chicken neck like yuca." - 3rd grader
- "Amanda, don't leave San Juan. Or, if you go, I am going with you." - 5th grade
- "Silence please!" - me to every class
- "Where are you from in New York?" - 5th graders
- "I'm not from New York. I'm from Ohio." - me
- "Where is that in New York?"
- "I wish you were my mother. American mothers are kind and gentle and Dominican mothers hit a lot" - 3rd grader
- "Yea! English!" - all grades followed by hugs
- "Teacher, do you love us?" - 2nd grade
- "Yes I do. Do you love me?" - me
- "Yes."

Something To Think About....Go Light Your World

Do you feel as if you're burning out in your service for God? You may want to supply spiritual light to your dark world till the end of your life, but you wonder if you can. You won't burn out if you understand and apply the truth of Zechariah 4:1-6.

The prophet saw two olive trees that supplied oil to a bowl that fed seven lamps on a golden lampstand. As we think about the reality behind this symbolism, we can be encouraged. You and I are not the source of light that enlightens the world. We can only receive the oil of the Holy Spirit that fuels the living flame He produces. If we burn steadily through the long, dark hours, it is because we have learned to yield our lives to the Spirit's unlimited supply of power and strength. This comes only through continual fellowship with Jesus our Savior.

It needs to be said again and again: It is not what we do for the Lord, but what He does through us that enlightens and enriches others. We must be satisfied to be a bright and shining lamp, drawing from the hidden resources of the indwelling Spirit of Christ. Our role is to help others see the glory of His light. And we must remember daily that every demand placed upon us is a demand placed upon Him. —David Roper

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The End of the School Year is Here

By the time you receive this newsletter, most students in North America will be on summer vacation. The schools in the Dominican Republic end a couple of weeks later. Classes will end approximately the middle of June. Then comes the government required proficiency tests. These are required for all grades. The seniors in this year's class will not know the results until September. They will not have their graduation until then. Most will be on to college studies by that time.

We want to thank you for your help in sponsoring students. The fiscal and school year officially end on June 30th. We appreciate the faithfulness of all of the sponsors in helping us end the year in the black. We think we are going to make it. If you have not sent in your money, please do. It helps us end the year on a positive note. We are hoping to make this the third straight year that we have been able to honor our commitments.

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

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
Aug 15-22	Steve Driver Team, NW Ohio
Oct 2-10	Dr. Jim Crook Team, Sylacauga, AL
Oct 14-24	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 23-30	Fox Plastic Team, Schenectady, NY
Oct 30-Nov 6	Brookside Community Church, Ft. Wayne, IN

We are now booking 2005 dates. January, February and March are full. Please contact us for available dates and rates. The 2005 calendar will be on our website very soon at www.solidrockmissions.org.

Just The Stats, Please!!!

For accountants and the rest of us that like to see what is going on, here are some numbers. At the CCED school in San Juan, there are 960 students. Out of that number there are approximately 40 students not needing sponsors. They are either capable of paying their own tuition or are children of the school teachers. There are 763 sponsored as of June 1st. That leaves about 157 students that still need sponsored. Our May allocation of funds to the school was \$15,063.33. For the first 11 months of the fiscal year, it totals \$171,546.55.

For the Jim Smith School in El Rosario, there are 127 students eligible for sponsorship. We now have 47 students sponsored. That leaves 80 children needing sponsors. This number will grow since the 6th grade will be added to the school for the next school year. Our May allocation to the school was \$700. For the first 11 months of our fiscal year, it totals \$4,485.57.

We now have 810 students sponsored through our programs. That is great. We continue to see the sponsorships to grow. If you would like to sponsor a child, check out our website at www.solidrockmissions.org. It is easy to do (and painless too)!

One other important statistic....money given to our sponsorship programs is used well. 90.9% of each dollar given goes directly to the school. The rest takes care of bookkeeping and related expenses (such as postage for billing and receipts). Solid Rock Missions does monitor the financial reports for both schools monthly. Those as well as SRM reports are available upon request.

Please consider sponsoring a child. It is a wonderful way to help touch a life (or lives) for eternity.

Summer is Here

Just a little reminder. Many of us take off on vacation and get out of our normal routines. Solid Rock Missions routine continue without exception. Our expenses continue. Both clinics continue to operate. The schools payroll continues (the teachers are paid on a monthly basis throughout the year). Their monthly utility bills still need to be paid. Your regular monthly support helps us take care of our commitments to help them operate.

Likewise, the SRM General Fund continues to meet the needs of operating SRM. The General Fund is a little lower than we like for this time of year. Please consider a one-time gift to this fund.

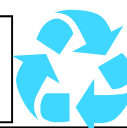
In Loving Memory

Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory

Grace M. Johnson— Archbold, Ohio

In Honor

Rebecca Battle—Roanoke, Virginia



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