



Solid Rock Missions

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May—June 2005

Student Sponsorship Programs



It is hard to believe that in just a few months, the CCED school will have been in existence for 10 years. It seems like it was only yesterday when the small school in the barrios of San Juan opened for the 170 students. Little did anyone ever imagine that the school

would have close to 1000 students. Nor was it expected to be where it is today, winning awards with its quality programs and seeing its fifth graduating class later this summer. Little did we also expect to see sponsorships at two other Christian schools in the area (the Jim Smith School in El Rosario and the Lucille Rupp School in San Juan).

When the CCED school was started, the rate was set at \$20 a month to sponsor a child. That has served the program well once a major portion of the students were sponsored. Now, here we are 10 years later at only \$2 more. It would have been nice if the Dominican economy would have stayed around the 1995 level. It didn't and here we are ten years later saying our dollar (or peso) is not going as far as it use to. We also hear the school administrators saying the same thing.

This is where we just have to bite the bullet and say that we are responding to the request to raise more funds and we need to do that by raising the sponsorship rates. Effective July 1st, the new rate will be \$24 US per month. SRM has decided to hold the line on raising the expenses of administering the sponsorship program. SRM will keep the administrative portion of the sponsorships at \$2 per month per sponsored student. Translated, that means 91.6 cents of every dollar sent for student sponsorships goes directly to the school to sponsor your child. That is a number we are proud of. As we look at other sponsorship programs, there are very few that can boast of that efficiency.

We do want to thank you for the part you play in making these educational programs for Dominican children work. Without your help, these children would not have the hope that a quality education can give them. They also probably would not have heard the Gospel message. That is the most important part of this program. Lives are being touched and changed. That is what we are all about.

A Look Back At A Fast School Year

By Daniel Greenawalt

As the end of the school year approaches here in San Juan, I think back on the past four months I have spent as a teacher with the CCED school. It has been a time of personal and spiritual growth for me! By allowing me to experience firsthand the rigors of Dominican life, God has been teaching me to depend on Him more and more for daily strength and guidance.

Upon arriving in January, I was not a stranger to the DR. I had already lived and worked here for three years (based in the

city of Azua) as an English teacher with the Church of the Brethren. During that time, I lived with other Americans and traveled around the country by public transportation to teach classes. My experience here in San Juan has been quite different. Although I have not had to adapt so much to the culture nor struggle with the language (but my Spanish vocabulary has definitely expanded since January), it has been an eye-opening experience to actually live for an extended period of time in a Dominican home. For example, using candles to prepare lessons, taking bucket showers, and racing to get laundry finished before the power goes out are aspects of Dominican life that I had rarely experienced while living in Azua! This experience reminds me daily of how blessed we are in North America, often not realizing that utilities and comforts we take for granted are not readily available in many developing countries.

It has been a blessing to live with and get to know Pastor Wilson Payano and his family. Pastor Wilson has truly been a missionary in his own country for many years, ministering to the people in some of the poorest and most isolated regions here in the southwest. I have developed great respect for him and for the congregation he has

founded here in the "El Corbano" neighborhood. Every service I attend at the "Iglesia Fuente de Paz" is lively and uplifting, with a powerful message. More and more youth are visiting the church and recently several were baptized as new believers! The



congregation would like to ask for your prayers as they are currently constructing a larger meeting house as funding and materials permit. They would like to be able to finish it by the end of this year.

I also would like to ask for your prayers regarding the education system in the Dominican Republic. As the conditions and organization of public schools continue to deteriorate, fewer and fewer students are able to receive a decent education. As parents take their children out of public schools and put them in private schools, discipline and overcrowding problems become more and more prevalent in the private schools as well. The CCED is no exception to this. The school is being confronted with fewer teachers, more students, and increasing discipline problems. However, as Tracy (the other English teacher currently serving here) reminded me the other day, what better school for rowdy kids than a school where Christianity is promoted! As teachers there, we have the opportunity to be models of Christ's Love for these children and teenagers (many of whom come from very difficult family situations). Keeping this in mind helps make the work here more fulfilling—especially on days when the students are not in the mood to study. We are not just teaching them a foreign language, but also Biblical principles, self-discipline, and responsibility. Please pray that the CCED teachers would be encouraged and strengthened each day by the Lord to continue teaching patiently, but also with consistent and firm discipline, as necessary. The Lord has pro-

vided encouragement for me time after time through students who express their appreciation and who help me in maintaining class discipline. I am inspired by those who are putting great effort into learning English and who are showing great improvement.

Solid Rock Missions is truly being used by God to have a great impact upon the San Juan community. José Ramón, director of the CCED, shares examples of lives transformed through the work of the mission (especially those of students who are sponsored) when he gives tours to the groups of volunteers who come down. I have had the privilege of translating for him on several occasions, and thus have heard testimonies that I might not otherwise have known about. I pray that SRM will continue to be used by the Lord here in San Juan and in other places around the DR by ministering to many and providing hope and the transforming Love of Jesus Christ—hope in a society that many believe is heading backwards and where many feel hopeless and powerless.

Daniel and Tracy Roth are currently wrapping up the CCED school year as English teachers. Please remember them in your prayers.

An E-mail From the Lucille Rupp School

One of the joys of working with Solid Rock Missions is seeing the communications being sent from the ministries we work with. They are so grateful for everything we are able to do for them.

This is just one example:

Hello Rod....God bless you.

I recently checked the web page to discover that we now have 13 sponsored children. That was the biggest surprise for us these days. Principal Larys is so happy about it that she won't stop giving thanks to the Lord.

Thank you for the work you are doing for these kids.

In Jesus...

Yovelin Florentino— Assistant to the Principal



Exploding Evangelism

The title may be backwards but it is true. Evangelism is exploding everywhere in the Dominican Republic. Lives are being touched and changed at a very rapid rate. One of the needs we have seen and the dream we have had is to provide some type of forum for the training of pastors. Northwoods Community Church from Peoria, IL has provided some training and that has solidified our desire to bring training to pastors in the San Juan area.

After a conversation with some local pastors about their desires and needs, Harry and Lynnette Hyde, missionaries to Venezuela, have been contacted and have agreed to join us for a special week with local pastors in October 2005. Harry currently is an instructor in a theological school in Venezuela. Harry has also been trained to instruct *Evangelism Explosion* pastor's training for Latin American countries. Harry and Lynette are from

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.

2005 Guesthouse Calendar

May 14-24	Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, NC
Jun 11-22	Northwoods Community Church 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
Jul 30-Aug 6	Grace Community Church, Washington CH, OH
Oct 1-15	Dr. Jim Crook Team, Sylacauga, AL
Oct 15-23	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 15-23	Habitat for Humanity, Charlotte, NC
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. January and February 2006 is full.

Fort Wayne, IN. They have been involved with missions their entire lives.

There are some costs involved in this type of training and a budget has been set. It typically costs \$15.75 per pastor for material. It is our goal to raise enough funds to bring the cost down to \$4.00 per pastor (with some additional funds to completely pay for some pastors who cannot afford the \$4.00). Gifts for this project need to be designated *Evangelism Explosion* in care of Solid Rock Missions.

Another Need ...Another Challenge

We have plenty of challenges but occasionally someone likes to offer us another challenge. A donor recently pledged a sizable monthly contribution for the next year to our Infant Survival Program. That contribution left about \$800 a month that is needed to complete funding for the program. The challenge from this donor is for us to find some person or persons interested in completing funding for this program for the next 12 months. We would appreciate your help no matter how big or small. Please contact Rod Meyer if you are interested in helping with this program.

They Are Not From SRM

Several times during the past few months, SRM has been contacted about e-mails being sent from some Dominicans. They present a story of their desperate needs. Granted, by our standards, they have needs but many of these particular Dominicans are better off than the average Dominican family because of the opportunities presented to them as they work with us. Solid Rock Missions does not endorse these letters, we cannot accept funds for these people nor can we give you a tax-deductible receipt for any gifts you give them.

If you get one of these e-mails and if you would like us to deal with them, please forward them to srm@solidrockmissions.org.

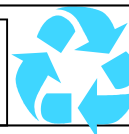
Once In A Lifetime Opportunity

Jennifer Lopez is one of the several hundred unsponsored students we have at the schools we help. This would be a real conversation starter to say you sponsor Jennifer Lopez. As with all unsponsored students, Jennifer's sponsorship is available on a first come basis. Please help Jennifer Lopez receive the same high quality education as John Lennon and other sponsored students. More information about sponsorships can be found at www.solidrockmissions.org.

In Loving Memory

James E. Smith

Thank you for the gifts of love given in his memory



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