



Solid Rock Missions

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November—December 2004

A Thankful Look at 2004

It is hard to believe that 2004 is nearly over and a new year is rapidly approaching. It is that time when every newsletter worth reading, has a year-in-review. We do this not to blow our own



horn but to let you know all of the things we are thankful for. We actually do this to publicly thank God for His goodness to this ministry this past year. And the year is not quite over, so we will have some more blessings yet this year. We make this list at the risk of missing something of importance. Throwing caution to the wind, let's look at how God has blessed this ministry in 2004.

Student Sponsorship Program

The Student Sponsorship program continues to grow. As of this writing there are now 779 students sponsored at the CCED school in San Juan de la Maguana. There are 960 students at the school. At the Jim Smith School in El Rosario there are now 57 students sponsored out of 127 eligible for sponsorship. We have seen a substantial increase in sponsorships this year. It was just the beginning of the 2003-4 school year when we just



started the sponsorship program at El Rosario. All 57 kids were sponsored in the past year. And the sponsorships at the CCED have grown at about the same pace. Both schools are very grateful for your support of these programs.

We still have plenty of kids in both schools that need sponsors. And just in case you were worried that we may run out, even though we are not ready to make any formal announcements, we are in discussions with some other school to help them. Watch for an announcement in the near future.

Missions Trips

Short-Term Mission Teams continue to be a big help for the ministries we work with. In 2004, close to 500 people went on one of these trips to serve. Besides the medical and construction teams, we had a number of summer youth teams. And there were some creative new ways to minister to our Dominican brothers and sisters. One of the most needed and well received was the pastoral training sessions conducted by Cal Rychner. There were also Vacation Bible Schools and sports clinics.



The medical teams served those in need in a variety of ways. There were a large number of surgical procedures performed in the CCSI clinic. Family practice teams traveled to a number of villages to provide exams and medicine. Many of

these locations had not seen a doctor in several years. Dentists were also put to work, most generally pulling teeth and sometimes teaching people how to brush their teeth.

The construction groups finished the security wall and restrooms at the CCED school. One of the most needed construction projects was the installation of a cistern at the Jim Smith School.

For the first time, that school now has water. A security wall has also been started there. A security wall was built and classrooms were painted at the Emmanuel School. And fresh coats of paint were added to the classrooms at the CCED as well as the CCSI clinic. Thank you to those who took part in these trips.



The new clinic in El Cercado has now been open for a year. They have a wonderful building and a great medical staff that is serving the patients there. Being the unemployment rate is extremely high, people are unable to pay for their services. They are building their patient base but they are far from being self-supporting. SRM has subsidized the salaries of all the employees at the El Cercado clinic from the SRM general fund. Gifts can be made to help with this monthly support by designating your gift to the Healthcare Assurance fund.

Americano

We have seen an increase in our American staff in the DR this year. Rod and Sandy Nofziger are completing their first year. They have enjoyed serving the teams at the guesthouse in San Juan. They have been joined by several interns this past year and we still have one of them. Juanita Sheeler actually moved on from the internship long ago and made a commitment to serve the entire year. Juanita has committed to serving full time for 2005. We are currently working to raise her financial and pray support for the next year.

Along with the guesthouse staff, we have continued providing English teachers for the CCED school. Tracy Roth from State College, PA and Shane Norman from Memphis, TN are currently serving there. Kimberly Byrnes and Amanda Short served there this past school year. This program is very successful and is appreciated by all of the students.

We also experimented this year in accepting a couple of resident physicians for month-long rotations. The program worked well and we are now working on developing partnerships with several medical schools in the U.S. to continue the program.

Medical Care in North America

We continue to bring the special medical cases to North America for care that is unavailable in the Dominican Republic. This past year has seen two cases that were treated in North America. One was a complete success and the second surgery happened about the time this newsletter was mailed. We are grateful to the hospitals, doctors, medical personnel and the airlines for their help in providing this world-class care. It is changing lives physically.



We are very thankful to God for His goodness and faithfulness to this ministry to the very special people in the Dominican Republic. We here at SRM are also grateful for your help. (If you normally quit reading this newsletter here, please read on because there are some other things God is doing in the Dominican Republic on the flip side of this newsletter).

The Bottom Line

Anyone ever involved with business knows that the bottom line is very important. The bottom line usually means that you need to be making a profit. Solid Rock Missions is no different as far as looking at the bottom line. Our bottom line is different. We do keep a good close eye on our finances (not to make a profit but to break even) but that is not our bottom line. The bottom line is to make sure our ministries are effectively having a spiritual impact. Most of our efforts are to help people medically and educationally but these are only tools to reach people for Christ.

At our fall banquet, Dr. Isaias Melo told the story of a lady seeking medical attention. She was diagnosed as having a tumor. Surgery and treatments were set up and the tumor was removed. Not long later, this lady began to have problems and they discovered that the tumor came back, bigger than the first time. Again, there was more surgery and treatments to curb the growth. All of this was having severe impact on the health and well-being of this lady. Not long after the second surgery, it became very apparent that this woman was in a battle for her life and it would not be long before she succumbed to her illness. The goal of the medical staff was to make her as comfortable as possible.

Near her last days on earth, one of the nurses asked if she would like her to call Pastor Wilson to help her "make peace with God". The lady replied that it was not necessary. It was not because of a hardened heart. It was because about a month earlier, one of the hospital personnel shared God's plan of salvation and she accepted Christ into her heart.

Over and over we hear stories of how the clinics and the schools are meeting needs and opening hearts to the ultimate victory over the problems they face. It is happening in the clinics, in the schools, in neighborhoods and in families. God is at work.

That is our bottom line.

2004 Fall Fund Drive

Our Fall Fund Drive this year is to help meet space needs for three schools. The Christian Center for Educational Development, the Jim Smith School and the Emmanuel School all have needs for more classrooms. Overcrowding and growth have forced the schools to creatively make good use of their current facilities. Now we need to consider more physical space. The projected goal is to raise \$30,000 to provide for these needs. Your help is needed and appreciated. Contributions should be designated "Fall Fund Drive", or if you would like to designate it for a specific school, please tell us that.

Our Gift to You

Normally, we put a letter from the office staff in this mailing. This year is a little different (we are sure you have already noticed). The 4 year calendar is something we hope you will use as a reminder to pray for us and this ministry. If you do not want the calendar, please pass it on to someone who can use it.

Even though because of space and mailing requirements, we are not inserting the normal letter, we do have some things to say:

This has been a wonderful year in this ministry. God has blessed us in ways that a year ago were unimaginable. It is great to look back and see what has happened and where we have been. But we cannot stop there. There is much work to do, so it is time to look ahead and get back to work. Scriptures tell us "the harvest is ripe and the workers are few". The harvest is ripe and the work needs to be done. That can be daunting and scary. What? When? Where? And who?...me? The best part of

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

Jan 8-15	Gaylord Rotary Club, Gaylord, MI
Jan 15-22	Jim Goble Team, Lansing, MI
Jan 22-29	VIMM Team, Walhalla, SC
Jan 29-Feb 2	First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC
Feb 12-19	Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA
Feb 19-26	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Feb 26-Mar 6	CrossWay Christian Church, Nashua, NH
Mar 5-12	Dr. Todd Beste / ECU, Greenville, NC
Mar 12-19	North Clinton Mennonite Church, Wauseon, OH
Apr 2-17	Dr. Lynn Hughes Team, Huntersville, NC
Apr 2-9	Dr. Pat Fox Team, Schenectady, NY
Apr 2-9	Wawasee HS Spanish Class, Syracuse, IN
May 14-24	Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, NC
Jun 4-11	Hope's Helpers, Asheville, NC
Jun 11-18	Northwoods Youth, Peoria, IL
Jun 11-18	NW Ohio Youth for Christ
Jun 18-26	Dr. Tom Robert's Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jun 25-Jul 9	Highland Youth, Wausau, WI
Jul 2-9	Dr. Diane Bernardi Team, Bryan, OH
Jul 9-23	Thom & Lyn Ross Team, Archbold, OH
Jul 23-31	First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN
Oct 15-23	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL

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

this is we are not in this alone. Of course, we are a part of God's work. But this is not our mission organization. It is yours. Solid Rock Missions is an outreach of you or of your church or organization. Without you, your help, your support and your prayers, this mission would be "Mission Impossible". We cannot do it without you.

Thank you for your support, prayers and confidence in us and in this work. May God continue to bless you as you help those in need.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Ed Meier (Board President), Chris Mosier (Sponsorship Coordinator) and Rod Meyer (Executive Director), we want to wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas and a great New Year.

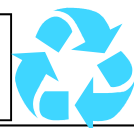
A Christmas Gift Idea

Are you trying to find a gift for that special person who has everything? We have an idea for you! You can sponsor a child in their name at one of the Christian schools in the Dominican Republic. It is easy to do. You can select a child at our website or call the SRM office. Solid Rock Missions will get the student profile to you in time for your gift giving. The best part is not that you are solving your shopping problems but it is that you are helping to educate a child and providing hope for their future.

**Without you,
your help, your
support and
your prayers,
this mission
would be
"Mission
Impossible".
We cannot do
it without you.**

In Loving Memory

Mrs. Lisa Leland, Tarboro, NC
Christian Bollinger, Spartanburg, SC
Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory



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