



Solid Rock Missions

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November—December 2002

Things We Are Thankful For

Great news. On the evening of October 23d, 2002 several of us from the SRM office had the opportunity to share the joy of several special events at the CCED school in San Juan. Of course it is hard to pass along the excitement with words and pictures, but we are going to try.

Ahead Of Schedule And Under-Budget

It is great to see either of those items on a building project, but when you can use both of them in the same heading, it is really special. Of course this project really is.

We are talking about the classroom construction project at the CCED School. The project began as a fundraising project with First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, SC way back in February. Ground was broken in June. First Presbyterian provided the first work team that laid up the block walls. Archbold, OH EMC youth and Solid Rock Church youth from West Unity, OH provided the muscle to move the fill dirt in to level the floors. Next Northwoods Church from Peoria, IL provided the crew to paint the walls. Next came Northeastern Christian Church from Louisville, KY and CrossWay Christian Church from Nashua, NH to pour the floors and install the roof. The school's electrical vocational class took care of the wiring. And the school's welding class built the doors.



One of the main reasons for the project going so well was the watchful eyes of Duane Becker. Duane is on loan to us from another mission organization. He has been supervising the construction teams for this project and he will be working with us on several more in the near future. Duane has kept the project moving in the right direction. He always had the materials ready for the incoming teams. It was a wonderful experience for those who helped on the project.

The evening of October 23 capped several days of hustle and bustle as the finishing touches were added to the building. As a matter of fact, ten minutes before the dedication, the maintenance crew was hanging the last blackboard.

The dedication included the Dominican and U.S. national anthems followed by comments from the director of the school, Jose Ramon Rodriguez. Pastor Wilson gave the prayer of dedication. Then the official opening took place with the cutting of the ribbons to each classroom. It was exciting to see.

It was more exciting to be at the school the



Duane Becker at work.



next morning to share in the excitement of the teachers and students as the classrooms were put into use.

New Classrooms in use at the CCED School

Thank you to all of you that were involved in this project. May God bless you for your endeavors.

Graduation 2002

The evenings activities kept getting better. The next event was the graduation of 22 students from the CCED School. This is the second graduating class from the school. Graduations in the Dominican Republic are normally in the fall even though the school year runs from September to June. One of the graduation requirements is to pass a government graduation test and of course, it takes a little while to get the results back. The best part is they all passed the test.

Graduations in the Dominican Republic are very similar to those in North America. The Valedictorian spoke, awards were



SRM Board Member Orville Fricke receiving a special award recognizing his dedication to the school.

handed out, guests were honored and diplomas were presented. Everyone stuck around for the reception that followed. It was a wonderful and exciting time to be there and see some of the results of the school.

Thank You !

A free-will offering was taken at the Solid Rock Missions Banquet on September 28th. The offering was taken to help finish the El Cercado clinic project. Over \$4,700 was raised that evening. Memorial monies for Richard Meier and an anonymous donor completed the goal of raising \$25,000 to finish the project. A portion of the 2003 work teams will be going there to finish the project. We are hoping to have the clinic in operation in April.

What Is Next?

The next construction project began in early November at the CCED School with a group from World Vision members from Holland. They have started construction on some additional vocational classrooms. We are hoping other 2003 teams will complete the building and also construct new restrooms for the pre-elementary children. Please contact us at Solid Rock Missions on ways you can become involved in touching lives for eternity.

Developments in Development by Rod Meyer

For your information, I am back. Either you did not miss me or you did not know I was gone. Actually, it was neither of those choices. So many different things have been going on that I have been going all over the place this fall. And to top it off, I have not had space in the past several newsletters to share with you some exciting things going on. So now is my chance. I have so many things to share, where do I start? Let's get to it.

As I look back over this past year, the first thing that comes to my mind is I cannot believe a whole year has just about passed. I have really enjoyed getting to meet most of you either at a presentation at your church, at a conference somewhere or on a trip to the Dominican Republic. Both Carol and I have made many new friends this year. We have also enjoyed the time renewing some old friendships as well.

As I reflect, some of the very special times was the work trips to the Dominican Republic. I am sure those are some of the very special times for most of you as well. There were even some funny times, like the time I took a scooter taxi to cross the low spot on the road back to the school after a major rain storm. The scooter died in mid-stream and it took the poor driver five minutes to restart his scooter after he got it out. And of course the time I tried "corn" ice cream at Bon.

There are a lot of good things going on. And they are not things I can take credit for. God is at work. The classroom project on the front page is one example. The funding for the Clinic at El Cercado is another. The lists continue to grow. It is exciting to see God at work in the barrios surrounding the school and the clinic. It is more exciting to see the changes He is making in people's lives. San Juan is not the only place God is working. My most recent trip to the DR took me to see Christian schools in Rosario, Elias Pina and San Juan. These are schools that have no support programs like the one we have for the CCED School in San Juan. We are currently examining ways we can help. We also visited the village of La Jagua. It was a small village that consisted of a house and a church and was accessible only by 4 wheel drive. There was no electricity or phone service there. It was 10:30 am on a Wednesday morning when we arrived and a spontaneous worship service broke out as about a dozen people appeared from the surrounding brush. Their singing was great. Of course no worship service is complete without an offering. Actually that was our decision to help them out with a little money in the plate.

It does not matter where you go in the Dominican Republic, you find warm, wonderful people. Some of them already know Christ and others have yet to accept Him.

As I look forward to this Thanksgiving season, I am truly amazed at all of the things we as North Americans have, yet we are not truly content and by contrast, I look at Dominicans and see how they are very content and outwardly happy in spite of their lot in life. You and I will probably never experience what it is like to live like the Dominicans but we can know the satisfaction of knowing the same Savior. We can know the satisfaction of giving a cup of water in Jesus' name to those in need. You don't know what you are missing until you try it.

100% Recyclable

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



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.

2003 Guesthouse Calendar

Jan 4—15	Highland Community Church, Wausau, WI
Jan 9—19	Oasis Church Construction Group, Wauseon, OH
Jan 18—25	First Presbyterian Medical Team, Spartanburg, SC
Jan 25—Feb 2	Dr. Fred Marcinek Group, Walhala, SC
Jan 26—Feb 1	Gaylord Rotary Club, Gaylord, MI
Feb 1 -15	First Presbyterian Medical/Construction Team, Spartanburg, SC
Feb 15—Mar 1	ECU—Todd Beste Medical Group, Greenville, SC
Feb 15—Feb 25	Second Presbyterian Medical Team, Roanoke, VA
Mar 3—14	North Broadway Baptist Church, Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada
Mar 23—30	Dr. Diane Bernardi Medical Group, Bryan, OH
Mar 24—Apr 8	Kristi Ross Group, Archbold, OH
Mar 29—Apr 6	Dr. Diller Medical Group I, Toledo, OH
Apr 5—Apr 13	Dr. Diller Medical Group II, Toledo, OH
Jun 10—20	NW Ohio Youth For Christ, Archbold, OH
Jun 21—Jul 5	Northwoods Community Church Youth, Peoria, IL
Jul 5—Jul 14	Salem EMC Youth, Gridley, IL
Jul—12 -26	Dr. Tom Roberts Medical Group, Spartanburg, SC
Jul 26—Aug 4	Central Mennonite Church Youth, Archbold, OH

**We are beginning to book the 2003 fall dates and 2004. Please contact us to plan for your group.

With Grateful Hearts

We want to acknowledge some of the many gifts we receive from time to time. Thank you to the Fulton Co. Retired Teacher's Association for the gift of art supplies for the school. We have also received 12 Spanish Study Bibles from Diane and Larry Weber. We would also like to thank the Altrusa Club in Marion, OH for the gift of Spanish books for the school library. We always thank people for their gifts at the risk of forgetting someone in the process. If we failed to list your gift, we are sorry. Your gifts are important to this ministry and we will try to make it up in another newsletter.

We would like to thank all of you that sponsor a child through the Student Sponsorship Program. We currently have approximately 677 children sponsored at the CCED school. We have another 231 waiting for sponsorship. And we have an number of new opportunities on the horizon. Please consider either sponsoring a child or giving to the General Scholarship Program.

CCSI Clinic

The CCSI clinic continues to minister to the poor people's physical needs. They do that at little or no cost to those using the clinic's services. Over 30,000 people have used the clinic this past year. The clinic not only works on the physical needs. It also reaches out to meet spiritual needs as well.

Please consider either a one-time gift or regular giving to help underwrite this important ministry to the poor in the Dominican Republic.

Prayer Requests

Please remember our need for some guesthouse hosts. Please remember all of us involved in this ministry.

In Loving Memory

Fritz Stamm from Archbold, OH
Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory.

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