



Solid Rock Missions

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10th Anniversary Edition

Ten years of ministry and ten years of memories. There are many more memories than there is space in this newsletter. The first person that came to mind to write about memories of the past ten years is Dorine Smith. Dorine has memories that goes well beyond the 1992 date when Solid Rock Missions was established. Jim and Dorine Smith were the visionaries who had a dream that gradually became Solid Rock Missions. Dorine's memories will certainly jog many of your memories. Please feel free to share them with us for future newsletter issues.

Dorine's Memories by Dorine Smith

By the calendar. Solid Rock Missions came into being in the back room of Charlie's Steak House in Wauseon ten years ago this fall. However it is nearly impossible to put an exact date, even a year in which it began. It's hard to pin visions, hopes and dreams down to days and hours.

It could have started back in 1980 when Orville Fricke took his first team down to the Dominican Republic to work on the church building in Neiba; the time when anything that could possibly go wrong did! But in spite of that, some of those men continued to go back and others were added as Orville kept on hunting them out, coaxing, cajoling and sometimes shaming

them into an introduction to a costly one or two weeks of sleazy hotels, bad food and the back-breaking phenomenon called "a mission trip."

Maybe it started when the big group joined us and Tom Shaffer to help ready the clinic for dedication; when there weren't

enough beds, no coffee cups and Grace Amstutz and I made do with almost no cookware and smoky oven. I remember many things about that time. One was being surprised by Ed Meier. He wasn't the kid I remembered from Miracle Camp days. He was a keeper but on subsequent trips he seemed to spend an extraordinary amount of time under the kitchen sink.

Certainly the medical vision had become reality with the opening of the clinic but was enhanced with Dr. Jim Diller's fledgling group of MCO students in the spring of '91. I still feel the excitement of the success of that venture which grew as Drs. Tom Roberts, Don McClure and countless others followed to work alongside of Dr. Canario and his staff.

In the early days there was only the old red van for transportation so some traveled by public conveyance Dr. Diller will recall the open three-wheeled contraptions Jim hired to take us from the hotel to Vesuvios in Santo Domingo. We had to get out and push them up the hills. (We were younger then weren't we Grace?)

Many memories come flooding in from both before and after the official beginning of SRM. I think of all those times of the arrival of a "furgon", a shipment from the States. I'm sure Ed, Orville and many others have clear pictures of the work, expense and red tape on their end getting a shipment on its way.

Once there, we sweat, prayed and paid them through customs until that moment of arrival. Then there was the frantic effort to get them off-loaded before the two hour time limit expired, after which a hefty fine was levied. But as it most often happened, a group would be there to help, as well as crowds of Dominicans that seemed to appear out of nowhere. The experience could be likened to a live birth--the expectation, the pain, the delivery and finally the joy of blessings counted.

Of course most memorable are the people who came. They came from both individual and groups of churches. They came through organizations and they came as families. Youth teams came--from YFC Canada, from many local churches, from EMC Plant-A-Seed program, from colleges and universities. They were brought by Rex and Jenny Stump, Steve and Kay Shaffer, Andy and Sherri Brodbeck, Brian and Linda Gottschalk and many other dedicated sponsors and pastors. Doctors came and brought their sons and daughters. They, as well as all the adult work teams, were driven hard by Jim but proved equal to the task.

Jim, whose memory seems almost synonymous with the San Juan end of the ministry, stands out to me and, I believe to many, there in the center of things, larger than life. Unforgettable.

If many others now blur together in my memory, once in awhile God jars and blesses me with a work from one of them as to how "that trip" changed their life. And that, after all, is what Solid Rock is all about. Changed lives.

How Big Was That Cow?

You always hear about the one that got away. Normally we are talking about fish. This time it is a cow. Only the cow did not get away.

Dr. Canario was returning after dark from El Cercado when he was blinded by an oncoming bus's bright lights. As soon as he passed the front of the bus, he saw it. A large cow standing

right in the middle of his lane. There was nothing he could do to avoid striking the cow. Besides Dr. Canario's pride, he only had minor injuries as the result of his airbag going off. The cow did not survive. Dr. Canario's Jeep did not do well either. It is currently not drivable but it is repairable. But there is

another problem. Responsibility for the damages belongs to the owner of the cow. So far no one has claimed ownership. As most Dominicans, Dr. Canario did not have insurance on his vehicle.

His Jeep is important to his ministry as he needs 4-wheel drive to get to some of the mountainous villages that he travels to provide medical service to those in need. It is going to cost \$3,000 to repair his vehicle. If you are interested in helping him with the repair, please designate your checks to "Jeep Fund" in care of Solid Rock Missions.



Left to right—Dr. Isaias Melo, Dorine Smith, Jose Ramon Rodriguez, Cora Hunse, Dr. Osvaldo Canario



No, it wasn't that big but it makes a great picture. Dr. Canario with the victim's brother ?

News and Notes From the CCED School

The 2002-2003 school year began in early September with excitement. The excitement was from a variety of things. Part of it was from having more students. The enrollment increased this year to 958 students. Along with the increased enrollment, facilities are being stretched by changing the high school format to a full day schedule. A new requirement for high school students is for them to have vocational training as part of their studies. This has resulted in a temporary suspension of the adult education program. As they get settled into the new routine, the adult program will be reintroduced.

The classroom project is moving ahead of schedule. Work teams from Spartanburg, Archbold, West Unity, Peoria and Louisville have played a big part in supplying the much needed volunteer labor for the project. The electrical and woodworking vocational classes are also working to complete the building. We are hoping to have the building ready for use in November (2 months ahead of schedule and under budget). We would like to thank all of you that have played a part in this building. In particular we would like to thank First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, SC for the huge contribution they made in funding the materials for the building and the work team they sent to start the project.

We have made the promise for increased information from students to their sponsors. Sponsors, you will begin to see that soon. We have had a delay in beginning the e-mail program. Just as we were ready start, a lightning strike damaged the e-mail computer. We are hoping to see the system up and running soon. We will keep you informed. Some other good information will be coming to you soon.

Student sponsorships continue to rise. We now have 654 students sponsored. An additional 50 students pay their own tuition. That leaves 254 students at CCED that need sponsors. Please consider what you can do to help.

Changed Lives....What We Are All About

Dorine mentioned it in her article and that is what we are really all about. Yes, lives of Dominicans are being changed. There is another group that is being effected as well....those that go on trips. There are times that we wonder about the impact of this ministry. It is those times that God motivates someone to send us a letter or e-mail that is a big encouragement. Here is one that is special.

My name is Danna Lyda. Me, my mom and a group of people from Asheville North Carolina went to the Dominican Republic this past summer. We stayed at the clinic with Andrea, Jesse, and little Noah. The group and I did surgery on people while we were there. I don't know exactly who I'm writing this letter to but I was just going to say that the trip was the most wonderful thing I've ever done for myself or anyone else. I'm only 14 years old but I know I can say that it really made a difference on how I look on things just seeing how much more we have here in the US than they have down there. I'm begging my mom to let me go back next summer. I also made many friends including Jonathan and Benjamin Melo. We stuck together a lot during the week I was there. I was just writing to let you know what a wonderful cause this is and that I thank you for letting it be possible that I got to go.

Danna Lyda

"Touching lives for eternity" is more than a catchy slogan, it is a reminder of our calling to a world in need of Him. Anywhere, Everywhere, Everyone needs Christ!

100% Recyclable

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



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

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 Marcinak Group, Walhala, SC
Jan 26—Feb 1	Gaylord Rotary Club, Gaylord, MI
Feb 1 -15	First Presbyterian 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 2—9	Jim Bramlett Medical Group, Davidson, NC
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. Please contact us to plan for your group.**

Ron Terrell, M.D. Contributed by Dr. Don McClure

On September 11, 2002 Solid Rock Missions lost a loved benefactor with the death of Ron Terrell, MD., from Spartanburg, SC. Ron, an anesthesiologist had traveled to the DR each year on two week medical mission trips with First Presbyterian Church for the past seven years. His lovely wife-nurse Beth always accompanied him and supervised the post op recovery room. He was always the first to volunteer to go and loved working with the Dominicans, especially the children. Even after his diagnosis and surgery for cancer, Ron traveled to the DR to personally refurbish the anesthesia machines which had been damaged by the flooding of the clinic during hurricane Georges. We all will miss his many talents and his quiet quick wit. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.



Richard Meier

On September 28, 2002 Solid Rock Missions lost another benefactor. Over the years Dick had been involved with several organizations that have helped further the Gospel. He was a man behind the scenes. Many times he headed up the construction of wood boxes for container shipments. Dick was a pilot in World War II. He continued to be a pilot with the reserves until the 1980's. His first love was his wife and family. His 2nd and 3d loves were woodworking and flying (we are not sure which he liked better than the other). We will miss his visits to the SRM office. His son, Ed, is the President of SRM. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as well.

In Loving Memory

Richard Meier from Wauseon, OH
 John Richards from Wauseon, OH
 Leroy Sweatman from Spartanburg, SC
 Ron Terrell from Spartanburg, SC
Thank you for the gifts of love given in their memory.