



# Solid Rock Missions

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## Applying a Higher Standard. Serving a Higher Purpose

Promises, promises. Sometimes we're tempted to be cynical about promises because they seem to be made so casually. Promises today are often accompanied by "fine print" that essentially nullifies any obligation to honor them. Sadly, many of us have even come to expect that "promises are made to be broken."

### "Now this is our boast:

**Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace."**

2 Cor. 1:12 (NIV)



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

*This seal is our pledge that your gifts will always be used as you planned.*

ECFA seal means that our organization:

- Has a clear and strong commitment to Evangelical Christianity.
- Has an independent Board of Directors that governs our activities.
- Submits to an annual independent audit.
- Manages and applies funds with appropriate controls.
- Believes in and practices financial disclosure.
- Follows strict standards for fundraising and stewardship.

The ECFA seal is an outward expressions of our inner resolve to represent truth and integrity in all aspects of our ministry; our fund-raising, financial accounting and reporting, our governance, the stewardship of God's resources, and in our

relationship with you, our supporter and friend.

So the next time you see the ECFA seal on our literature, let it remind you of our dedication to the principles upon which this ministry was founded and our commitment to bring honor and glory to God's name. ECFA, in partnership with its members, is truly applying a higher standard and serving a higher purpose—by God's grace.

ECFA welcomes your requests for further information. Visit ECFA on the Web at [www.ecfa.org](http://www.ecfa.org), or call ECFA toll-free at 1-800-323-9473. You may also write ECFA, 440 Jubal Early Drive, Suite 130, Winchester, VA 22601.

For more information on Solid Rock Missions commitment to integrity, visit our website at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org) or call 419-335-8046.

## A Look Back by Kimberly Byrnes

A full year has passed since I first stepped on the plane that would bring me to the Dominican Republic to teach English

at Centro Cristiano in San Juan. It's amazing what God has shown me in a year's time. I had no idea what to expect when I arrived in the DR. I didn't know with whom I'd be living or if I'd like them, I didn't know if my Spanish skills would be enough, I didn't know what grades I would be teaching or even that I would be teaching classes by myself.



There were so many unknowns about leaving the US to live in a different country; however, what I never should have doubted was that God was in control 100% of the time. He knew where I'd be living. He handpicked a home that was a more perfect match than I could have dreamt up. He placed me in a church where I could use my gifts and know that I was actively working for His kingdom. Like David says in Psalm 139, all of my days were ordained and written in God's book before one of them came to be.

No matter what came across my path or what difficulties I had to endure, I was able to get through it because I knew I was exactly where God wanted me to be. Now that I'm in the US again, I'm trying to remind myself that God is in as much control of where I am now as when I was in the DR. I am just as important to Him here in Morehead City, NC as when I was in San Juan, DR. If I trust in that knowledge, I will be able to endure all of the difficulties that come my way.

I will always be able to look upon last year knowing that God's work was done because His hand placed me where He wanted me. I know that I will never be the same after last year, and I pray that we can all continue to trust in God's divine plan for our lives. ¡Dios te bendiga!

*(Editor's note: Kimberly Byrnes served as one of the two American English teachers at the CCED school this past year.. This year we have two teachers [Tracy Roth from State College, PA and Shane Norman from Memphis, TN] serving at the CCED. Please keep them in your prayers.)*

### Passports Required

Solid Rock Missions is now requiring all team members to have a valid passport.

This summer one team experienced a problem and one member had to return home the same day he arrived. We have also heard stories of people without passports not being allowed to return home until they got a valid passport. Working through the US Embassy, they normally take at least 2 weeks to get processed. That is a long time to be stranded away from home.

There is an easy way to prevent these problems.....get a passport!

### Another Important Tip

We always appreciate receiving gifts and supplies for the ministries in the DR however there is a proper way to send them. We ask that you contact our office before sending anything to the DR. Most generally we ask that you send items directly to us so we can make the arrangements to get them there with minimal problems.

We have had several instances where we have had to pay money to get the items sent to the DR released and in most cases, it cost more than what the item was worth. We have also found that occasionally, it places our personnel in some situations that we feel are not the best. We have instructed our personnel to not accept anything that does not come through the SRM office. We would appreciate your help in honoring our request. Thank you in advance for your help.

### Fall Fund Drive is Underway

We kicked off our fall fund drive at our banquets. This year our fall drive will benefit three schools; The CCED and Emmanuel schools in San Juan and the Jim Smith School in El Rosario. All three of these schools are in need of extra classroom space and all have valid reason for needing them within the next year. We are needing about \$25,000 for these projects. We are hoping to complete the projects by the end of 2006. Please send your contributions to the SRM office and designate it for the Fall Fund Drive.



### Christmas is Coming

Advertisements are already preparing us for the shopping season. Earlier this year we sent a letter to all of the student sponsors telling them that gifts for individual students would no longer be accepted. The reason for that was a matter of what the economy is doing for the Dominican families. It was also a matter of the haves and have-nots. It was very difficult to explain to a child why there was no gift for them just after you handed a gift to someone else.

We have made an allowance for this problem and we have created a "Student Gift Fund". The funds will be used to purchase gifts for all of the students in the schools we help sponsor. Contributions can be made by designating it "Student Gifts" and mailing it to the SRM office.

**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.

### 2004 Guesthouse Calendar

Oct 2-10 Dr. Jim Crook Team, Sylacauga, AL  
Oct 14-24 Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL  
Oct 23-30 Dr. Greg Pomeroy Team, Portland, ME  
Oct 30-Nov 6 Brookside Community Church, Ft. Wayne, IN

### 2005 Guesthouse Calendar

Jan 15-22 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 (dates TBA) 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

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](http://www.solidrockmissions.org).

### Some News and Notes

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our banquets. We had a good time and great food along with hearing some reports from the Dominican Republic guests.

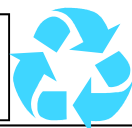
At the banquets there were some stories told about how the clinics and schools have impacted the lives of Dominicans in the poor areas where we are working. The stories were about a rebellious teenager at the CCED school, a small Haitian baby needing surgery to repair a cleft palate and a lady with a terminal tumor at the clinic. The amazing part was all three had happy endings. In the last case, the lady did die but not before asking Christ into her heart. In every story the impact was evident. Christ's love was shown.

Sometimes we have to ask, is it all worth the work we do? Without hesitating a moment....Yes, it is. Lives are being changed. That is exciting and worth it all. We will try to share these and other stories in future newsletters.

We have several needs to share with you. First, we are in the process of canning some donated pork for the school lunch programs. The companies doing the processing and canning are doing it at cost. We will still need to raise about \$2,500 for the project. Next is the need to for raise funds for Juanita Sheeler. She has committed to serve at the guesthouse for the next year. And last, is a need for gifts to our general fund. Many contributions this time of year go towards special projects. Our general fund is where we get the money to supply the monthly subsidies to the clinics and to operate our office. Your consideration of any or all of these needs is appreciated. Please do remember to pray for Solid Rock Missions, its staff, the ministries we serve and the Dominican people. Thank you for the part you play in touching lives for eternity.

### In Loving Memory

Thomas Mahan, Spartanburg, SC  
Arden Roth, Wauseon, OH  
Charles A. Rupp (Juanita), Archbold, OH  
**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.**