



*Solid Rock Missions*

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# PARTNERS

## *A New Chapter*

In our last newsletter, we told you that after five years of service, Rod and Sandy Nofziger were ending their time as guesthouse hosts this fall. We are pleased to announce that new hosts have been se-

lected. They are Joseph and Shannon Zimmerman. Joe and Shannon are no strangers to San Juan. During the past several years, they have served with several teams staying at the guesthouse.

Many of you may remember Joe's grandfather, Dr. Gordon Zimmerman. Dr. Zimmerman was involved in the early years of Solid Rock Missions and served on the SRM Board of Directors until his death. More information about Joe and Shannon can be found on page 2.

We are grateful for the time the Nofzigers have given to this ministry and we wish them well as God leads them to the next place He has for them. We hope you will welcome Joe and Shannon as they step into this ministry. Please pray for Joe and Shannon and Rod and Sandy as the transition takes place.

## *Phase II Is Nearly Complete*

We are happy to report that the second phase of the flood relief effort is coming to an end. The first phase was the work that provided emergency relief immediately after the storm. The second phase dealt with helping people with some of the longer-term problems, such as the loss of jobs, food shortages and emergency home repairs. We are happy to report that crops are starting to be harvested and as a result, employment is improving. And the food situation is also improving. We are very grateful for the \$57,000 that have been given to help the victims of Noel. We worked

hard to stretch those dollars. Along with all the immediate needs that were met, we were able to place 300 water filters in these communities that will impact the health of over 1,200 families. We also covered some logistic expenses to bring in 2 containers with \$150,000 of donated relief supplies. (For more details, see the Noel Updates on our website.)

The relief supplies were a cooperative effort of Airline Ambassadors (mostly airline employees), Kids4Kids Crossing Boarders and SRM. Hygiene kits, household items, clothing, etc.

were distributed in Cien Fuego (near Santiago), El Peñon, Batey 4, Batey 6, Batey Altigracia, San Juan and El Cercado. We are grateful for the help of American Airlines' and Spirit Airlines' employees who donated their time to the effort.

We are also grateful for the funds you gave, the teams that went to help, the doors that opened and the opportunities we had to share God's love with people in need. God has honored those efforts and people have responded to Him. Thank you for your help!



Airline employee helping in Cien Fuego



Relief Distribution in Batey 6



Elementary Students at the CCED School

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.

## *Yea! School is Out*

The 2007-8 school year ended for all of the schools we work with in late June. With the completion of the government required tests, the students are now enjoying their summer vacation. All of the schools will re-open during the last part of August/early September. Now is a time that teachers and adminis-

trators are taking a well deserved vacation before they begin planning for the next school year.

We appreciate the faithful sponsors who continue to support children in these schools. We still have more students that need to be sponsored. For \$24 US per

month, you can sponsor a child. More information can be found at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org).

## Meet Joe and Shannon



Joe was born and raised in the small town of Wauseon, Ohio and is the middle child from a family of five. He came to know the Lord at a young age and grew up in the Wauseon Evangelical Mennonite Church (now known as Crossroads) where his mother, father, and grandmother still attend. In high school, Joe was very involved in sports and played on the school basketball and golf teams. With a family history of attendance, Joe chose Taylor University in Upland, Indiana to continue his education. While at Taylor, Joe studied Business Systems and played on the University golf team. In January 2003, he studied business management while touring Europe with other students. After graduating in 2004, Joe bought a house on the north side of Indianapolis and took a job as an assistant golf professional at a country club in Carmel, Indiana. That year he had another experience abroad as he volunteered through Solid Rock in the Dominican Republic for the first time.

Shannon was born in Houston, Texas but grew up in White Lake, Michigan where her family still resides. She is the oldest of three and also came to Christ when she was young. Her home church is Grace Church in White Lake where much of her family and extended family continue to attend. During her high school years, Shannon played the piano and bassoon and was a member of the color guard,

track, and dance teams. She was also an active member of her church youth group and served on a short term mission trip each summer where her first trip to the Dominican Republic occurred in 2003. Through friends at Upper Peninsula Bible Camp in Little Lake, Michigan, Shannon was introduced to Taylor University and made it her school of choice. She majored in Spanish Education as a result of her trip to the D.R. and studied in Oaxaca, Mexico and Seville, Spain. She also returned to the D.R. on a short term Spring Break trip in 2004. After graduating in December 2006, she took a long term substitute position teaching high school Spanish and then a full time position shortly after.

Joe and Shannon met for the first time at Upper Peninsula Bible Camp when a group of friends drove north for a camp staff reunion in November 2003. Joe was a junior at Taylor and Shannon was a senior in high school, so sparks of love did not exactly fly. Unlike Shannon, Joe never worked at camp, but had been friends with many of her camp friends through Taylor. The following year, Shannon began her first year of college as Joe was finishing his last. As camp friends continued to spend time together, so did Joe and Shannon. They were dating by January, engaged a year and a half later, and married a year after that in June of 2006. They travelled together to the Dominican Republic for their

honeymoon in Punta Cana, and later with Solid Rock for a few weeks in January 2007.

In 2007, Joe decided to leave the golf business and go back to school with a transition to a teaching program to become a high school business teacher. However, before he had a chance to begin, his program was unexpectedly cancelled in March of 2008. With his current job at the country club coming to an end by summertime, Joe and Shannon considered their options, then decided to contact Solid Rock in search of long term service. By late June, Joe and Shannon were approved as the new Guesthouse Hosts and are more than excited to be serving God in the D.R. for the next couple of years.

Joe and Shannon have committed to serving God in the Dominican Republic for the next three years. They will be serving work teams that come to the DR. One of their responsibilities over the next several months, is to raise the personal support they will need to keep them on the field during their three year commitment. They will need ministry partners back home who are interested supporting Joe and Shannon with prayer and financial support for their time there.

More information on how you can support them can be found at [www.solidrockmissions.org](http://www.solidrockmissions.org) or you can call or e-mail the SRM office.

## Could *YOU* give the gift of walking to an amputee in need?

*If you know of someone who has a prosthesis they no longer use, you definitely could!*

With very few exceptions, people who lose a limb in third-world countries must resign themselves to never walking again. A life on crutches or in a wheelchair is the harsh reality for untold numbers of amputees. In most cases, amputees are unable to lead productive lives. They are marginalized by their society, and supported by family and friends with already scarce resources. The Dominican Republic, a country of over 9 million inhabitants, is such a place.

Only one facility in this entire country provides access to prosthetic services, and the cost is well beyond reach of all but the privileged few. (Over 42% of the population lives in abject poverty.)

One of Solid Rock Missions' teams has a member who is a Prosthetist and has consistently provided limbs to Dominican amputees. In his hands, people who thought they would be invalids for life have received this life-changing gift. For twelve years, Paul Blakeley has

donated not only his time and services every summer, but has personally provided over 50 prosthetics to people who had no other options.

Last year, one amputee walked 11 kilometers on worn, borrowed crutches in hopes of making the list of those who could be helped. The personal stories of struggle, faith and endurance are as compelling and individual as each of us.

Although every prosthesis requires a very detailed fitting, many prostheses have modular components that attach the prosthetic socket to the knee, and the knee to the foot, or upper-extremity components for arm amputations. These can be dismantled and re-assembled to fit the arms and legs of new individuals. Almost all components can be re-utilized and put back into life-enhancing service.

The best part is that giving someone a limb is a gift that does not need to be constantly replenished; it is truly a *hand-up*,

not a handout. Once people learn to walk again, they gain an instant "new lease on life," and can begin to regain their independence and dignity. No longer being tied to a wheelchair or a pair of crutches, they are able to live more fulfilling and productive lives.

### **Please help us locate used limbs for this ministry.**

Twenty-three people were measured for new limbs in June 2008, while thirty others had to be turned away due to a lack of resources. Those who were measured will wait patiently for an entire year for Paul Blakeley's return. Your help is urgently needed to locate sufficient parts in order to assemble and deliver the limbs promised this year.

Maybe you know of an individual who has passed away and left behind a prosthetic limb that is no longer in use? Perhaps you have a connection with your local Veteran's Hospital? The Shriner's Hospital? A supplier of medical equipment? Nursing Homes? If so,

**please call and ask** if they have access to prosthetic parts they can donate. You can also make a tax-deductible cash contribution to Solid Rock Missions and earmark it for this urgent need.



*Your help could  
change a life  
...for life.*



### *Student Letter*

Hello. I hope you are well and that the grace of God is with you and your family. I want to express to you my gratefulness for being sponsored by you. This is my last year in high school. I am in the 12th grade and am studying nursing. It has been a good year for me. I feel good about myself. I have tried to do my best. Plus I enjoy nursing. I love what I am

learning to do but I owe it to God for putting the love for it in me. I hope that your life continues to be full of blessings this year and for all of the rest of the years of your life. I want you to learn this phrase: The truly happy man or woman is the one who (whether a king or a peasant) finds peace in their home.  
- Maria Isabel Suero Contreras

**Editor's Note:** Maria completed her studies in June and is awaiting the results of the government proficiency test to graduate. We are grateful for all of you that sponsor children. Your gift of providing them with an education in a Christian school is having a huge impact on their lives. You are giving them hope. That is one of the best gifts you can give a child!

### From the Heart

It seemed like my recent May trip to the Dominican Republic was another whirlwind one. There was a lot to do and a limited time to do it. The main reason for the trip was to receive and distribute the flood relief supplies. In spite of the time constraints, there were still opportunities to do some special things.

I would like to share with you one of those special days.

I think Sunday was the best day of the trip. The day started by making a trip to El Cercado to worship with them in their new

second thing he asked me was if I would be the godfather of five couples wanting to be married when I was there. I was flattered that they wanted me to do that. I also realized that I would have some financial obligations. After finding out what they were and conferring with my wife, we decided that I would accept the offer.

The weddings took place in the pastor's backyard. It was then that some things became a little clearer to me. These were not five young couples. These were older couples who had a number of children. After talking with Alejandro and Pastor Esteban Marinez (from Batey 6) they explained to me that both the husbands and wives had accepted Christ since Tropical Storm Noel. All were recently baptized and they decided that they wanted to say their wedding vows in front of God and the church. For some it was their first wedding. It was a very big event.

As the pastors and I were talking after the weddings, Pastor Marinez said this was a record setting event in these towns. Nothing like this had ever happened before. Pastor Alejandro then added that there would have been more couples if they would have completed their paperwork on time. I told them that the next time they wanted to have a wedding ceremony like this, I wanted to see them set a new record. I would like to see ten couples get married.

It was a very special blessing to see and be a part of these weddings. These were just some of the fruits of God's work in these communities since the storm.

What more can I say, except that there is more. Late that



Five couples wed in El Peñon

building. I wanted to see the church in action on a "normal" Sunday morning. It was exciting to see how the church had grown since its move from the old downtown corner building. The church is doing what we had hoped they would when the new building was built: It is reaching out to new people.

A second special event happened that afternoon. A couple of weeks prior to my trip, we received a call from Pastor Alejandro, the pastor of a church in El Peñon (one of the small towns affected by Tropical Storm Noel). The pastor wanted to know when I was coming. The

### 2008 Dominican Republic Trip Calendar

Jul 12-19	True North Church, Wauseon, OH
Jul 20-26	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Jul 26-Aug 2	St. Marks 's Lutheran Church, Ashville, NC
Aug 2-9	The Ascent Youth Team, Golden, CO
Sept 18-29	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Sept 26-29	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 4-11	Dr. Jim Crook's Team, Sylacauga, AL
Oct 11-18	Northwoods Community Church, Peoria, IL
Oct 18-25	Brookside Community Church, Fort Wayne, IN
Nov 1-8	New Community Church, Elizabeth City, NC
Nov 8-15	First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN
Nov 30-Dec 7	Pomeroy/Van Vleet Team, Portland, MA

**If you would like to book a team at the guesthouse or other locations where we work in the Dominican Republic, please contact our office at 419-335-8046 or e-mail us at [srm@solidrockmissions.org](mailto:srm@solidrockmissions.org).**



The new home for the boys with MD

afternoon, we went to visit the boys with Muscular Dystrophy in Barahona. The boys were doing well and the whole family was excited because their new house was virtually finished. They would be moving into the house later that week. If you recall, the Barahona church was building their new house to replace the one destroyed by Noel. They ran out of money and prayed to God for His help in completing the construction. To make a long story short, part of the funds you donated for Tropical Storm Noel relief work went to provide materials to finish the house and the local church provided the labor.

Wait! This special day was not over yet. We then went to visit the pastor and not only ended up at their worship service, but we were a part of it. It was a great celebration of how God brought us together to meet the needs of the MD family.

Several weeks ago, we received an e-mail with some photos of the dedication of the new home. The family is very grateful for your help in completing their home.

These are just a few of the miracles that happened after Tropical Storm Noel. God has used you, He has used me, and He has used Dominicans to reach out to those in need. As a result, lives have been touched and changed because of your generosity, love and gifts. May God bless you!

-Rod Meyer, Executive Director

Gifts to Solid Rock Missions are tax-deductible.



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