

ROCK NEWS

pushtherock.org



Directors

- Dave Walton, *Chairman*
dave@pushtherock.org
- Dave Clark Tim Schneider
- Billy Dunn Jeff Stephens
- Don Jorgensen Dan Traynor
- Joy Moyer Dana Weller
- Kevin Rhodes

Staff

- President**
Don Jorgensen
djorgensen@pushtherock.org
- Director of Finance & Administration**
Scott A. Hoffman
scott@pushtherock.org
- Director of Missions & Outreach**
Chico Schlonecker
chico@pushtherock.org
- Lehigh Valley Regional Director**
Jason Krute
jason@pushtherock.org
- Sports Ministry Associate**
Dustin Leatherman
dustin@pushtherock.org
- Sports Ministry Associate**
Anne Walker
awalker@pushtherock.org
- Administrative Assistant**
Kim Schlonecker
kimberly_schlonecker@hotmail.com

Contact

- Street Address:**
647 Walnut St.
Emmaus, PA 18049
- Mailing Address:**
P.O. Box 95
Emmaus, PA 18049
- Phone:** 610-967-6861
- Toll Free:** 1-866-PTL-4PTR
- Fax:** 610-967-5140
- E-mail:** info@pushtherock.org

President's Note



Don Jorgensen
President

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men." Psalm 107:8

We at Push The Rock do truly give thanks for all His goodness towards the ministry of Push The Rock and for allowing us to be used by Him to present His wonderful works; that is Christ and Christ crucified to the children of men.

We praise the Lord for the past season just completed (the home school fall ministry is just beginning). During this season (our 12th) over 1000 sports campers not only learned about their particular sports but were also presented the Gospel by the permanent staff and over 60 seasonal staff members.

We praise the Lord for the two mission trips to Costa Rica and Italy where over 2000 young people were ministered to through the sharing of the gospel and testimonies.

This could not have been accomplished without you, our partners in ministry. Sharing with us your **time**, your **talent**, your **treasure** and all your **prayers**.

That is the history and



We help each other up at a Push The Rock camps.

some people say tomorrow is a mystery. That may be so, but we as believers know who holds the future.

So what about the future? We are convinced that God is leading Push The Rock to expand its borders both domestically and internationally.

At present, Lord willing, we are in the process of setting up a new region in SE Pa. headquartered in Souderton. We are also in the process of setting up a Hub overseas by partnering with a mission agency to use sports in their church planting ministry.

We are also seeking to possibly expand our urban ministry to Philadelphia, Camden and Baltimore.

In order to accomplish this expansion, we will be advertising for additional staff and recruiting in Christian colleges at their missionary conferences.

Another major need will be additional financial support. I realize this has not been a good year from an economic point of view, to say the least. I pray that as we approach the end of the year, you will review your present giving and ask the Lord if there would be a way for you to increase your donations. Also if you are not financially supporting Push The Rock, but believe in what the Lord is doing through us, would you seek the Lord's guidance in supporting the ministry systematically for the first time?

We praise the Lord for all of you: our prayer partners, volunteers and financial supporters.

Thank You.

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Summer 2008 Recaps



Campers in Italy.

Italy

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” — Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Peaches ... mmmmmm ... good! It seems like I have had a peach a day for the last four weeks. They are not strawberries or blueberries, but they are delicious in their own right! When looking for athletes and coaches to serve on mission trips, we hope and pray they come bearing a much different kind of fruit; you

know, the kind that does not grow on trees but, with the help of the Holy Spirit, still needs to be cultivated in our lives. We devoted our devotional times on both trips this summer to the Fruit of the Spirit. These “Team Times” helped prepare us for the constant interaction with people at the clinics, matches, church and people we met in the community.

Our return trip to Mestre, the residential part of Venice, Italy, with a men’s and women’s basketball team was full of unique experiences

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Summer of Character

The arrival of September was greeted throughout the country with cheers from mothers and fathers who were sending their kids back to school. At the Push The Rock office, it was greeted with the knowledge of another fantastic summer.

The 2008 camp season went great at Push The Rock. We had an outstanding staff whose hearts shined with the love of Christ to hundreds of campers’. Coaches not only built into campers lives, but were challenged to grow in their own walks. One staff member commented that “working for Push The Rock sports camps was one of the most positive experiences of my life.” At Push The Rock we measure success in many ways and we consider

college students falling more in love with the Lord a great success.

Our campers were also challenged this summer through our curriculum and theme: Commitment to Character. Our desire was for them to understand that you should be the same on the field as you are off the field. Your values cannot be erased by stepping onto a sports field. Campers were pushed athletically and spiritually and one 16-year-old commented that “I can honestly say it has changed the way I play soccer... I feel like I have become closer to God.” This summer we had the privilege to see kids come to know the Lord and to see the power the Lord has in daily life. These are great lessons that will help these campers through many hurdles along life’s path.

We also had the honor to have the memory of Mark Guensch at each camp. With his initials on the sleeves of our camp shirts, we challenged campers to make the most of their lives, which are precious and short, to take nothing for granted. May we continue to see young men and women grow up knowing the Lord and using their athletic gifts to glorify Him.

Thank you for your prayers, support and participation. We look forward to next summer being filled with more Push The Rock camps.



Jason Krute
Lehigh Valley Regional Director

These football players show a typical scene at Push The Rock camps — coaches and kids praying!



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and opportunities to cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit. It was very evident throughout the trip that the Lord was at work, but that we were in the midst of an intense spiritual battle. For one, our camp experience over the two weeks varied quite a bit. Even though we could have handled more than 10-15 kids each day the first week, the smaller number gave us a chance to get to know each camper better. We were also supposed to be running clinics in other parts of Venice on Tuesday and Thursday of that week, but were told that as an evangelical group, we were not welcome. Our team was very disappointed, but handled it well. Jesus did promise we would face opposition, but also said He would “never leave us nor forsake us.”

Let me sum up our second week with a day that is firmly cemented in my mind. I woke up at 6:45 A.M. to get the rest of the team up for breakfast. After breakfast we headed to the park, arriving at 8:45 A.M. to greet the 70 kids with whom we would spend the rest of the day. The clinic ran from 9-11:45 A.M., at which time we sent half the kids to the pool and the other half to lunch. The pool was a huge hit among the kids and coaches! After lunch we ran the kids through mostly “non-active” stations so they could rest up for their 4:30 - 7 P.M. clinic. At 8 P.M. we played a game, which many of the campers stayed to watch. It was not until close to 11 P.M. that the kids went home and the team made its way to the local

pizzeria for dinner. Did I mention that it was in the upper 90’s that week? The digital temperature on the pizzeria sign read “97 degree” ... at 11 P.M.!!! By the time we crawled into bed it was past 1 A.M. and it was time to do it all over again in a few short hours.

The gorry details were shared to illustrate God’s faithfulness and the commitment of our team to His work in Italy. Despite the challenges we faced, the Lord worked in and through our team, the Gospel was clearly presented and several campers and their families even expressed a genuine interest in attending the local church, Il Faro. We also worked closely with two local basketball clubs, who are intent on us returning in 2009 to further build into the lives of their youth. I firmly believe that our team, by God’s grace, was a bright light in a very dark place! I also believe that He did a great work in cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in each of our lives through these experiences. Thank you for your faithful prayers and encouragement as we take the Gospel to the “ends of the earth.”



Chico Schlonecker
Director of Missions and Outreach



Danny O'Brien
serving in Italy.

Thank You

To Chick-Fil-A
in the Lehigh Valley Mall

To Quiznos
in the Schoenersville Plaza

for donating sandwiches for our urban camp. Thank you for your generosity and for partnering with us in serving the inner city youth of Allentown.

Costa Rica

We returned to Costa Rica May 17th-31st for our second consecutive summer of international soccer ministry. While our team members hailed from 11 different schools and 9 different states, the Lord richly blessed us

with a loving and joyful unity that was contagious to others. Being that Costa Rica has their summer vacation during our wintertime; our camps were once again run slightly differently. Instead of

setting up our traditional weeklong camps, we went into the schools, interrupted the students from their classes, and ran some soccer clinics. This gave us a unique opportunity to see EVERYBODY, male and female alike, regardless of whether or not they enjoyed soccer. Moreover, it gave us the unique opportunity to glorify God amongst entire school bodies. All teachers, principals, and counselors alike were aware of our presence, knowing full well that we were preaching the Gospel and sharing the love of Christ. As we bounced around from school to school, we were able to develop relationships with over 2,000 kids. The Holy Spirit was contagious and highly visible through our unity and love. We had to force ourselves away from many schools because kids would not stop flocking us and asking us to autograph their notebooks for the

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The t-shirt give-away at a camp in Costa Rica.



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second and third time. It was really powerful! It's not like they knew anything special about us; most of us couldn't even speak Spanish. The only thing they knew was that we were Christians. Testimonies were shared and translated both before and after each clinic.

The Costa Rica team praying.



It was also great to return and compete against some of the same teams from last year. This enabled us to water some of the seeds that were already planted. It was very powerful to compete once again against the National Deaf team. Some of the most powerful moments of our ministry took place when visiting our brothers and sisters in prisons and delinquent centers. Many of them were in for murdering their own mothers, and it was just great to get in there, love on them, listen to them, and give them the time of day. They were very receptive to our testimonies. The pastor of the church with whom we partner does a great job with them and visits them regularly. Thanks to your prayers, the church was truly blessed by our visit. Please continue to pray for them and the seeds that were planted.

Thank you so much for joining us as we serve the Lord and proclaim the name of Jesus Christ in Costa Rica! May the Lord richly bless you and keep you!



Andrew Schneider
Costa Rica Team Member

P.O. Box 95
Emmaus, PA 18049
Phone: 610-967-6861
Fax: 610-967-5140

