

ROCK NEWS

pushtherock.org



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President's Note



Don Jorgensen
President

As we enter the New Year praising God for His blessings and faithfulness in 2008, we enter it from a human perspective with apprehension based on the news of unemployment, recession and high taxes. In spite of all that, we believe God wants us to move forward in faith. Therefore, we are planning to increase the number of camps (including the inner cities), mission trips, home school programs, staff (by three as one is already in the support raising process) and new hubs in the Greater Philadelphia area and overseas. We are planning and praying to this end because we see God opening doors in all these areas for Push The Rock to walk through. We believe that our God is a God of miracles and I know that some of you are saying that if we accomplish what we are planning it will be a miracle. In the words of Paul, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."

Some of us are setting new goals and making new resolutions for the New Year. However, in order to make goals we need vision. At Push The Rock, we were given the vision to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through sports. We are using the platform of sports in the various venues stated above.

As we enter a year of financial uncertainty, you and I both know that Satan is not just participating in this uncertainty, he is excited about it. He knows that the financial support of

ministries will be on the decline. We also know that during hard times, people are more apt to listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of Hope. We also know that there will be those who will want to send their son or daughter to camp but feel that it is now unaffordable. This means that we are going to need more scholarship money. We will also probably need to increase financial aid to young people going on mission trips. With this increase in the direct ministry costs, our support costs for these ministries will also be on the rise. When God told Joshua to take the Israelites into the Promised Land, Joshua had a bunch of excuses as to why he couldn't do it. However, God told Joshua that He would supply for his needs and would not leave him nor forsake him during the assigned mission. We feel the same, that God will be with us and not forsake us as we plan for what He has directed.

As I close this initial message for 2009, I need to thank many of you for answering the year-end letter with a financial gift to Push The Rock. I also need to thank all of you, our family members and friends of Push The Rock, for your prayers and financial support throughout 2008.

One more thought, if each of you would prayerfully consider making a donation of \$15.00 to Push The Rock over and above your normal giving to this ministry, it would certainly help launch the ministry into 2009.

On behalf of the board and staff of Push The Rock, we want to wish you and your family a very blessed and prosperous New Year.

Thank You!



- (2) 2009 Mission Trips
- (2) Christmas Clinic
- (3) Join the Family
- (3) 2009 Camps
- (4) Celebration Dinner



2009 Mission Trips

As we praise God for the 2008 year, mission trips are planned for 2009. We are very excited about the opportunities to return to Italy and Costa Rica, where we will continue to develop our partnerships with the missionaries and churches there. **June 18-July 5** we will return to **Venice, Italy** with a men's and women's basketball team, working with missionaries to reach their community through camps, clinics and games. **February 28-March 7** we plan to return with a soccer team to **Costa Rica** for the third time, working with a local church to do soccer clinics in local schools and detention centers. We also plan to take a high school girls' volleyball team to the same area **July 18-31**.

Doors have also opened for new partnerships in Spain, Czech Republic and Thailand. Our trip to **Spain** takes place **June 25 - July 12**. We will be



working alongside a church-planting team in the Canary Islands, running basketball camps as an outreach in three communities. **July 14 - August 2** we plan on taking a men's and women's soccer team to **Thailand**, where we will be working with missionaries in Chiang Mai. We will run camps and clinics in local schools, universities and orphanages. **July 22 - August 2** we will not only be taking our first mission trip to the **Czech Republic** but we will be taking a men's baseball team overseas for the first time. The team will be working with missionaries in the city of Prague to run baseball clinics for the youth in the community.

Although we have many trips planned for the upcoming year, our goal is still simple: *to impact the world for Jesus Christ, one life at a time.* We will do this in many locations, using various methods, activities and sports. And as we move forward our eyes will always be looking up, as we continue to trust that God will direct our steps.



Anne Walker
Sports Ministry Associate

Christmas Clinic

The 2008 Push The Rock ministry season came to a close with our annual Christmas Clinic. We had a great time on December 29 & 30 playing games and staying warm at Faith E Free Church. The mornings were filled with basketball games, drills and competitions while our afternoons flowed with rec games, dodgeball and other fun activities. Push The

Rock also partnered with Bethlehem Christian School this December for the first Winter Clinic in the eastern part of the Lehigh Valley. Held at Calvary Baptist Church in Bethlehem, the one-day clinic offered basketball in the morning, dodgeball in the afternoon, and was staffed by seasoned PTR coaches, former PTR campers and some coaches new to Push The Rock. The turnout was larger than expected with 31 kids participating in the morning and 25 in the afternoon. Both the kids and the coaches really enjoyed the time spent together developing basketball skills as well as dodging balls thrown from all different directions. Although 2008 has come to a close, we are excited about what lies ahead in 2009 and look forward to seeing you at another Push The Rock event.



Jason Krute
Lehigh Valley Regional Director

Join the Family!

Each year the Push The Rock staff spends countless hours planning out the many details that go into a full summer of running camps. Although this planning is very necessary, what truly makes a Push The Rock camp special is the incredible group of people you will find working there.

Working for Push The Rock is much more than a summer job, it is an experience that will undoubtedly change your life. Our summer camps present you with the awesome opportunity to use your passions for sports to share the Lord with kids all over the Lehigh Valley and Greater Philadelphia area. On top of that one of the greatest things about being on staff is the time spent working alongside a great group of people who share your passions and love the Lord!

After the summer we asked some of our coaches to describe their experience with Push The Rock, and here is what first year coach Adam Kern had to share. "I can't fully tell you about my experiences with Push The Rock without telling you about one of my favorite parts. Each week I would begin by introducing myself to the other coaches who I had never met before in my life, and at the end of the week, without fail, I would always feel like they were family."

For more details on how you can "join the family" this summer please visit the "ministry opportunities section" of our website. Please send any questions you may have to camps@pushtherock.org.



Dustin Leatherman
Greater Philadelphia Regional Director



Mark Your Calendars!

Tired of the sleet and freezing rain? Start thinking about your golf game.

Push The Rock 2009 Golf Classic

May 2, 9 A.M. Shotgun Start
Wedgewood Golf Course



2009 Camps

Camps in Lehigh Valley

We have many summer camps planned in the Lehigh Valley for 2009. Look for offerings in basketball, soccer, volleyball, flag football, baseball, golf and all-sports. Look for camps to be held at Faith Evangelical Free Church, Calvary Bible Fellowship Church, as well as new offerings at East Side Youth Center in Allentown and a new location at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church. Outdoor locations are still being determined. A full camp schedule will be posted on the website shortly.



Jason Krute
Lehigh Valley Regional Director

Camps in the Greater Philadelphia Region

Although the schedule is still coming together we are exciting about the prospect of expansion within the Greater Philadelphia region. We praise the Lord for new opportunities to use sports to reach people with the Gospel! Please stay tuned to the website as more details concerning dates and times will be added shortly.

Returning Camp Locations and Offerings:

Penn View Christian School will again be offering flag football and soccer camps while tentatively adding three new weeks with boys and girls volleyball, and a field hockey camp. Bethany Bible of Hatfield, PA, Bible Baptist of Hamilton, NJ, Beacon Evangelical Free Church of Beacon, NJ, and Donnelly Homes in Trenton, NJ will all be offering basketball camps again this summer. We also anticipate the return of our All-Sport camps to Calvary Church in Souderton.



Anticipated New Camp Locations and Offerings:

We are currently working to partner with Quakertown Christian School and Calvary Temple Christian Academy in Philadelphia for new offerings in the region. We will also potentially be offering camps in Doylestown, PA and Camden, NJ during the 2009 summer.



Dustin Leatherman
Greater Philadelphia Regional Director





**Applying a higher standard.
Serving a higher purpose.**

This seal is our pledge that your gifts are used as you planned.

As a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), we follow high standards of Christian ethics in fund-raising, financial accounting, and reporting ... standards that help set the example for all ministries to follow.

Thank you for your support of Push The Rock

To learn more about ECFA, visit www.ECFA.org



Celebration Dinner

Our annual Celebration and Fund Raising Banquet on November 15 was held at the Meadows in Hellertown. The pouring rain was unable to put a damper on a special evening of celebrating God's providence and faithfulness this past year and sharing our vision and needs for the future.

Two partners in ministry shared how Push The Rock, a ministry "Without Borders," uses sports to reach beyond cultural, language and political boundaries to "impact the world for Jesus Christ ... one life at a time!" Bill Clutter, serving in the Trenton, NJ area and John Annis, former missionary to Romania, shared how Push The Rock has impacted individual lives, including their own, in their respective ministry areas.

If would not be a true Push The Rock Celebration and Fund Raising Banquet without our musical friends from Parkland High School, the Strolling Strings. Even though I do not possess a single musical bone in my body, I think I can speak for all 128 of us who were there in saying that they were amazing!

Our goal going into the night was to raise \$40,000 through the Silent Auction and special giving. Through the end of the year we have raised over \$20,000. We praise the Lord for the generosity of His people and continue to put our needs at His feet!

We celebrate His Goodness!



Chico Schlonecker
Director of Missions and Outreach

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