

# ROCK NEWS

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## Chairman's Note



Dave Walton  
Chairman of the Board

Transition and change are inevitable. They happen in any organization and often bring about uncertainty, fear and anxiety. We ask for your prayers as we find ourselves experiencing a season of change. As Christians we praise God that we never face change alone and are thankful that He is faithful to give us the wisdom we need when we ask Him. We also praise Him that Jesus Christ, our Rock and Fortress, is the same yesterday, today and forever!

In June, Jason Krute, long time Push The Rock staff member, who recently served as the Lehigh Valley Regional Director, left Push The Rock to follow the call of God to enter the pastorate. Jason is now serving as a Youth Pastor in the St Louis area. This September, Don Jorgensen, who served as our President for the past two and a half years, decided to retire. We appreciate both of their efforts and years of service at Push The Rock and wish them well as they continue to serve the King of kings. May God truly bless them and their families in the days ahead.

## 2010-2011 Club Volleyball Program

With the summer behind us we are looking ahead to the rapidly approaching club volleyball season. We are very excited about the 2010-2011 club season and looking forward to some great competition opportunities.

If you are a volleyball athlete potentially interested in our club, we hope that you will join us for some of our free open gym sessions being held at Bethel Church in Emmaus on Sept. 26, Oct. 10, 24, and Nov. 7 from 1-3 PM. This season we intend to offer teams for athletes ages 11-17, and will again be running our developmental program for athletes ages 11 and under.

For details about our open gym, tryout dates, individual teams and our coaching staff check out our volleyball club web pages.

To fill the gaps, Anne Walker, current Assistant Director of Missions, has enthusiastically agreed to step into the role of Lehigh Valley Regional Director. Anne has been at Push The Rock for the past two and a half years and has experience leading both camps and missions trips. We are fortunate to have someone of Anne's caliber to step into the vacant position. I will be filling the role as interim President until our board determines a path forward. Thanks in advance for your prayers for wisdom and endurance as I cram more into an already busy schedule. Despite the changes, God continues to provide multiple opportunities around the world to impact people for Christ through sports. We praise Him for a great summer of ministry and the numerous lives we were able to impact for Christ in Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, Costa Rica and in the US (IL, NJ, and PA).

As always, thank you for standing with us as partners in the ministry.



## → Inside

- (2) Mission Trip Recap
- (2) Lehigh Valley Region Camp Recap
- (3) Greater Philadelphia Region Camp Recap
- (4) Generosity!

# Mission Trip Recap

I am often asked after a mission trip if it was "successful." I always answer in the affirmative, but sometimes I am not sure I am on the same page with the person asking the question. So how do we as Push The Rock define "success" for our mission trips?

Here is how we determined that our trips in 2009-2010 were a "success":

**1. People committed to GO:** 65 people answered the call to serve with Push The Rock in Costa Rica, Italy, Spain and the Czech Republic.



**2. The Lord provided the necessary funds to go:**

All 65 people were able to go. Some raised money through support letters; some held personal fund-raising events; some paid out-of-pocket; some found jobs to help cover the costs and some



benefited from scholarship monies from Push The Rock.

**3. Everyone attended the training sessions:** We are never 100% sure people are going until they show up at the training sessions and then board the plane.

**4. We partnered with the local church:** Our primary purpose is partnering with the local church. We serve as an extension of their ministry in the community. There are local churches in each location that we partnered with to run the daily sports clinics. Two separate groups ... One team ... One purpose.

**5. We shared the Gospel:** The Gospel was clearly presented at each clinic. Every kid was introduced to Jesus and what it means to have a personal relationship with Him.

continued on page 3 >>>>>

# Lehigh Valley Region Camp Recap

Heading into each summer, it is hard to predict the plans that God has in store for Push The Rock. We set up the camps, hire the staff, determine the times and set up the schedules, but we do not know what God will do with the plans we have made and how He will use the efforts we put forth. However, what we DO know is that God brings each individual to us for a purpose and we are responsible to care for, to love and to share the message of the Gospel with each one.

Each coach was challenged to look at their position as not just a summer job, but also as an investment in the Kingdom of God. This summer we were blessed with a great team of coaches, trainers and volunteers who took that responsibility to heart, taking every opportunity to make an eternal impact in the lives of kids. The

feedback we heard most often from parents was how much they appreciated the love and attention the staff gave their children. When it comes to loving kids, we desire to set our standards as high as possible!

In the Lehigh Valley, we partnered with several churches to run 20 different camps for a total of 568 kids. Our theme this summer was "Commitment", so every day of camp we challenged the campers in different areas of their commitment to God. They learned this through chapels, team time and one-on-one conversations with coaches. One day out of the week we focused on the simple message of the Gospel and we praise God that 11 of our campers made a decision to put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior! In addition, 234 kids signed a commitment to Play For Christ in the upcoming year. This means that individually they committed to put Jesus Christ first, honoring Him in their actions and attitude as they participate in various sports. Our prayer is that the seeds planted in individual lives will be watered, take root and grow throughout the year. Praise God for the success of another great summer!



Anne Walker  
Lehigh Valley Regional Director



**6. The teams gave all they had to serve and love:**

From the crack of dawn until late into the night, the teams loved on kids, challenged and encouraged each other, competed hard and gave all they had to the community and to each other.

**7. Discipleship happened:** Each team member participated in an intense spiritual curriculum that included pre-trip devotions, a memory passage, prayer partners and Team Time (daily devotions on the trip).

**8. Lives were changed:** The feedback from each of the trips, both from our hosts and from individual team members, has been tremendous! For example,

some sense God’s call to full-time ministry, others realize it is time to get more serious about their relationship with Christ and some have a renewed passion to see those around them personally experience His love.

It is great when team members want to come back on a future trip, but that is not always what God has in store for them or for us. It is also nice to be invited back by our hosts, because it is at least a small indication of a “successful” time together, but again, that may not be in His plans. We would love to see people commit their lives to Christ on the spot, but that is not our job ... the Lord draws them unto Himself. We are, however, **THRILLED** that two men in Spain and one young man in Italy gave their lives to Christ! To God be the Glory!

Our “success” will be defined by our obedience to God’s call and His purpose for our lives.



**Chico Schlonecker**  
Director of Missions and Outreach

# Greater Philadelphia Region Camp Recap

*“I will give thanks to the LORD  
with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.”  
Psalm 9:1-2*

When the frantic pace of the summer starts to slow down at Push The Rock there is still much to be done. Our home school and after school programs are starting up, and already we are sitting down with churches to explore how we can continue to use sports to impact lives for Him. Despite the work and busy schedules, it is so important to just stop and recount the wonderful deeds of the Lord.

Our goal as a camping ministry is to partner with the local church to help it reach its community in a new and exciting way. This summer we had the privilege to work alongside five different churches, along with Penn View Christian School, to hold 12 different camps within the region. The exciting part for us is that all of our partners have their own unique ideas on who they want to reach and how they want to do it. Each camp we run has its own unique set of challenges to work through. If you were to spend time at our camps from one

week to another you would see how different each one looks. The common bond, however, is that the Gospel is being presented and the Lord is working in amazing ways!

Each camp holds its own exciting stories of young men and women coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. In addition, each of our campers are challenged to commit to Play For Christ for the next year of their lives. Not only did we see hundreds of campers make this commitment this summer, but we heard stories from campers and parents alike of how this played out for them in the previous year. Some of the most exciting reports we received were from churches who shared about children who attended camp and have since become involved in their church!

We are so grateful to each and every one of you who have played a part in the ministry this summer. Without you our ministry would not be possible; so give thanks with us as we recount the wonderful deeds of the Lord!



**Dustin Leatherman**  
Greater Philadelphia Regional Director

## Mark Your Calendar!

On **Thursday, November 4th**, we are asking you to join us at our annual **Celebration and Fund Raising Banquet** being held at Bethel Church in Emmaus. Our theme this year is "Proclaiming The Message", focusing on our desire to use the Word to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

The evening will highlight personal testimonies of what God has been doing through Push The Rock as well as provide an update on current programs and our dynamic vision for the future.

We will once again have an hors d'oeuvres hour which will feature a great silent auction and include many great items to bid on.

Don't miss out on this exciting night!

# Generosity!

August 31st marked the end of our fiscal year, the time of year in which the Internal Revenue Service, state agencies and insurance companies require us to file report after report of our financial condition. As I spend time analyzing the data, I can draw conclusions about Push The Rock's financial stability based solely upon the numbers. However, the greater impact is seen not in the numbers, but in the recognition of the importance of our vision statement to "Impact the World for Jesus Christ, One Life at a Time!"

One life at a time. The significance of this statement certainly relates to our ability to minister to individual people, but I would like to suggest that it also recognizes the impact that Push The Rock has because of the generosity of each person who contributes to this ministry.

The word generosity is a simple, yet profoundly beautiful word. We must recognize that generosity is a gift to us

from the first and ultimate giver, God. Over the last few weeks, I have read the views of many CEO's and Board Chairmen on how the economy will impact giving to their faith-based ministries. Their answers, while intuitive, were given based on where they were located and what they were doing. Recently I read a book by Gordon MacDonald titled "Generosity, Moving Toward the Life that is Truly Life". I highly recommend it to everyone. MacDonald writes, "One person's gift becomes the cause of a cry of praise from a score of others. What more could a generous giver want than the satisfaction of knowing that one small sacrifice caused a bountiful number of others to lift their hearts to heaven in worship?"

All of us at Push The Rock echo those cries of happiness as we say Thank You to all of you who continue to financially support the ministry. We praise God for each single gift from you as, together, we "Impact the World for Jesus Christ, One Life at a Time!"



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