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*Man can build a house but it takes God to build a home!
El hombre puede construir una casa pero se necesita a Dios para construir un hogar!*

HOUSE UPON THE ROCK

MINISTRY APPLICATION

MANUAL

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

II. Statement of Faith, Vision, Mission and Core Values

III. Therefore, Go!

a. Defining a House Upon the Rock Missionary

i. Missionary Intern, Short-Term and Long-Term Missionaries

ii. Requirements for Becoming a House Upon the Rock Missionary

b. Missionary Application Process

i. Becoming a House Upon the Rock Missionary Appointee

c. Appointee Process i. Getting to the Field

IV. House Upon the Rock, Ministry Applicant Manual Agreement

Appendix A. Secondary Issues

Appendix B. Support Raising Tips

Appendix C. Sample Support Letters

Introduction

Praise the Lord! You have begun the journey to explore the call to missions that God has placed on your life. Thank you for taking the steps of faith to follow the Lord's leading. We are sure that you have spent much time in prayer regarding where God is calling you to serve, and we are glad that He has led you to House Upon the Rock and to the opportunity to work with underprivileged of the world.

As you will see in the following sections of this manual, the application and appointee process is a very important part in the journey to becoming a missionary with House Upon the Rock Ministry. Each part of this process is equally significant as we learn more about you, and, in turn, as you learn more about our organization.

Please read through this manual carefully as it will help you to understand our application process and what you will need to do during each step in their process.

Serving in missions is a significant step and you will begin to feel this even as you begin the application process. Continue to cover this process in prayer, and lean on the support of your family, friends, pastor and other spiritual mentors. Be assured that the staff of House Upon the Rock Ministry will be praying for you through this process!

May God bless you!

House Upon the Rock Ministry Statement of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures, as originally given by God, are divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Our Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh; we affirm his virgin birth, sinless humanity, divine miracles, vicarious and atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension, ongoing mediatorial work and personal return in power and glory.
4. The salvation of lost and sinful humanity is possible only through the merits of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, received by faith apart from works and is characterized by regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
5. The Holy Spirit enables and empowers believers to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. The Church, the body of Christ, consists of all true believers.
7. Ultimately, God will judge the living and the dead, those who are saved unto the resurrection of life, those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Vision, Mission and Core Values

VISION

House Upon the Rock seeks to foster walking in faith, being a voice of hope and an example of love to individuals and communities in Canada and around the world as exemplified by Jesus.

MISSION

House Upon the Rock is an organization whose purpose is to share the love of God in Canada and around the world through construction, medical, education and evangelism.

VALUES THAT GUIDE HOUSE UPON A ROCK MINISTRY

In order to advance the cause of Jesus Christ, House Upon The Rock Ministry seeks to be a unifying influence that facilitates, fosters, promotes and models the following values:

- ▶ a clear and compelling vision for House Upon a Rock Ministry.
- ▶ visionary, faith-orientated and strategic leadership.
- ▶ strategic, empowering and productive gatherings, work groups and study groups, councils and conversations.
- ▶ working against the causes of disunity with any organization.
- ▶ being an informed, respected and unified voice representing the application of biblical principles.
- ▶ a deepening understanding of the role and relevance of the Christian faith in a diverse and international society.

OUR PURPOSE

House Upon a Rock Ministry is an international ministry, based out of Canada, since 2006. It works primarily in third world countries with the poor to help with their many tangible, physical needs with the main purpose of bringing each person closer together, to help unify and support individuals, families and communities. House Upon The Rock Ministry identifies needs and tries to meet these needs through various manners.

The main purpose of House Upon The Rock Ministry is to bring people closer to Jesus Christ and God. House Upon The Rock Ministry is committed to foster the growth of the poor, both physically and spiritually.

House Upon The Rock Ministry is committed to making a positive contribution to this nation, Canada, as well as in the other nations it is working in.

Therefore, GO!

Defining a House Upon the Rock Missionary

A House Upon the Rock (HUR) missionary is a person who has a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and who has been called to serve overseas with a specific purpose. This person must be willing to come alongside the other missionaries and national workers in that field and assist them in the ministry God is doing through House Upon a Rock and their various areas of ministry.

House Upon the Rock Missionary Applicant: This person is in the application process and is seeking to serve in ministry at a House Upon the Rock ministry site.

House Upon the Rock Missionary Appointee: This person has completed the application process and has been approved and appointed to serve at a ministry location. They are in the process of completing the requirements of HUR to prepare for departure to the field.

House Upon the Rock Missionary Intern: This is typically a college-aged student who serves for between one and six months on a field.

House Upon the Rock Short-Term Missionary: This person typically serves between six months and three years on a field. At the end of their term of service, if they are interested in serving long-term, the missionary may notify their Field Director and the appropriate HUR- personnel of their desire to transition to the status of long-term missionary. The missionary will be evaluated by their Field Director and the appropriate HUR staff. At this point a decision about them being approved for long-term status will be made.

House Upon the Rock Long-Term Missionary: This is a person who has been a short-term missionary, has completed their first term of service and is now serving long-term on the field.

Requirements for Becoming a House Upon the Rock Missionary

- 1. To become a House Upon the Rock Missionary, an individual must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a commitment to work with the underprivileged, and a desire to serve Christ in a cross-cultural setting.**
- 2. The applicant must be active in a local church and agree with the HUR Statement of Faith, Mission, Vision and Core Values, and the Secondary Issues document (see Appendix A).**
- 3. HUR- applicants must be 18 years old and have completed at least one year of college, or, if they have no college experience, must be at least 19 years old. Exceptions may be made for those who participate in the Missionary Intern program, but this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.**
- 4. In the case of a married couple, both husband and wife must complete the application process.**
- 5. If an applicant has been divorced, HUR will seek to understand the situation. Important considerations are whether the divorce took place before the applicant became a Christian, the circumstances surrounding the divorce, and the individual's current walk with Christ.**
- 6. The applicant will participate in language training for one to four months before they are authorized to leave for their field of service.**
- 7. The applicant will spend three weeks in cross cultural training before they are authorized to leave for their field of service.**
- 8. The applicant must be willing to raise their own support and maintain this level of support while serving overseas.**
- 9. Applicants must have 100% of their financial support before leaving for their field of service**

Missionary Application Process

Missionary Intern Application Process

- 1. All applicants must submit a Preliminary Application form.**
- 2. Once a Preliminary Application is received, the Field Director of the desired field of service is consulted as to whether or not there is an available position. The Board of Directors and the local Board of Directors will be copied on this correspondence.**
- 3. If there is an available position, the Missionary Intern Application Form is sent to the applicant.**
- 4. The Missionary Intern Application Form plus four character references - one of which is a pastoral reference - must be submitted to HUTR before the next steps of an application can be taken.**
- 5. A criminal background check may be carried out on each applicant.**
- 6. Following a satisfactory background check, the applicant will have an interview by phone or in person with the a member of the Board of Directors.**
- 7. The applicant's application, references and interview will be reviewed by the Field Director and the Short-term Missions Coordinator and a decision to accept or decline their application will be made. The Director Boards of Directors will be copied on this correspondence.**
- 8. If the applicant is accepted they will be considered a HUTR Missionary Intern Appointee.**

Short-Term and Long-Term Missionary Application Process

- 1. All applicants must submit a Preliminary Application Form.**
- 2. Once a completed Preliminary Application Form is received, the Field Director of the desired field of service is consulted as to whether or not there is an available position. The Boards of Directors will be copied on this correspondence.**
- 3. Should an applicant desire to serve in a particular field, or with a particular person or group of people, there will be due consideration given to this request and a decision made by HUTR.**
- 4. If there is an available position, the full Missionary Application Form is sent to the applicant.**
- 5. The full Missionary Application Form plus five character references must be submitted to HUTR before the next steps of an application can be taken. One of the references must be from a pastor and the other four must be references from people who have known the applicant for more than a year and who are not relatives. These documents will be reviewed by the Missionary Application Committee.**
- 6. A criminal background check may be carried out on each applicant.**
- 7. Following a satisfactory background check, the applicant may be asked to complete a psychological exam which is evaluated by an independent psychologist. The psychologist will evaluate the psychological exam results and provide House Upon the Rock with a written report. In this report, the psychologist will make a recommendation regarding the applicant's fitness for ministry with HUTR.**

8. The psychological evaluation will be reviewed by the Missionary Application Committee. If the recommendation by the psychologist is positive, the application process will move forward. If the recommendation by the psychologist gives cause for concern, the Missionary Application Committee will discuss the next steps for the applicant. A further telephone interview between the psychologist and the Appointee may be requested. If a major concern arises during the psychological exam, the application process will cease at that time and the applicant will be informed that HUTR no longer wishes to pursue their application for service. Alternative next steps for a person with a psychological exam that has caused some minor concern may be a shorter period of service, a time of counseling before they leave for service on their assigned field, or a heightened level of accountability and mentorship once serving in their field.
9. If the Operations Department decides to proceed with the application for service following the psychological evaluation, the applicant will have an in-person interview with the Short Term Missions Coordinator and Director of Operations Services.
10. The applicant's application, references and interview will be reviewed by the Missionary Application Committee and a decision to accept or decline their application will be made. The initial length of time that the missionary may serve on the field will also be agreed upon by this committee. This is typically a term of two or three years.
11. Those desiring to serve as a Long-term Missionary with House Upon the Rock International will begin with an initial Short Term of service of one to three years. This will be reviewed during the final year of the missionary's initial term of service.
12. Once approved, the applicant will be considered a HUTR Missionary Appointee for the field where they have applied to serve.

Appointee Process

Getting to the Field

It is official! You have stepped out in faith and now you are on the road to missionary service. Remember, God is good, and He is faithful. You began this process because God called you to this. He placed this ministry on your heart. He is leading and He is guiding; now the need is for you to continue to trust Him through these next steps.

Below you will see information about the Appointee process—support raising, language training and cultural training. These are all part of the preparation process that leads to departing for the field. God is the One who controls the time frame of this process, but it is also important that you play your part!

Missionary Intern Appointee Process

1. Any Missionary Intern should have raised funds or pledges totaling 100% of their support prior to their departure for the field. They should be prepared to pledge personally to cover any difference that remains at the one-month point just prior to the end of their period of service. Before the Missionary Intern leaves for their field of service, he/she must designate a method of payment to be used to cover the remaining balance of their account for that final month in the event that there is a deficit.
2. A Missionary Intern must complete all Orientation, Training and Language learning prior to leaving for the field.
3. Once all funds and all paperwork are received, the Intern Appointee has met the requirements necessary to go to the field.

4. The Short Term Missions Coordinator will oversee the candidacy process and the period of service on the field for all Missionary Interns.

Short-Term and Long-Term Appointee Process

1. As soon as the applicant becomes a Short-Term Missionary Appointee, they will be assigned to a member of the Operations Staff – either the Short-term Missions Coordinator or the Director of Operations Services – as their ‘Personnel Manager’. The Personnel Manager will oversee their candidacy process and their time on the field.
2. Shortly after their approval to the status of Missionary Appointee, a personalized budget will be given to the Appointee. This will include an itemized list of funding that the Appointee must raise for outgoing expenses and for annual expenses.
3. Short-Term Missionary Appointees will write a support letter which must be approved by their Personnel Manager before it is sent to potential supporters. Tips on writing support letters can be found in Appendix B and sample support letters are given in Appendix C.
4. In order to leave for *MissionPREP* or *MTI (Missionary Training International)* or another approved missions prep training, a Missionary Appointee must have received 50% of their support in donations and/or pledges. In order to set dates for language school and the Missionary Appointee’s arrival to a field, an Appointee must have received at least 75% of their support. To leave for the field an Appointee must have received a minimum of 90% of their donated/pledged support. *Please note some helpful tips on raising support in Appendix B.* An estimated date of arrival to the field will be decided with the Field Director, Missionary Appointee, and the missionary’s HUTR Personnel Manager. Dates Language School/Training and to *MissionPREP* or *MTI* will also be decided upon.
5. Short-Term Missionary Appointees also have the option of creating a prayer card to send to their supporters.
6. All Short-Term Missionaries will raise their own financial support, which is subject to taxes in the province or state of their residence during the appointee process.
7. HUTR recommends that all Missionary Appointees who will be serving a term longer than 1 year should prepare an official will before they leave for their field of service.
8. HUTR requires notification of an emergency contact prior to a Missionary Appointee leaving for the field. When a missionary is on the field, it is their responsibility to notify House Upon the Rock of any change in their emergency contact details.
9. HUTR requires that all Missionary Appointees register with their national Embassy in the country that they will be serving.
10. A Missionary Appointee will spend three weeks at *MissionPREP* or the *Missionary Training Institute* in the cross-cultural training program. (“PreField Training” at *MissionPREP*, <http://www.missionprep.ca> or “SPLICE” at *MTI*, <http://www.mti.org>.) Or equivalent program.
11. Depending on the missionary’s term of service, a Missionary Appointee will spend up to four months in language school [Two recommended schools are in Mexico (*Harvest Language Center*) or Guatemala (*Christian Spanish Academy*) or they will participate in language training through the use of a tutor. Any language training that can be done during the support-raising phase will be an added benefit to the missionary and increase their ability to communicate once on their field of service. You can not begin full time work until you can communicate in the language of the country you are going to.
12. Once all these requirements have been met, the Missionary Appointee is promoted to the status of Missionary and is authorized to go to the field.
13. A missionary’s support can commence at the time that the missionary leaves to begin cultural and language training.

House Upon the Rock Ministry

Missionary Application Manual – Agreement

House Upon the Rock Ministry’s mission is more than merely providing help to the underprivileged. Our vision is to share the love and Word of God to all we encounter, to see peoples’ lives transformed, and for them to become productive citizens and effective Christian witnesses in their own societies.

Our missionaries are an important part of the community that God has formed to allow us to implement this vision. The purpose for such detailed processes of application and candidacy is to ensure that the missionaries selected to serve on our ministry fields reflect the beliefs, vision, mission and values of House Upon the Rock Ministry. Our application and candidacy process is implemented to provide safeguards to protect both the potential missionary and the potential field of ministry, ensuring that the missionary is well suited and prepared for the ministry where he or she will be serving. Prayer is a vital part of this process as we seek to place missionaries where they will best be able to use the gifts that God has given to them in order to enrich the local ministry and the global community of House Upon the Rock Ministry.

“After reading the House Upon the Rock Ministry Missionary Application Manual, I agree to the terms and procedures stated within. I agree that at any time during my application and candidacy process, House Upon the Rock Ministry has, at its sole discretion, the right to cease pursuit of my application or to withdraw its offer of enlisting my service.”

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix A: House Upon the Rock Ministry

Secondary Issues Document

"In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, charity. In all things, Jesus Christ." – Chrysostom

As we build our ministry teams around the world, it is our desire at House Upon the Rock Ministry to:

Be inclusive, not exclusive

Be ecumenical in spirit but not in structure

Be evangelical but not separatist

Promote liberty with responsibility, but not license for sinful behaviour

Express an attitude of deference toward others regarding matters where there are differing interpretations of Scripture

As an international fellowship of evangelical believers who come from a variety of backgrounds, *House Upon the Rock Ministry* seeks to be sensitive to the variations of church traditions, Christian convictions, and local cultures that are represented within our *House Upon the Rock* family. While we hold unwaveringly to the essential doctrines found in our Statement of Faith, our desire for harmony means that workers sent for ministry must avoid promoting extreme positions concerning "secondary issues" (i.e. *those matters we view as non-essentials for salvation*) Some examples of "secondary issues" with contrasting views are:

Charismatic expression gifts (e.g. tongues, prophesy, healing, etc.)

Dietary restrictions (including the consumption of wine, meat and tobacco)

Head coverings, hair length, facial hair, tattoos, body piecing

Methods of childbirth, child rearing and child discipline

Economic views

Clothing styles and jewelry

Bible translations

Mode of baptism (including infant baptism)

Communion beliefs and practices

Medical practices and healing methods

Divorce and remarriage

Viewing of television and films

Political views

House Upon the Rock Ministry recognizes that Christians around the world hold varying levels of heart conviction in regard to the "secondary issues" listed above, and to other issues not listed. As we build teams of nationals and missionaries, it is important for us to be aware whether or not our prospective missionaries: (1) Hold any strong beliefs in areas we would view as non-essentials for salvation; (2) Have a true attitude of deference regarding their "personal rights" on the field while in ministry; (3) Are willing to adjust their habits and lifestyle practices while on the field, if so required; and (4) Will diligently seek to show sensitivity to their host culture.

If any of these issues (i.e. those being referred to by House Upon the Rock Ministry as "secondary") are strong enough in a missionary applicant's mind to be viewed as "primary" or "essential" for their Christian faith and practice, the candidate is strongly encouraged to discuss such beliefs with staff from House Upon the Rock. (Some possible clarifying questions for the applicant to ask himself or herself are: *"When I see Christians who follow the Lord in ways other than my position on this issue, do I view them as sinful and misguided? Do I have the strong urge to correct their wrong beliefs or practices? Do I consider myself to be an 'activist' in promoting my position on this issue?"*).

House Upon the Rock Ministry does not desire to change anyone's personal beliefs on these issues, but does seek to make wise decisions regarding the selection and assignment of new missionaries for House Upon the Rock ministry fields. It the goal of House Upon the Rock Ministry to screen all missionary applicants in such a way as to maximize their compatibility with the House Upon the Rock ministry team in the location where they will serve. The Board of Directors of House Upon the Rock Ministry recognizes that this missionary screening process may be somewhat general in nature and that an additional level of screening may be necessary at the field level. House Upon the Rock field leaders and national boards are therefore authorized to develop policy for their local and foreign staff, which may be in addition to this House Upon the Rock Ministry policy. Due to the cultural, historic and theological variations on a given field, the leadership of certain House Upon the Rock ministry field locations may hold more restrictive policies on these "secondary issues" than those set by the Board of Directors. All missionaries will be expected to willingly abide by the field's stated policy for the duration of their assignment on that field.

"In signing below, I represent that I have read and fully intend to comply with the above-stated policy of House Upon the Rock Ministry. I also agree to abide by any additional policy guidelines required of me by the House Upon the Rock leadership in the particular field where I am assigned to perform ministry."

Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix B: Support Raising

Once you are approved, one important aspect of your preparation for working with House Upon the Rock Ministry is recruiting a team of people who will commit themselves to stand with you in prayer and financially support you as you serve in ministry. This team may be comprised of family, friends, your church, and others who might be interested in helping you and the ministry in which you will be involved. Building a support team is based on relationships and requires a commitment to communication if it is to be lasting and effective. Recruiting your support team will require communication with your partners on an on-going basis.

We advise you to begin sharing about your upcoming ministry as soon as you know that you are going to the field. Your excitement about the ministry will spread to those with whom you share. 90% of your funding must be received prior to purchasing your airline tickets to the field.

As soon as possible, make an appointment with your Pastor /Church Missions Committee to seek their counsel and to request their prayer and financial support. Take House Upon the Rock brochures with you to the meeting. Feel free to have them contact our office if they have questions that you are unable to answer. It is important for your church to be involved with you as you prepare to go to the mission field.

Tools for Support Raising

Here are a few suggestions of things that you would want to include when you share about your ministry:

A. Your Testimony

Share what God is doing in your life and how He is leading you to work with House Upon the Rock. Share what you will be doing on the field. What has the Lord been teaching you in the process?

B. The Story

Tell people about the history of House Upon the Rock and where House Upon the Rock is currently working. Point out that House Upon the Rock is a well-established mission.

Look at the brochures you have received or contact the House Upon the Rock office for additional information.

C. Brochures

We can provide you with a master copy of which you can then make as many copies as you will need.

D. Prayer Letters

One way you should communicate with your support team is through prayer letters (see “The Prayer Letter” section below for more detail).

E. Reply Cards

Once you are approved as a missionary, you will be sent a personalized reply card that we request that you use in your prayer letters and when you are sharing with your church and friends. It is best for our receipting purposes to use this standardized form. If an individual desires to support you in prayer or through financial gifts they may fill out and send in the reply card to House Upon the Rock and we will make sure that you are notified of their response. When sending out your prayer letters, you should enclose the reply card and return envelope (with House Upon the Rock’s address) with each letter. Feel free to make copies of the card that is enclosed (use any colour and weight of paper that you choose).

The Prayer Letter

A prayer letter is a good way to communicate your ministry and ministry needs to friends and family that you see often, and also to those you may not see very frequently.

We suggest that you compile a list of names of those to whom you would like to send your letter. To make your list, take a blank piece of paper and make three columns, entitled: “Family,” Friends,” and “Acquaintances.” List everyone that comes to mind. Make sure you have current and correct addresses for each name. Don’t forget to include your own family on your list!

Write your support letter as if you are writing to a good friend, not to a stranger or acquaintance. Be yourself, share your heart, your desire for ministry, or share a personal goal that you want to achieve in your ministry. You may find it easier to photocopy your original, generic letter and then fill in the salutation (e.g. Dear Tom and Amy,). You can make your letter more personal by signing your name and writing a personal “P.S.” at the bottom. Enclose a reply card and a return envelope with the House Upon the Rock return address. When you arrive on the field you are expected to send out a prayer letter by mail or by email at least four times a year.

Below is an outline of what you may include in your prayer letter.

A. Introduction—Tell them...

What you are doing

Where God has been leading you

Your future plans with House Upon the Rock

B. About House Upon the Rock

Brief history

Philosophy and goals

Field ministries

Your specific field of ministry within House Upon the Rock and some background about it, including pictures and a map

C. Prayer and Financial Needs

Tell them your prayer needs (request that they become a prayer partner, and give specific prayer requests)

Ask them for financial partnership

Tell them how they may contact you if they have questions or want more information.

Include a date by which you wish to have all of your support. (This gives the supporter an idea of how much time he or she could contribute).

Before sending out your prayer letter.

Support Gifts

Be specific of how and where people can send financial support.

Enclose a Reply Card with every letter you send out. Donors contributing to your support should send the reply card back to you.

3. Be sure to write a thank you note for every gift you receive, before you are on the field and while you are there. It is your responsibility to communicate your appreciation to your donors. You should send a letter when you return home, sharing about your experience while overseas.

Appendix C: Sample Support Letters

Sample #1

Dear Church Family, Date

It is with great excitement and joy that I write to you with a report of my plans. As many of you remember, I sent an update letter in January, telling about my plans to return to the Haiti with House Upon the Rock Ministry. However, God had other things planned for me! In March, House Upon the Rock approached me to consider placement in the Dominican Republic and to postpone placement in Haiti. I immediately saw the Lord's provision in the positions that were available in Haiti. There is a large number of underprivileged and Haitians living in the DR and House Upon the Rock has a flourishing ministry amongst those communities. This is allowing me to still work with Haitian people without actually being in Haiti!

In June, my Dad and I had the privilege to visit Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic and the ministry that House Upon the Rock has there. During the first three days of our five day visit, I knew that I wanted to return. God's provision and guidance in the entire situation has made it clear to me that this is where He wants me for the immediate future, and I will gladly go!

House Upon the Rock has a strong, grounded and flourishing ministry in the Dominican Republic. House Upon the Rock began ministry in the Dominican Republic 2003. The ministry continues to flourish. I am so excited at God's work and directions toward ministry in an area that I never would have considered. It has been such a journey of faith to see the Lord's preparation and provision already in place. I immediately felt at home and am confident that despite the difficulties of transition, I will quickly adapt and thoroughly enjoy my term there. I'm excited and anxious to get there!

There are many details and projects that I will be working hard to accomplish between now and my departure. I am hoping to leave during the beginning of January 2024 and stay for a year and a half, with the possibility of lengthening my term. One of my main goals is to gather a team of prayer supports that will support me in daily prayer pray during my months of preparation and years of service. I will be in regular contact with these individuals to stay updated on their personal needs that I will be praying for, as well as my current prayer requests. I know from experience the necessity of a strong team of prayer partners. It is absolutely vital for any successful ministry. If you are interested in being a prayer partner, please indicate so on the response card and I will contact you. Additionally, during the next few months, I am working to raise the financial support that will make it possible for me to concentrate my time and energy on serving the Lord. Please be in prayer for the Lord's continued provision and guidance as I work to follow His lead during the support-raising process. Also, see the reverse side of the photo information card enclose for a list of prayer requests that you can begin praying for now.

Susie Mission 111 Marlin Drive, Brownsburg, FL 23426 (511) 234-5555 ☎️ susiem@yahoo.com

For more about House Upon the Rock, go to: www.houseupontherock.net

House Upon the Rock Ministry, Unit #3023-MSCDR, 3170 Airmans Drive, Fort Pierce FL, 34946

Sample #2

October 30, 2007

Dear Family and Friends,

In the summer of 2005, Jenny took a trip to the Dominican Republic with a group from our church to go and visit House Upon the Rock missionaries Bob and Jane Smith. The purpose of the trip was to see and support their work by helping them build new homes for the underprivileged and generally share and experience God's love. This was her first ever mission trip and she wasn't sure what to expect. What she experienced was far beyond what she could ever have imagined, highlighted by her direct participation in family who the house was being built for. ******Describe in your own words your experience, give a little story.******

Over the past two years, Jenny's idea has stayed in the background of our thoughts and prayers. As many of you know, we had, Wilita, a teenager from Congo living with us who needed our help to get through high school, in addition to our own three little boys with their own sets of needs not to mention our jobs, etc. There seemed to be an overwhelming number of things to consider in making a move to a place like the Dominican Republic. For both of us, the spirit was willing but the body (including the brain) was a little reluctant. But then this past August, God took care of all that and made it very obvious that where He wants us to be next in working with the underprivileged in the DR. Specifically, David's primary job will be ****** describe what you will be doing once you get to the mission field.******

We will be living in a small town in the beautiful mountains called Jarabacoa. Life there will obviously have some new challenges including limited access to electricity, cold (and extremely low pressure) showers, bugs, really bland food (how many different ways can you eat rice, beans and chicken?), culture-shock and a major language barrier--at least initially.

For these reasons and many more, we absolutely need your prayers. This is probably our most important request that you would partner with us by praying for us often. However, before we can go anywhere, we need to raise all of our own financial support to cover our living expenses, travel, local transport, and the House Upon the Rock programs we are in charge of. The budget House Upon the Rock has projected for all that is \$5000/month or the two years we have committed to be in the DR or \$120,000 total. We are counting mostly on you, our friends and family, to join with us in raising this support. We hope you will see this as an opportunity to directly impact the lives of the underprivileged on earth in a major way and, hopefully, affect a long-term, positive change in this part of the world where it is so desperately needed. We are simply the "hands and feet on the street" your role is just as vital to this work. Literally, we can't do it without you. Please pray that God will help us to meet our goal and prayerfully consider how you can help support our mission work in the Dominican Republic. Finally, we are praying that you, too, will come and visit us and all the kids we will be working with in the DR. Hasta la vista!

Grace and Peace,
The Smith

thesmiths@gmail.com

809 555 4631

For more about House Upon the Rock, go to: www.houseupontherock.net

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