

Venezuela 2006

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Matthew 16:18

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Note:

Make checks payable to Team Expansion. Do not put my name anywhere on the check. Donations are tax-deductible. Feel free to contact me with questions, news, prayer requests, etc.

OCTOBER 2006

Together Venezuela

Church planting with Samuel Schutz

CARACAS, VENEZUELA
C A, VENEZUELA

2 on 22: Siempre Con Cristo Adds Service

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On October 22nd, Siempre Con Cristo, our church plant in C a, added a second Sunday service.

We anticipated the addition when we moved then single service from the afternoon to the morning in September. Attendance was over capacity and soon we were announcing the arrival of a second service with the rally cry "2 el 22!"

The addition was much needed. Our locale seats 55 and we averaged 68 the last two Sundays in October.

If more people continue to come to hear the Good News we hope to rent the local next door and demolish the wall in-between! Please pray as we begin talking to mall authorities about the possibility.

The 22nd of October also brought an expansion in the Sunday school programs. There are now four adult Sunday school courses being taught along with the children's class.



October 29, 11am service: The saints worship Jesus in Iglesia Cristiana Siempre Con Cristo.

Lives are changed, relationships are built, strongholds are broken down. Thank you for making all of this possible. Praise God for allowing us to share in His work in Venezuela.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

Carlos Enrique Is Back



Great news: Carlos Enrique, our drummer who last month left to attend college out west, decided the situation wasn't right and returned to C a.

With him we were four strong leading worship the final two weeks of the month and the music was rocking; high quality and high emotion. More good news: Noel led worship on the 22nd and did very well. Currently Noel and I rotate as Sunday worship leaders.

Renny and I rotate as youth worship leaders.



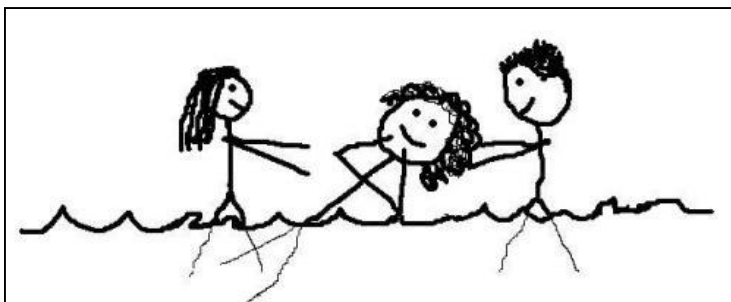
October 29, 9am service: Carlos Enrique and I lead worship.

SCC Youth Baptize Anna

Genesis, one of our many great youth, was trying to convince Anna to get baptized. Anna, who came out of the Adventist church and has been in SCC off and on, said she wanted to but there was always something in the way, like her touring rock band.

They don't know what to do. Anna leaves. Genesis calls Dairo to ask him how to encourage Anna. Dairo tells her "just baptize her." So she grabs the other youth girls and says "Dairo says we can baptize her!" They run to grab Anna and find a pool. Genesis and Elías, baptize Anna in José Manuel's house with the girls cheering them on.

Praise God that our young Venezuelan Christians are evangelizing and baptizing the lost youth of this community and this country.



Artist's rendering of Genesis and Elías, two Cúa youth, baptizing Anna. No photos are available because no missionary was there to take pictures! This is a great step towards an indigenous church.

Murder in Ponsigué

A gang of thugs from Ponsigué is battling a gang from a barrio nearby and our brothers are caught in the middle. We have one of our two weekly cell meetings in this neighborhood and as many 12 of our church members call Ponsigué home.

The morning of October 22, thugs shot and killed an innocent adolescent in Ponsigué mistaking him for a rival gang member. As expected, revenge came the night of October 28 when two more people were killed during gang shootings. Please join us in praying for safety.

Christmas In July Arrives

Thank you to the Mission Team and the brethren of Meadow Park Church of Christ for the Christmas in July gifts. I must admit I have already opened, and am enjoying, some of the gifts which include Christian music CDs and assorted American candies. Merry Christmas!



Christmas in July gives me reason to smile. Thank you MPCC.

Bible Conference: Youth

Doug Otten, former Home Depot executive and 20 year veteran as youth pastor in Los Angeles, came for our fall Bible Conference. Doug spoke on "Breaking Youth Paradigms." The conference was a blessing for all of us involved with youth leadership.

We Team Expansion missionaries in Venezuela hold three Bible Conferences each year inviting prominent Bible College/Seminary professors and successful pastors to come to Venezuela and share their expertise with the mission's congregations.



Doug Otten (right) teaches while Eric translates.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the baptism of Anna.
- ◆ **Praise** for growth and improvement of Cúa worship teams.
- ◆ **Pray** for my search for housing in Cúa.
- ◆ **Pray** for possible expansion of our local.
- ◆ **Pray** for my health. I came down with some weird Venezuelan flu, again.

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