



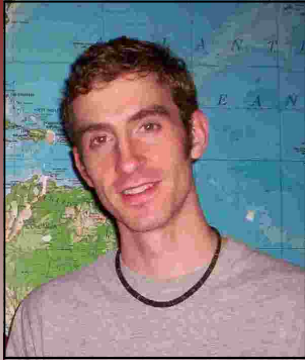
JANUARY 2007

Team Expansion

# Together Venezuela

Church Planting with Sam Schutz

CÚA, VENEZUELA  
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA



## Venezuela 2007

*"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.

## Moving Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The new year is just beginning and the Lord is already blessing the work in Venezuela. First, we have seen a tremendous amount of financial support to begin the year. This will allow us to purchase a mission vehicle very soon and it will help us accommodate the second of God's blessings. A new home!

For months we had been searching for a house or apartment to rent in Cúa so I could live near Siempre Con Cristo. There was nothing. Between the potentially chaotic presidential election looming and new socialistic legislation granting renters incredible liberties, homeowners were wary to enter the market.

But when I was still in the U.S. this winter, I received an e-mail from Eric saying



Myself working on this very newsletter in my new living room.

that a church member had a friend who would rent us a room. We made them a generous offer and they rented us the entire house. I moved in a day after returning to Venezuela on January 24th.

Living in Cúa instead of distant Caracas, has already allowed me to grow closer to my SCC family, and I am certain it will help us to achieve our goals in 2007. To find out what exactly our 2007 goals are, check out my PMP on page two.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

## Meet Matt Johnson

Matt Johnson served in Cúa as a Pathways Intern while I was a Quest Apprentice in 2005. He liked what he saw and decided to come back full-time.

Fully supported, Matt has been waiting since July for a religious visa. With no end in sight he has decided to enter Venezuela on the three-month tourist visas that I use. He arrives March 23rd.

Matt drove up from Springfield, Illinois to visit me for a weekend while I was in Rochester in January. It was great to

spend time with him, sharing all that has happened in Venezuela, and dreaming about the future work. Matt is an accomplished bass player and will help out with the worship teams among other ministries. When he arrives Matt and I will be roommates in the newly rented house.



Matt and I in Rochester during his January visit.

## 2007 Personal Ministry Plan Four January Baptisms

As we do every year I have drawn up my goals for 2007 and published them here in order that you might know the direction of the ministry and that you might be praying for the goals throughout the year, helping us to establish an indigenous church in Cúa, Venezuela.

We feel that God has challenged us to lead 40 people to repentance and baptism in 2007. With the baptisms of Yohana, Albert, Richard and Miguel in January, we have started the year on pace.

Yohana is Yohalí's sister (see June 2006 Newsletter). Their mother died unexpectedly during late November.



Yohana (middle, right) embraces sister Yohalí after being baptized at the camp in January.

A hard life got harder for the two sisters who are left to fend for themselves and Yohana's 2 year old daughter.

Albert started coming to the youth group in December.

He dresses in

black and wears chains on his pants. He might be called a loner. During his second visit to the youth group he told me, "Everyone here is so nice. Are all Christians this happy?"

Richard and Miguel are two young kids from the dangerous Ponsigué neighborhood. Richard is Betsabeth's brother. Miguel is his friend and is already famous in Siempre Con Cristo for his beaming smile. Pastor in 2017?

### Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the new house in Cúa.
- ◆ **Praise** for an amazing start to 2007 financial support.
- ◆ **Pray** for my 2007 goals.
- ◆ **Pray** for direction in shopping for a vehicle.
- ◆ **Pray** for house accommodations and adaptation to living in Cúa.

1. **Serve as missionary on Cúa sub-team leading Siempre Con Cristo to be an indigenous church**
  - Self-propagating
    - 100 average Sunday attendance
    - 40 baptisms
  - Self-governing
    - Leadership development (see below)
  - Self-supporting
    - 3.000.000 Bs. monthly offering
2. **Serve as worship leader for Siempre Con Cristo**
  - Hold Saturday morning rehearsals
  - Hold weekly lessons in guitar, bass, drums and voice (Alejandro, Daya, Ricardo, Gesiel, Yohalí, Albert, Elías, Kristel, Betzabeth, Angélica, Victor, José Manuel, Johana, Mizbar, Dairo, more...)
  - Add 8-16 musicians
  - Incorporate drama and dance ministries
  - Train Noel as worship leader
3. **Serve as worship leader for Saturday Youth Group**
  - Hold Friday rehearsals
  - Train Renny as youth worship leader
4. **Serve as coordinator for Wednesday prayer and praise night**
  - Lead prayer and facilitate with music
  - Incorporate other leaders and ministries
5. **Lead worship in Thursday Night Cell meetings**
  - Capacitate others to lead music in cells (Daya, Victor, Renny, Dairo...)
6. **Serve as Siempre Con Cristo youth leader**
  - 50 average Saturday attendance
  - 10+ youth baptisms
  - Preach youth sermons in rotation
  - Help lead July mission trip to San Cristobal
7. **Host Ric Rozsa and team for October Bible Conference**
8. **Accomodate new house and make successful vehicle purchase early in 2007**

**Team Expansion**

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