



FEBRUARY 2007

Team Expansion

Together Venezuela

Church Planting with Sam Schutz

CÚA, VENEZUELA



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.

The Ultimate Goal Of The Church

"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't."

- John Piper¹

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Nothing is more important in a church than truly passionate worship for Christ Jesus. And while music is only one form of worship, let's face it, it's an important form, in America and especially here in Venezuela.

At this time the biggest part of my ministry in Siempre Con Cristo is with music. It was a passion for preaching the Gospel that drove me to the mission field. However the Lord has shown me that, right now, I am needed more for my musical talents. In a normal week I prepare and lead worship in

- a Wednesday night prayer and praise hour,
- two Thursday night cells,
- a Saturday youth group,
- and two Sunday morning worship services.

It is always my goal to equip and train leaders for SCC. Thus began in February a new aspect of my music ministry: weekly music lessons. I currently give lessons in guitar, bass guitar, drums, and voice. Of the many requesting lessons, I have hand-selected 10 students based on their faithfulness to the ministry and their potential to one day serve the church as worship leaders.

I was once reluctant to take on a role so focused on music. I eventually accepted it and indeed now I have even



Elias, a promising youth who lives in a house with dirt floors, at his drum lesson with drumsticks he carved from tree branches.

embraced it. What a privilege it is to help new believers express praise and thanksgiving for their recent salvation.

*"When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever."*¹

May you and I to strive to bring more and more worship to our Creator until, our mission over, we worship Him in His presence.

With Joy in Christ,
Sam

¹ "Let The Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy Of God In Missions," by John Piper, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Team Planning Retreat

At the beginning of each year our team of missionaries holds a planning retreat where we share our personal goals and review and revise our team goals.



Dave Linn (second from right) at the team planning retreat shares advice from his work in Casarapa, a congregation of over 500 people and by far the biggest of Team Expansion's church plants in Venezuela.

This year we spent a few days together in the beach town of Higuerote swimming, singing, eating and meeting. You read about my personal goals in the January Newsletter. As for our team's vision, it remains unchanged: **Plant 12 self-governing, self-propagating, and self-supporting Christian churches in Venezuela by the year 2010.**

Dollars, Bolívares And PB&J

Upon reentering Venezuela at the end of January, I began the process of electronically transferring dollars in the U.S. to bolívares in Venezuela. Now, this involves wire transfers, account transfers, and buying and selling of international stocks in the two currencies. It sounds complicated but it actually works quite well.

However, it took me a while to learn the process and even longer to actually receive the money. Six weeks to be exact. It was a six week lesson in patience and frugality. I praise God that he has provided through you, the partners of this mission. I also praise God that I can now afford to eat more than just sandwiches three times a day!

Sandra Baptized

Sandra's sister, Hilda, has been a regular at Siempre Con Cristo since she was baptized in December of 2005. Hilda has persistently invited Sandra to go to church with her, but Sandra has always had some excuse.

Until Sandra began to notice some changes. Her little sister had more joy, had more peace in her life and, above all, was a stronger person. "My little sister is four years younger than me and she is the stronger woman. Something is wrong here," she said.

It was then that Sandra began attending on Sunday's. Shortly she was a regular at all the weekly meetings and soon after she repented and was baptized.



Sandra is baptized (left), and afterwards smiles with her sister, Hilda, who brought her to church.

Now both Sandra and Hilda are urging their two brothers to attend church, which they do on occasion. Please pray for the complete conversion of this family.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the baptism of Sandra.
- ◆ **Praise** that the currency exchanges are finally working smoothly.
- ◆ **Pray** for the development of the young musicians currently taking lessons. Pray that they grow both spiritually and as leaders as well as musically.
- ◆ **Pray** for my ongoing search for a dependable, quality vehicle from an honest seller.

Team Expansion

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