



APRIL 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.

Thania and Janet: Two April Baptisms

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We rejoiced in April as two special ladies were baptized into Christ. Thania is a high school biology teacher and has been with us for over a year. We found out she wasn't baptized so we explained everything to her and she was baptized almost immediately.

Thania is a real firecracker. Her husband died years ago leaving her alone to raise three kids, all of whom are in the church. Years of teaching in a notoriously rowdy high school have given her a thick skin and a commanding voice. We expect that she will share her faith with few reservations, and indeed she already has. More on this in the May Newsletter.

Janet and her husband are Colombians and moved to Venezuela. Her husband, a strong Christian, has been struggling to find work but in the midst of the stress the two have found strength in Christ and in his congregation. Janet was baptized at the end of April.

Praise God that His Kingdom on earth is constantly growing, being filled with His chosen.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam



Thania is baptized April 14th in her pool in her back yard. Siempre Con Cristo added a believer and a baptistery! Hallelujah!

Lookout Editor Gives Holiness Conference

We were honored to have Shawn McMullen, editor of *The Lookout* magazine, as the speaker for our latest Bible Conference. The two day conference was held during Holy Week and the theme was, appropriately, Holiness.

Shawn McMullen (right) speaks on Holiness. The SCC worship (below) band sings about Holiness.



New Local Progress

You read last month that the Lord answered our prayers and provided us with a newer, bigger local. In April, we began the accommodation process by:

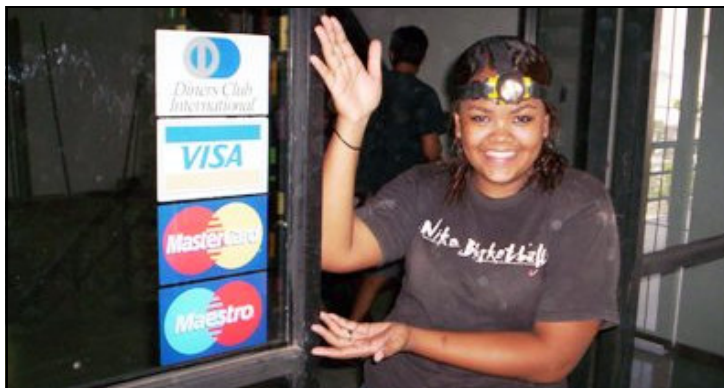
- tearing down a wall;
- renovating two bathrooms;
- replacing faulty plumbing;
- and cleaning, cleaning, cleaning.

José Manuel (left) breaks down barriers to the gospel; Dairo (right) kneels before the throne; and Kristel (below) explains that SCC accepts Visa and MasterCard offerings.



There is a lot of work to be done before we can move in and this is just the beginning. Please pray for the accommodation of our new local.

Meanwhile, we are still cramming over 80 people into our small local every Sunday. We are convinced that Siempre Con Cristo is ready to explode. With a larger facility, more people will be able to share in the community of Siempre Con Cristo and more people will hear the message of Jesus presented in powerful ways. Stay tuned...



Crime Wave Report

The personal security threat in Venezuela continues to hit close to home:

- In March, thieves broke into Eric’s Land Cruiser while it was parked inside his gated garage in Caracas.
- In April, during our Thursday night cell at Rosalia’s house in Nueva Cúa, Rosa, a cell regular who lives three doors down, was robbed at gunpoint by three men. She didn’t make it to the cell that night.
- The same men have hit 4 homes in the neighborhood. On the corner outside of Rosalia’s house, they robbed a bus driver and sent him home without a stitch of clothing!
- Cúa vandals lobbed beer bottles into my carport and porch on consecutive days. My neighbors tell me this is done to determine if anyone is at home or if the house is empty for robbing.



Broken beer bottles litter my carport. Please pray for our safety.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the baptisms of Thania and Janet.
- ◆ **Pray** for the preparations for the October Bible Conference with Meadow Park’s Ric Rozsa speaking on Worship.
- ◆ **Pray** for the safety of all believers in Venezuela.
- ◆ **Pray** for the political situation and that no government would hinder the work in Venezuela.

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