



AUGUST 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, addressed to my forwarding agent. Do not put my name anywhere on the check. Donations are tax-deductible. Feel free to contact me with questions, news, prayer requests, etc.

SCC Youth "Called" At Summer Camp

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Summer just is not complete with out a trip to camp. In August we took 25 youth from Siempre Con Cristo to our mission's camp in Higuerote, a town three hours from Cua.

The camp's theme was "The Called." For four days we talked about the call of God on their lives to grow spiritually, to

serve, and to reach the world with His Gospel. The camp's message had quite an impact on our youth as two kids, Eric and Johanna, felt called to give their lives to Jesus and be baptized. More on this below.

I was called upon to lead the more than 120 kids from our various church plants in an evening of worship with our SCC youth band. As well I had the pleasure of serving as a family dad for a great small group of kids.

In a country where a lot said and done in the name of revolution, we are raising up a generation of students committed to the Call of Christ: the real revolution.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam



Kids from SCC and our other church plants sing God's praises during a night of worship at Youth Summer Camp.

Three Youth Baptisms in August

Eric and Johanna are two high school students that have been attending the SCC youth group for about three months. They were both baptized a week after a great camp experience.

The Lord is transforming families in Venezuela. You read in the February Newsletter that Sandra was baptized after being preached to by her sister Hilda. In August their brother Lisandro also decided to be a follower of Jesus. Now the three siblings are praying that their mother make the same decision.



Johanna and Eric are baptized (left). Siblings Hilda, Lisandro, and Sandra (with son Marcelo) are now all baptized Christians.



Youth Head West For Short Term Mission Trip

From July 29th to August 6th SCC sent 13 of its members, including eight youth, on a mission trip to the border towns of San Cristobal, Venezuela and Cúcuta, Colombia. Once there, they worked alongside Juan Flores (banner photo with baseball cap), a Venezuelan pastor who was sent out last year from our El Bosque church plant in Caracas to start a new church in his hometown San Cristobal.

While there, the group baptized 3 people at the newer church plant in Cúcuta. We are praising God as the mission here in Venezuela continues to grow and even expands into Colombia!

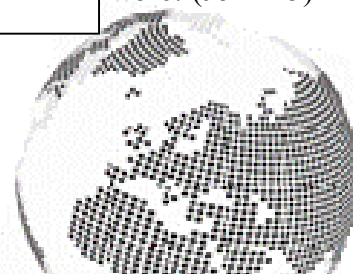
It was exciting to hear testimonies from the trip and how lives were changed in Colombia. But perhaps the most significant result from the trip was the change that occurred in our youth. Renny seemed to mature overnight and has been a diligent youth worship director ever since. Geziel was convicted of being a lukewarm

Christian and is convinced that she needs start using her gift of singing again. Kristel and Elias are on fire for missions and Genesis has a spark of her own (and that has her mom worried!).

Once again I am reminded that the church is at its strongest when it is giving itself away. The church must have a missionary vision, a vision of outreach and sacrifice, if it is to enjoy to the fullest the inner working of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said on one occasion that God cuts off his blessings from those who don't produce results. But those who do produce, He blesses, so that they produce even more! (John 15)



The SCC short-term mission team heads west. Clockwise from top left: Thania, Kristel, Genesis, Dario Jesus, Rois, Jessica, Paul, Eric, Renny, Maria Victoria, Elias, Isbeth. Not pictured: Dairo



Left: Isbeth and Elias clown around with children. Right: The people spill out of the tiny house church into the street for Sunday worship in San Cristobal. Front page banner photo: Boys of San Cristobal listen to an evangelistic message after a game of soccer.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** that Eric, Johanna and Lisandro were baptized in August.
- ◆ **Praise** that we will be opening 3 new cell group Bible studies in September.
- ◆ **Praise** for the successful youth camp and short term mission trip.
- ◆ **Pray** for safety as one of the new cells will be located in Bicentenario, a dangerous barrio notorious for gang activity and robberies.

Team Expansion

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