



SEPTEMBER 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.

Cells Replicate, Christ's Body Grows

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The church in Cúa Venezuela continues to advance and knock down Satan's strongholds.

In September, Siempre Con Cristo opened up three new cell groups. We



Nelida (left) smiles with cell member Rosita in her home where she hosts the Bicentenario cell.

started the year with two. Our goal for 2007 was to add one more which we did early in the year. And now the cells have multiplied, giving us six total.

One of the new cells meets in Bicentenario, a barrio near our church facility which I am told is "extremely dangerous." After going door-to-door, we had four "azotes del barrio" (young men in-

involved in drugs and robbery) show up for the cell meeting. The cell's host occasionally misses Sunday services because of the violence and drug activity in the neighborhood of which these four men are principle players! Please pray.

The following is a list of the six cells that meet on Thursday nights and the date of their inception.

- Nueva Cúa (March 2005)
- Ponsigué 1 (June 2005)
- Santa Rosa 1 (February 2007)
- Bicentenario (September 2007)
- Ponsigué 2 (September 2007)
- Santa Rosa 2 (September 2007)

I help with worship in the Ponsigué 1 and Santa Rosa 1 cells and I am part of the teaching rotation in Santa Rosa 1.

Thank you for sharing in this ministry and helping to expand the Kingdom.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

Youth Organize VBS

Kristel, an SCC youth, lives in La Morita, a nice neighborhood with lots of young kids. Early in September, as the kids of La Morita were out of school for summer break, she took the initiative to recruit a team of SCC youth and organize a 3-day Vacation Bible School. Heavy rains limited activities to a day and a half but her neighbors were pleased nonetheless.



Face and body paint, that's VBS!

Husband and Wife Baptized

Juan Carlos is a policeman in Charallave, a city that neighbors Cúa. He only occasionally attends SCC on Sundays but he is a regular at the Nueva Cua cell. In the meetings he often shares shocking stories of the violence he encounters as a cop. He says he prays every day and gives thanks for God's protection.



Juan and Franca come out of the baptism waters all smiles.

In August he began to bring his wife Franca to the Thursday night cell. For a while the two were living in different cities and their marriage was struggling. In September the two started making efforts to strengthen their relationships with God and with each other. They were both baptized September 8th.

Join us in celebrating the two lives God added to His Kingdom. And please pray for Juan Carlos and Franca, his safety, their marriage and their new lives together in Christ.



Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** that Juan Carlos and Franca were baptized
- ◆ **Pray** for Juan Carlos' safety as a police officer
- ◆ **Praise** for 3 new cells which together are now averaging 80-90 people in attendance weekly.
- ◆ **Pray** that God would work in hearts and that He would reap a ripe harvest in the new Bicentenario cell.

Pastors, Present and Future

On September 17 and 18 David Linn, along with Eric Barry and the other pastors of the mission's churches put on another Pastors Retreat at the camp in Higuero. With 3 to 4 retreats held yearly, these are normally for pastors and missionaries. On this occasion we extended the invitation to church members who felt called by God to full time ministry.

We were excited to have five Venezuelans from the Cua church plant attend the retreat along with Matt, Eric, Dairo and myself. Three youth were included in that



group and all of them feel a calling to the mission field. Pray that God would mold these young servants into leaders.

Above: Representing SCC are Renny, Mizbar, Jose Manuel, Isbet, Matt, Eric and Kristel (Dairo and myself not pictured). Below: Jim Dye shares an update from the El Bosque church plant in Caracas.

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