



NOVEMBER 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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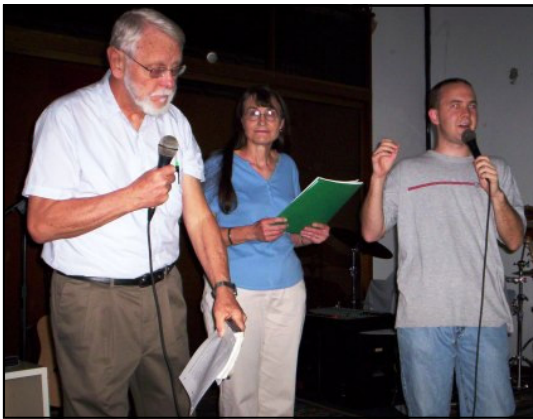
### Note:

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.

## Ma And Pa Schutz Go To Venezuela

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After living in Venezuela for over two years, my parents, Roger and Shirley Schutz were able to visit me and for a week in November.



Dad and Mom present workshops on marriage and raising children as Matt translates.

While here they presented two workshops: Building A Christian Marriage and Raising A Christian Family. With 38 years faithfully married and having raised three kids in the ways of Jesus, their experience alone qualifies them as experts here in Venezuela where solid families are scarce.

Over 75% of Venezuelan homes are run by single mothers. Those married for 15 years are considered heroes. Infidelity is considered common. Almost all of our youth come from broken homes. Fathers are little involved in the lives of their children.

The response to my parents'

humble advice was very positive; many have asked me for a full transcript.

Mom and Dad also sponsored a Movie Night. We watched the baseball movie "The Rookie," we ate peanuts and drank Coca-Cola, and afterwards we passed out baseballs that read "Jesus Te Ama!" It was a homerun.

Finally, the greatest blessing for me was to finally connect my two worlds, introducing my parents to the Venezuelan people and places I have told them so much about.

I also believe that my Venezuelan friends, by meeting my beloved parents, learned more about who I am. It's funny how that works. And I believe this principle applies to all of our relationships, especially in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Brothers, may it be our striving that unbelievers learn more about who



our beloved Jesus truly is as they meet us, His beloved church.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam



Mom and I (w/ guitar) at the Ponsigue cell. Above: My mother and Maria Victoria prove that beauty knows no borders.

## Youth Ever Vigilant

The last weekend in November we hosted our first all-night, all-youth prayer vigil in the church. We thought it would be a strategic time to host this event on the eve of a very big election (more on this in the December Newsletter). Some 25-plus youth gathered for 10 hours of prayer, teaching, worship, food and games. Vigils, while tough on my beauty sleep, are great chances for the youth to take time and deeply seek the presence of the Holy Spirit.

It's 3am. Do you know where your youth are? Ours are worshipping God at an all-night prayer vigil.



## A Word From The Prez



In the fall, after work each day, I hurry to a local high school to coach their varsity boys soccer team. One of the toughest parts of my job is having to choose which players to put on the field. As you probably know, the laws of soccer restrict us to just 11 players on the field at any one time. I look into the eyes of the other 7 players, many of whom are equally skilled (we keep the best 18 players on the roster). I see their eagerness, I recall how hard they've worked in practice, and I'm torn by the fact that we can only play 11. I mean... it's such a big field! I'd love to put all 18 players out there.

I have similar misgivings about our missionaries, except, in their case, once their trained, the main limitation is simply financial support. Through your gifts, prayers, and visionary faith, that limitation is being overcome. And as a result, hundreds... even \*thousands\* are hearing the gospel around the world, many for the first time. Thank you for undergirding the team, some of the best and greatest cross-cultural workers of their entire generation.

Thankfully,

Doug Lucas, President Team Expansion

## Christmas-In-July Delivered

While visiting, Mom and Dad were able to deliver the Christmas-In-July presents purchased by members of Meadow Park Church of Christ. Thank you to all who were involved. Your gifts truly bring comfort for your missionaries serving abroad. For me, the books and snacks and cereal you gave will be edifying; each in its own way.



Gifts from MPCC brought comfort on this, my first Christmas abroad.

## Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** that God opened a way for my parents to visit Venezuela.
- ◆ **Praise** for the many blessings during my parents stay: the family workshops, the movie night, and their short testimony of encouragement on Sunday morning.
- ◆ **Pray** for President Chavez and the political leaders of Venezuela.



Team Expansion

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