



DECEMBER 2007

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

Address:

Samuel E Schutz
Ed. Zenith PH Oficina 13
Boulevard de Sabana Grande
Sector Gran Café
Caracas, Venezuela

Phone:

011 (584-16) 728-3038 (cell)

Email:

sschutz@teamexpansion.org
samuelschutz@hotmail.com

Forwarding Agent:

Team Expansion
c/o Jason Schilling
1071 Southern Ridge Dr SW
Rochester, MN 55902

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.



Elections, Celebrations Bring End To 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was a wild end to the year 2007.

First, on December 2nd, the people of Venezuela voted down a constitutional referendum that would have given President Chavez unlimited terms in office as well as increased control over private property. There was much debate, marching and some violence (see banner photos) leading up to election day but we thank God that all was calm on voting day.

Later, on the 15th we baptized three new believers Erica, Pedro, and Jerkley. We praise God for 37 baptisms in 2007, just short of our yearly goal (see PMP review on page 2).



The next day, 200 people attended our annual Christmas worship party. The place was packed. We had specials from the music and drama teams and the children. After the service we served a Christmas lunch.

On the 24th, I decided to

lead a candlelight service. This was a first for Siempre Con Cristo as Venezuelan churches usually have no Christmas Eve gatherings. I hope they will make this a tradition.

Finally, I celebrated my first Christmas and New Years away from home with my Venezuelan family with whom God has so richly blessed my life.

I thank all of you for your support, prayers and encouragement throughout 2007. God continues to work in Venezuela and together we join with Him for what promises to be a great 2008.

With Joy in Christ,
Sam

Top: An intimate group gathers for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Left: Jerkley is baptized on the 15th. Bottom: 200 people cram into our facility for the Christmas party held Sunday the 16th. Many had to stand. Some just stayed outside. All were filled with Christmas joy!



2007 PMP Reviewed

1. Serve as missionary on Cúa sub-team leading Siempre Con Cristo to be an indigenous church

- Self-propagating
 - 100 average Sunday attendance
 - 40 baptisms
- Self-governing
 - Leadership development (see below)
- Self-supporting
 - 3.000.000 Bs. monthly offering

Achieved

86 (96 avg. in Sept)
37 (almost!)

2,778,000 Bs./mo. (approx. \$500/mo)

Here is a review of my goals for 2007 as outlined in my Personal Ministry Plan. As a church we fell slightly short in most areas. But in some key areas (cell groups, new facility) we outperformed our goals. Personally it was a year of victories and struggles all for the glory of God. If you have any questions about this PMP Review, do not hesitate to contact me.

2. Serve as worship leader for Siempre Con Cristo

- Hold Saturday morning rehearsals
- Hold weekly lessons in guitar, bass, drums and voice (Alejandro, Daya, Ricardo, Gesiel, Yohalf, Albert, Elías, Kristel, Betzabeth, Angélica, Víctor, José Manuel, Johana, Mizbar, Dairo, more...)
- Add 8-16 musicians
- Incorporate drama and dance ministries
- Train Noel as worship leader

Achieved

Achieved

Achieved (Kristel, Albert, Lisandro, Elías, Noemí are all involved in the music ministry playing for services and cells)

Currently 5. (Daya, Mizbar, Alejandro very close)

Partially achieved (drama-yes. dance-not yet)

Achieved (Noel does great when unavailable)

3. Serve as worship leader for Saturday Youth Group

- Hold Friday rehearsals
- Train Renny as youth worship leader

Achieved

Achieved

Achieved (Renny is improving, needs continued guidance)

4. Serve as coordinator for Wednesday prayer and praise night

- Lead prayer and facilitate with music
- Incorporate other leaders and ministries

Achieved. Averaging 30 people in these prayer meetings

Achieved

Partially achieved (Renny and Matt involved)

5. Lead worship in Thursday Night Cell meetings

- Capacitate others to lead music in cells (Daya, Víctor, Renny, Dairo...)

Achieved

Achieved (Daya, Renny are leading in different cells of which we have 6)

6. Serve as Siempre Con Cristo youth leader

- 50 average Saturday attendance
- 10+ youth baptisms
- Preach youth sermons in rotation
- Help lead July mission trip to San Cristobal

Partially Achieved

25 (hit 50 in May; youth ministry struggled during second half of 2007 as Dairo, our youth pastor, successfully served 3 months discipline away from leadership for morality issue)

More than 16

Achieved (I need to improve this, quality and quantity)

Not achieved (had to stay back and lead church)

7. Host Ric Rozsa and team for October Bible Conference

Achieved (just Ric, no team)

8. Accommodate new house and make successful vehicle purchase early in 2007

Achieved (vehicle purchased July 20)

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the strong financial support of this ministry in 2007.
- ◆ **Praise** for the growth in Siempre Con Cristo and in the lives of its members in 2007.
- ◆ **Pray** for a fruitful 2007; for my growth and strength as a servant leader; for lives to be changed by the Gospel in 2008.

