



FEBRUARY 2008

Team Expansion

Together Venezuela

CÚA, VENEZUELA



Venezuela 2008

"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.

Lady Upstairs Meets The Man Upstairs

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Mary has been the neighbor lady living in an annex of our rented house since I moved to Cúa last January. As we encouraged and invited her to come to church, she hit it off with Gloria, one of our church leaders, and she became a regular member of our community.

In the months that followed, Mary was witness to the power of prayer. She was evicted from her annex and couldn't find anywhere to rent. She prayed. She found a new, better place. She had been having some business problems that



We celebrated two baptisms in February. Above: Jose Manuel is congratulated. Below: Mary's bright smile says it all.



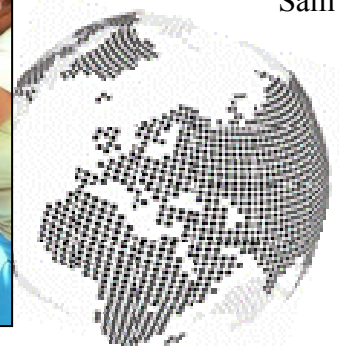
had been nagging for years. She prayed. The problems were resolved!

Mary, with glowing smile, testified to the good things God had done for her in cell meetings and Sunday services. She was baptized into the body of Christ on February 10. The next day

she ceased to be my neighbor as she moved into the new annex God had provided her.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam



Youth Road Trip to Casarapa

The Siempre Con Cristo youth group had a great month of February. We started the month loading 30 kids on a bus and road tripping two hours to our sister church in Casarapa where we led events for a combined youth service.



There is nothing like a road trip to get the youth excited.

The next three Saturdays we held normal services in our facility and averaged 35 youth attending.

Girl Band!!! (And Other Music Ministry Updates)

I am happy to report that the SCC music ministry is growing in numbers of musicians, quality of music, and spiritual maturity.

The month of February saw the debut of the SCC Girl Band! All are new musicians that have been trained in SCC over the past year. They still need some work but the important thing is they have a start and are excited to keep improving.

Another highlight was who *didn't* play on Sunday the

Team Retreats To Advance

February 19-21 our entire team of missionaries, nine couples and two singles, met for our annual Team Planning Retreat. We discussed essentials for healthy and effective leadership. We evaluated our performance in 2007. We established vision and strategies for 2008 and beyond. We came out of the retreat with a new, expanded mission statement shown here with the addition in italics.



Future team-leader Dave Linn teaches essential qualities of spiritual leaders while current team leader Eric Barry looks on.

Mission Statement: This Team, in union with the believers of Venezuela and by the power of God, will plant 12 self-governing, self-propagating and self-supporting Christian churches by the year 2010, *with a projected goal of 120 churches founded in and out of Venezuela by the year 2020.*



The girl band (L to R: Daya, Geziel, Kristel, Hirelix) rocks out for Jesus at the youth service Saturday, February 9.

24th. Matt (bass), Kristel (drums), and I (guitar, lead) led worship on March 2; while the week previous Elias (bass), Josue (drums), and Noel (guitar, lead) directed. Thus we had two entirely separate groups leading worship on consecutive weeks and the first of those groups was composed entirely of Cueños: both milestones.

Music classes started up again in February. Here is a list of current students: Hirelix (bass), Daya (guitar), Mizbar (guitar), Dairo (guitar), Kristel (guitar), César (bass, taught by Matt), Pedro (drums, taught by Kristel), with more waiting to start soon.

Miscellaneous News

- April 19 could be a huge day for the Kingdom. A large group of people new to SCC is tentatively scheduled to be baptized on that day. Please pray as upwards of 12 people might take the plunge.
- Avg. Sunday attendance in February: 98
- Avg. Youth attendance in February: 35
- We in Venezuela are keeping a close eye on Cuba in the wake of Fidel Castro's resignation. Close political ties between the two nations could create opportunities for evangelization in the communist country.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the growth of the SCC music ministry.
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- ◆ **Praise** for Mary's and Jose Manuel's new life in Christ..
- ◆ **Pray** for April 19 and those making decisions for Christ.

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