



MARCH 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

### Address:

Samuel E Schütz

Currently unavailable

### 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:

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## Easter Season a Huge Success!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

God worked wonders this Easter season in Cúa, Venezuela.

First, we welcomed Chris DeWelt during Holy Week for a Bible Conference on Missions (see page 2).

Second, Pedro, baptized in December, is part of a growing young adult community at SCC. He is plugging into the church by learning to play drums and teaching French classes two nights a week. University students have vacation during Holy Week so Pedro opened up his house for a pool party (see banner photo; Pedro, left, with Elias).

Third, on Easter Sun-

Emily and her father Cruz are baptized. Join us in praying for Cruz, a recovering alcoholic.



day we had two celebration services replete with food and specials from the kids. Easter Sunday is often poorly attended because many families go to the beach or visit relatives in the interior but we were pleased to receive 142 people this year.

Finally, after the church services, we walked a few blocks to Thania's house where she had the pool ready and we baptized five people into Christ. What better day to receive new life in Christ, than on the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

That is the message being preached here in Venezuela, the message that Jesus is risen, and the people are responding. Thank you for allowing for all this to happen.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

I baptize 26-year-old Pedro Pablo along with his girlfriend Angelica, who brought him to church. I have had the pleasure of counseling and disciplining Pedro Pablo this year.



Rosita is cheered after being baptized. After evangelizing her during a choir rehearsal, she decided to completely surrender to Christ. Now she is all smiles, filled with joy and is a faithful member of the choir.



## OCC's Chris DeWelt Gives Bible Conference On Missions

Chris DeWelt was the speaker at our latest Bible Conference held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Chris was president of the 2004 National Missionary Convention in Peoria, Illinois, and he is Professor and



Director of Missions at Ozark Christian College, a hotbed for missions. He spoke on "God's Heart For The Nations."

SCC has about 5 young adults who are considering a life in missions and Chris's presentation, delivered in Spanish (Chris was a missionary to

Chile for 9 years) provided them with information that every aspiring missionary should know. For me, as always is the case, the time spent informally with Chris was a blessing and a learning experience that can't be found in a classroom.

Left: Brother DeWelt teaches that God has had a heart for all peoples since the very beginning. Right: Chris DeWelt and I at the Bible Conference on Good Friday.



## Hip-Hop Worship

Another first for the SCC worship ministry in March: Hip-Hop Worship! Elias, one of our most promising youth, has a genuine spirit of adoration for Christ. He is already involved with the music ministry playing bass guitar but he had an idea to try something different. So with a few music tracks, a couple of friends and a groove in his soul, Elias led the youth group in hip-hop praise music on Saturday March 29.



From left to right: Jose Manuel, Noel, and Elias lead the SCC youth group in a song by the Christian rap artist Funky.

Hip-hop is definitely not my expertise but, man it was a blessing to see Elias and his team working hard to prepare and then leading us with a passion from the heart. We will be doing this again.

## Party Theology

- It seems our church has the Spiritual gift of throwing parties! On special occasions we serve food and trot out children's specials and decorate the sanctuary and people come to worship en masse! Such was the case on Easter Sunday when 142 people celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord.
- On Sunday March 2, 117 people worshiped at SCC. That was a new record for a "non-party" Sunday.
- Last month you read that we had up to 12 people ready to be baptized on April 19. Well 5 of them couldn't wait and already took the plunge. We'll have another baptism party in April...
- Avg. Sunday attendance in March: 110
- Avg. Youth attendance in March: 35

## Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for 5 baptisms in March.
- ◆ **Praise** for a wonderful celebration on Easter Sunday
- ◆ **Pray** for the continued growth of the young adult community of Siempre Con Cristo.
- ◆ **Pray** for April 19 and those making decisions for Christ.

**Team Expansion**

3700 Hopewell RD, Louisville, KY 40299  
1.800.447.0800 | www.teamexpansion.org