



MAY 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.

SCC Choir Debuts On Mother's Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is THE day, THE event, THE celebration in Venezuela. Christmas? New Years? Independence Day? The Oscars? No, none of that.

Historically the biggest Sunday celebration in the Venezuelan church, outpacing even Christmas and Easter, is...Mother's Day. It never ceases to amaze me that such excitement is generated not by the birth, death or resurrection of their Savior, but by the love of their mothers.

Maybe it is the traditional reverence for the Virgin Mary in this historically Catholic country. Maybe it is the fact that 75% of Venezuelan homes are led by single mothers carrying a double load left behind by irresponsible fathers, making Venezuela a matriarchal society. Whatever the reasons for the extreme importance, you have to bring you're A-game on M-Day.

Thus I spent the better part of April and May preparing a choir for the big day. This was a first for me. Fear. Uncertainty. Long hours of preparation. Twelve singers: six male, six female.

It was a rousing success.

Throw in some children's testimonies, an intense drama performance, and a mother/child video montage and it seemed like all 161 people in attendance



The band and choir, 16 in all, rock out for Mother's Day. Banner-photo: The SCC musicians pose for a team photo.

were bawling as the choir belted out the final worship songs.

Praise God for a great Mother's day 2008 at SCC. Pray for His guidance as the music team embarks on the new frontier of vocal ensembles. And give thanks for His great love which is so beautifully manifested in a mother's love for her children.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

My Name Is A Website—Check It Out

** newsletter archive * www.samuelschutz.com * links * more to come **

Two Take There Time

Join us in celebrating the addition of two new members of the family of Christ: Genesis and Lexandra. Genesis' two older brothers, Jean Carlos and Eric, were baptized



Genesis gets a hug from big brother Jean Carlos after her baptism. Above, Lexandra prepares for her moment of decision.

last summer and have been very active members of the SCC youth group. Genesis was a bit more timid than her brothers but after months of encouragement she decided to trust her life to Jesus.

Likewise, Lexandra took her time but made the right choice, having spent months being disciplined by Yamileth, a fiery 30-year-old who has served in SCC since joining a year ago.

2020 Vision

You read in my February Newsletter about our new vision extending beyond the year 2010 and calling for 120 churches by the year 2020. On May 1 the missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders associated with Misión Cristiana de Venezuela gathered in Caracas to cast this vision formally and to pledge commitment to its success. About 80 leaders representing over 12 churches unanimously accepted the challenge. We invite you to join us in this most excellent pursuit.

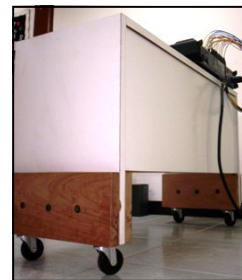
New Cell In Lecumberry

I felt a strong calling to get moving and fire up a new cell in a Cúa neighborhood called Lecumberry. New to the process, I was proceeding slowly, seeking advice and searching for a host home when I found out that Isbeth our secretary was doing the same. And in fact, she had already found a host. And the first meeting was the following week!

It is no wonder God had us both on the same mission. Lecumberry is practically a small city with over 1,000 houses in this one neighborhood. Isbeth and I joined forces opening this new cell knowing that many more are needed in this white field.

Numbers And Bolts

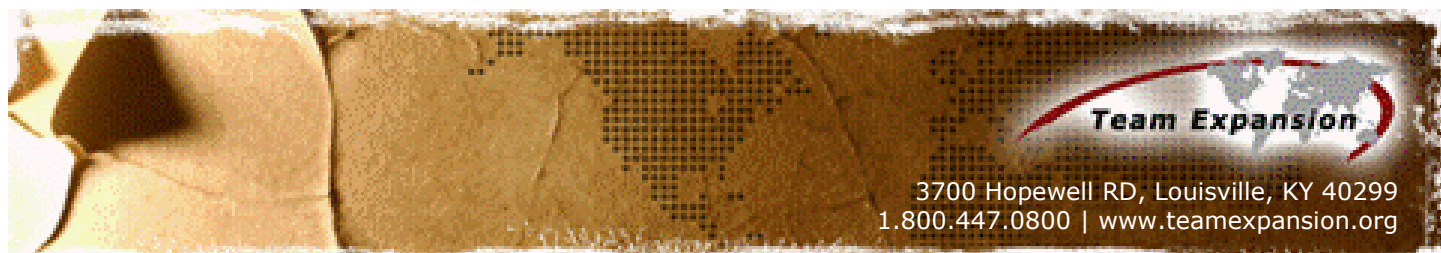
- You get to do it all as a missionary. In May I tackled a simple construction project, mounting wheels on the desk for our sound mixer. Of course, the project was a challenge for me. What can I say? There is no Home Depot in Cúa!
- Avg. Sunday attendance in May: 119
- Avg. Youth attendance in May: 51



Music On Wheels! I am so proud of my work I just had to include a photo.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for Lexandra's and Genesis' baptisms
- ◆ **Praise** for a great debut of the SCC choir.
- ◆ **Praise** that the very loud and very distracting Sunday morning aerobics classes, held directly outside our house of worship for six weeks, have stopped with no sign of restarting.
- ◆ **Pray** for maturity, responsibility, and acceptance of correction for the very young servants in SCC most of whom are youth between the ages of 15 and 20.
- ◆ **Pray** for maturity, responsibility, and acceptance of correction for the very young leaders of SCC ministries.
- ◆ **Pray** for the unity of Siempre Con Cristo.



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