



SEPTEMBER 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 Schutz
Currently unavailable

Website:

www.samuelschutz.com

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.

November Field Exit Not In God's Plans

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In August, I announced that I would be leaving my mission work in Venezuela to attend seminary. In the six weeks since, God has made it clear to me that His will is that I remain in Venezuela indefinitely and that I continue working with the Siempre Con Cristo church plant.



I don't have space here to go into all the details. On many occasions and through a variety of sources I felt God reconfirming my calling as a missionary to Venezuela. If you would like to know more about these events, I will soon post on my website the link [Timeline for a Closing Door](#).

After this turn of events I am overwhelmed with two feelings. First, I feel I owe you, my faithful supporters, an apology for making and announcing a decision that was not in God's will. I apologize for any confusion this has

caused you and ask that you continue to partner with this work for 2009 and beyond.

Second, I feel rejuvenated. For a moment I lost sight of my calling. Having it reaffirmed has given me a renewed sense of purpose, motivation, and most of all, peace. I have begun the process to get my paperwork in order to be able to remain in Venezuela long term. Also, I have begun to research possible online and distance seminary courses as masters work is still an important personal goal.

I thank God for reaffirming his calling before it was too late. There is nothing better than living life in the center of the will of God. This is my prayer for Venezuela. This is my prayer for you.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

Three September Baptisms

We celebrated three baptisms in September. All were fruit of an extremely successful cell group meeting in Denice and Beltran's home in Santa Rosa.

Susana is Denice's friend. Susana's husband, a man who is very critical of the evangelical church, drops her off at church on Sundays and returns to pick her up when church lets out. Pray that God would touch his heart. Alejandro, a teenager, and Exigley, a single mom, were introduced to SCC by Lexandra, who invited them to the Santa Rosa cell.



Exigley before her baptism.



Susana celebrates new life.

SCC Names Junta Leaders

On September 28, the newly established Siempre Con Cristo Leadership Junta had its second monthly meeting. The junta was formally named in a service at the end of August. The group consists of pastors, missionaries,



The SCC Junta (from L to R): Genesis, Gloria, Mibzar, Chris, Isbeth, Eric, Matt, Dairo, myself. Not pictured: Elias, Kristel, Yohali.

and ministry leaders and will serve as the decision making body for SCC until a group elders is developed in the coming years.

Dairo Robbed At Gunpoint

On Wednesday October 1 around 9:30 pm, Dairo was mugged by two young men while talking outside a church member's house. Among items stolen were his laptop, passport, cash, and cell phone. Events took place less than three blocks from where I currently live, and less than a block from my old house, the house in which Dairo now resides.

One Friday evening earlier this year, Dairo had his motorcycle stolen while it was parked outside our church facility. Please pray continually for our safety as we serve in a land that is increasingly lawless.

SCC Ministry Update

- On September 13, after several weeks of preparation, Dayanira did an excellent job leading worship for the SCC youth group, a first for her.
- Eric, Dayanira's guitar student, is now leading worship along with Daya in a Thursday night cell.
- Angelica has just purchased a beautiful new Yamaha electric/acoustic guitar and has faithfully attended voice and guitar lessons all month.
- Friday September 27th was our latest all-night prayer vigil. I was asked to preach the message for the night. I am scheduled to enter the Sunday preaching rotation in January 2009. Please pray for God's anointing.
- Siempre Con Cristo Average Sunday Attendance

Jan: 95	2005: 55
Feb: 98	2006: 69
Mar: 107	2007: 86
Apr: 122	2008: 114 (year-to-date)
May: 120	Goal for 2008: 120
Jun: 114	
Jul: 130	
Aug: 123	
Sep: 110	
- Baptisms

Through September: 28
Goal for 2008: 50



Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** God for reaffirming my calling to work in Venezuela.
- ◆ **Praise** for the three September baptisms of Susana, Exigley and Alejandro.
- ◆ **Continue to pray** for the acquisition of the locale next door to us. We finally finished the contract only to have the renter renege on her word and ask for a larger monthly rate.
- ◆ **Pray** as I begin to apply for a Venezuelan transient visa. This can be a very slow and frustrating process. Ask God to expedite the process. I will be making a trip to the Venezuelan consulate in Chicago during my November visit.
- ◆ **Pray** for God's protection from thieves and others who would do us harm.

Team Expansion

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