



OCTOBER 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.

## Five October Baptisms, Two From Cell

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We celebrated the baptisms of five people in October. Two were special for me.

You read in the May Newsletter that we started a new cell in the Lecumberry district. In the first few months of that after starting that cell I went evangelizing door-to-door in the a couple of hours before the meetings every Thursday night to talk to the neighborhood about Jesus and to invite them to the cell.



Ninibel and Juan are pulled up out of the water after being baptized. Also baptized in October were two women Rosario and Adela, and Agatha who is new to the youth group and also attends the Lecumberry cell.

One of the doors I knocked on was that of Juan and Ninibel. Ninibel had had little experience with the Christian church in the past and Juan had had even

less. The two lived down the street from where our cell meets and they began to attend not only the cell but also the church services.

Ninibel is pregnant and has had a number of health issues. They have not married but want to soon. Both have been convicted of a need for repentance. It seems God is using this turbulent time in their lives to draw them to Him. In October Juan and Ninibel were both baptized.

Juan and Ninibel are now faithful members of the community and it warms my heart to see how far they have come.

Door-to-door evangelism is tough. Indeed, evangelism in general can be discouraging, tiring, even scary. But it can also be one of the most invigorating and rewarding experiences in our Christian walk. We will do good to remember stories like that of Juan and Ninibel the next time the enemy tries to keep us from sharing Christ with others.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

## Website: Timeline For A Closing Door

If you haven't already done so, log on to my website [samuelschutz.com](http://samuelschutz.com) and click on [Timeline For A Closing Door](#) to read more about how I felt God was telling me to remain in Venezuela and work with the Siempre Con Cristo church plant.

## A Word From The Prez



Occasionally, folks will ask for a quick summary of our current status as a mission. Here's a 12-point snapshot:

- 1) Full-time Team Expansion missionaries went from 302 at the close of 2006 to 311 at the close of 2007 (including full-timers and Quest). Since that time, full-timers alone have climbed to 307, with full-timers plus Quest now reaching 317. There are 10 additional "V-Core volunteers.
- 2) Countries with active projects went from 44 in 2006 to 47 in 2007.
- 3) "Completed teams" went 43 in 2006 to 47 in 2007.
- 4) Accumulated baptisms went from 8706 in 2006 to 9000 in 2007.
- 5) Churches planted went from 198 in 2006 to 205 in 2007.
- 6) During the summer of 2008, we sent 25 summer interns and 6 trip leaders (Coaches) to 10 countries.
- 7) In 2008, two new fields were launched: one in the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (relaunch) and, another with our PACE Project partner, in Bangladesh.
- 8) We began construction on the Prayer Center & Atrium at Emerald Hills in June.
- 9) Together with our PACE Project partner, we completed an initial new field survey in Syria
- 10) During 2008, we conducted 6 "Launch" programs which trained 76 new Team Expansion missionary candidates heading out to 17 countries.
- 11) Launched a Christian High School in Kosova.
- 12) Venezuela, as a case study, reached the milestone of an overall attendance of 1271 believers in the 13 churches that our team there has planted.

Thankfully,

Doug Lucas, President Team Expansion

## Miscellaneous News

- Check out "The Hugo Chavez Show", Frontline's recent documentary on Venezuela's president. The 90-minute film can be seen free and in its entirety at the PBS website [www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hugochavez](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hugochavez). Regardless of your opinions about Chavez, this film will give you some history and perspective on the leader, the culture, and the people of Venezuela.
- As of October 31st we were still awaiting the signing of the contract to the mall space adjacent to ours. More news to come.
- Matt Johnson, my friend, roommate, and co-worker preached his first Sunday sermon in Siempre Con Cristo in the month of October. I enter the rotation on January 11. Please be prayer for this.
- Avg. Sunday attendance in October: 106



## Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the five October baptisms of Juan, Ninibel, Adela, Rosario, and Agata.
- ◆ **Praise** for safe travel to and from Colombia, again.
- ◆ **Continue to pray** for the acquisition of the locale next door to us.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Pray** for God's protection and for church growth.



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