



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.

NOVEMBER 2008

Together Venezuela

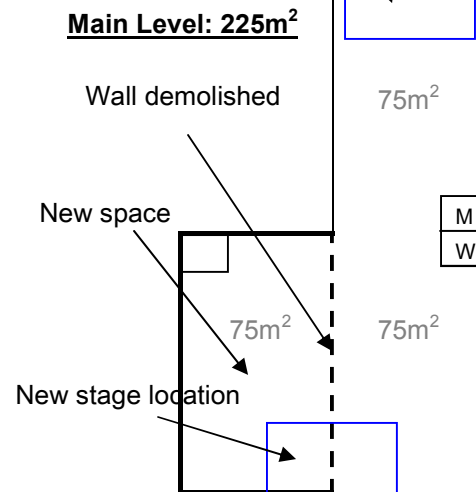
Team Expansion

CÚA, VENEZUELA

The Wall Comes Down, Facility Expands

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Finally, after months of negotiations and hassels and waiting, we signed a contract allowing us to move in as renters of the mall space adjacent to our current worship space. The main-level floor plan for our worship hall looks something like this:



We now have room to cram in up to 180 chairs on our main level. Plus we have added 35 square-meters (105m² total) to our mezzanine level where we will add more Sunday school and office space.

Remodeling will begin immediately as it is our goal to have the main floor at least serviceable by the December 14 special Christmas service when we expect up to 250 people in attendance.



Dangelo helps demolish the dividing wall.

Updates will follow in future newsletters. Please pray for safe and successful remodeling project; pray that we use this extra space

wisely with faithfulness to the Gospel; and pray that this space would soon be filled with God-worshippers.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

Professors Give Counsel On Eduction

To complete with our goal to plant 120 churches by the year 2020, we feel strongly that we need to improve and standardize our theological training across our mission's churches. Currently, we are considering options for campuses and curriculum and other logistics. In November we were visited by a team of ?? Professors from Luther Rice Seminary. They shared there experience and freely gave us copies of their course materials which we may use in our seminary's curriculum.

Venezuelan Consulate Trip

While I was in America in November, my father and I road tripped to the Venezuelan Consulate in Chicago. It was a whirlwind tour; we left at 3am, arrived at 10am, stayed until 12pm, and arrived at home again at 7pm.

The trip was a success. I handed in what documents I had and I learned how to obtain the one document I was missing in order to complete my application for a Transient Visa for a Religious Worker.

Miscellaneous News

- Sunday November 23 was voting day in Venezuela. Record numbers of Venezuelans went to the polls to elect state governors and city mayors throughout the country (see page 1 banner photo). As expected Chavez-aligned politicians won a majority of positions. Opposition candidates won a few key victories including the governors races in the three largest Venezuelan states (including Miranda state where I live) and the race for the mayor of Caracas.
- SCC avg. Sunday attendance in November: 82 (ouch!) We are not sure why attendance dropped off so much in November but rest assured we are looking into it.



Two November Baptisms

Gabriel, only 9 years old, wanted to be baptized with his mother Rosario last month but we wanted to make sure he was clear as to the spiritual step he was taking. For a month he was at every Sunday service and every Saturday youth group incessantly asking us when he could be baptized. He answered all our baptism questions correctly and we decided he was clear.



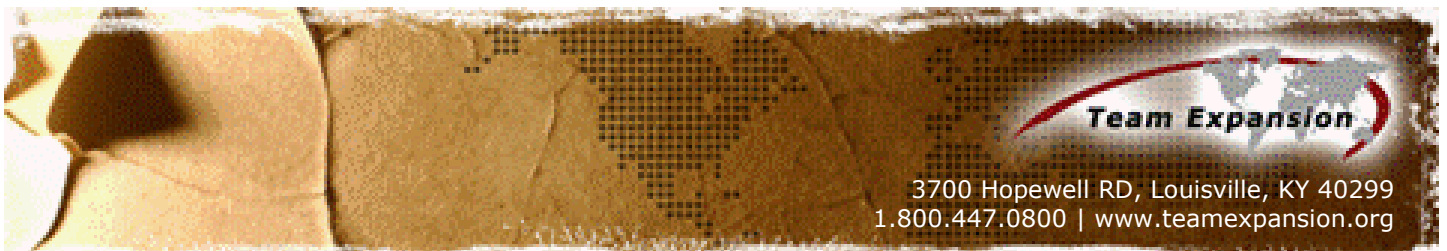
Last May we baptized a young lady named Lexandra, an abuse victim who lives with her father and his male lover. In spite of seeing first hand some horrible debauchery in her home, she has been a light for Jesus. Jenilin, here smiling at her baptism, is the second of two young ladies Lexandra has led to Christ. Above: Gabrielito beams after being baptized.



Now baptized, Gabrielito he has moved on to incessantly ask me when he can learn to play the drums! If his persistence keeps up, and we leaders don't get in his way, Gabrielito could make a huge impact for Christ in his lifetime.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for two November baptisms of Jenilin and Gabrielito.
- ◆ **Praise** for the successful rental of the adjacent locale and the added space we now have to use.
- ◆ **Pray** for the remodeling process of the new locale.
- ◆ **Pray** for the upcoming Siempre Con Cristo all church camp this January 2,3,4.
- ◆ **Pray** for God's protection and for church growth.



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