



FEBRUARY 2009

Team Expansion

Together Venezuela

CÚA, VENEZUELA



Venezuela 2009

"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.

Youths Advance SCC Worship Ministry

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

February was bookended by victories for the Siempre Con Cristo worship ministry.

On February 4th, 15-year-old Erick Diaz led worship for our youth group. You may remember reading about Erick and his guitar lessons with Dayanira in the June 2008 Newsletter. After more than nine months of preparation, he is now ready to direct for the youth and we hope that he will appear on Sundays by the end of the year. This is huge missions victory as Erick, a Venezuelan, was raised up by Dayanira, another Venezuelan, who herself was trained by myself, not Venezuelan.

On February 28th, Carlo made his debut as a drummer for the youth group. I have been giving Carlo weekly drum lessons since September and his hard work is starting to pay off.

Another positive from that same day was Elias who led worship that Saturday. Elias is an energetic, charismatic young man with novice music ability but with an incredibly engaging personality. Thus he animates the crowd, sings just well enough to make it work and we musicians take care of the rest. The result is extravagant worship.

Erick, Carlo, and Elias are proof that the church in Cúa Venezuela is advancing towards the goal of becoming a strong

indigenous church which will proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ long after we are gone.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam



Erick (in hat and glasses) leads worship at a recent all-night prayer and worship vigil.

Sharing Christ On The Court

In January and February I began playing basketball regularly at a court near my house. The quality of play is high, the competition is fierce, the environment is vulgar, and the opportunities for evangelism are countless. On February 27, I was walking home with Oscar, one of the players who happens to be a neighbor. I shared the Gospel with him and he came to church the following Sunday. Please pray for Oscar and his family and our growing friendship. More on this to come.

Green And Emerald News

Team Expansion recently completed its financial reporting for the year 2008, a process which has produced some notable results:

- *over 1 million dollars of our resources last year went towards evangelism.
- *w-2 tax documents were provided for 158 employees and their families serving in nearly 50 countries.



*1 out of every 6 Christian churches in the USA supported the work of a Team Expansion missionary in 2008.

For information on the vision behind the Emerald Hills project and partnership opportunities therewith, visit www.emerald hills.info.

*in spite of the downward turn in the economy, gifts for the work of Team Expansion were up by more than \$100,000 over the previous year's giving.

In more "green" news, Team Expansion has officially moved into it's new home office on the Emerald Hills campus in Louisville, Kentucky. Notice the change in address from Hopewell Rd to Old Routt Rd on the footer of this page. The Prayer Center/Atrium (see page one banner photo) is set to be dedicated in March.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the young SCC musicians who are beginning to serve as leaders.
- ◆ **Praise** for the progress the Emerald Hills campus and the blessing it will be for visiting missionaries.
- ◆ **Pray** for the remodeling process of our expanded locale which is drawing to a close.
- ◆ **Pray** for wisdom and courage as I witness to the young men at the local basketball court. Pray specifically for Oscar's family.
- ◆ **Pray** for a new living situation as I will be forced to move out of my current house when my roommate Matt gets married in August.

Mission Team Retreat

Our annual Team Venezuela missionary retreat was held February 2-4 at a German colony in the mountains outside of Caracas called Colonia Tovar. We reviewed last year's goals, shared this years goals, and spent much time brainstorming and planning for the transition from our current goal of planting 12 indigenous churches in Venezuela by the year 2010 to our concurrent goal of 120 churches inside and out of Venezuela by 2020.



A Word From The Prez



Dear friend of a Team Expansion worker,
Thank you for your support of the work of a Team Expansion missionary! Without your faithful partnership, we cannot imagine how we could continue on. But *with* your help, God is doing amazing things!

Here's just one example: In one of Team Expansion's fields, a Muslim land, Muslims outnumber believers 25,000 to 1. Changing from Islam to any other religion is frowned upon and even punished by local cultural norms... yet in spite of that, there have seen 20 baptisms in the last year alone. What's more, some 30,000 people have stopped by our team's website there. Our team created 12,000 evangelistic DVDs for distribution to new friends. And they finished the translation of four additional books of the New Testament into the local dialect.

None of this could happen without your help. So *thank* you for your support, your friendship, and the steps you take on behalf of the Master. May He bless your lives richly with zeal and fire to forge on.

Sincerely,

Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

