

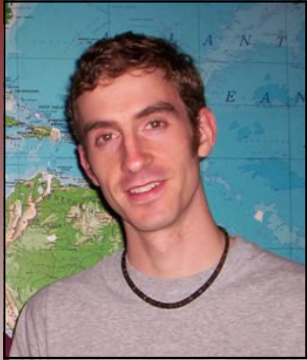


APRIL 2009

Team Expansion



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.

Family Converts; 6 April Baptisms

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Those of you that have been following the reports and praying for my friend Oscar and his family can rejoice along with us because on Sunday, April 19th, Oscar and four others were baptized into Christ.

The Sunday prior to their baptisms I spoke with them about sin and hell and our need of a savior. It was an Acts 10 moment as Oscar, his mother Zoraida, his step-father Argeni, his aunt Edelmira, and his girlfriend Wendy all confessed

Jesus as Lord and decided to become Christ followers.

Oscar's house is just three doors down from mine so on Tuesday nights I have begun teaching him and the rest of the group a 10-week class for new believers. Plus I have informal discipleship time with Oscar when we walk home together after playing basketball at the court in our neighborhood. Please pray this group would remain faithful and grow in the Spirit. And pray that I would shepherd them with diligence and wisdom.

Also in April, a youth named Alexander was baptized. Alexander has been coming to SCC with his sister Johanna who we baptized three years ago.

There is so much to teach these new believers about Jesus and about being a Jesus follower. I am filled with gratitude for you who make this work possible. Thank you.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam



Matt and I baptize Oscar (left) and Argeni. Banner-photo: Edelmira, Oscar, Wendy, Argeni, Matt, Zoraida, and myself after the baptisms.

Lecumberry Cell Reopens

Three months after being closed for lack of a host home, the Lecumberry Cell reopened on Thursday, April 16th in Juan and Ninibel's house.

The Lecumberry cell, which I have led since its beginning a year ago, was closed in January when our host, Emily, began working evenings in Caracas. Our

friends Juan and Ninibel (see March 2009 Newsletter), who live down the street from Emily, were excited to have the cell meet in their house after the birth of their child in March.

Siempre Con Cristo currently has seven cells that meet on a weekly basis in and around Cúa.

Miscellaneous April News

- At Siempre Con Cristo we have a diverse array of music styles in our hymnal from rock to reggae, from marches to meringues. I also incorporate some English songs that translate well into Spanish. Hence it made me smile when Carlo and Dayanira, two young musicians in our worship ministry, presented me with their version of "My Deliverer", off of Chris Tomlin's latest album *Hello Love*, which they had translated into Spanish. Their initiative showed me that they were growing as leaders in the ministry.



Carlo and Chris Tomlin: Long lost brothers?!?!

- Many from our mission team are working hard to launch a mission-wide Bible Institute in September. To that end we held Bible Institute Teacher Training on April 6th. My intention is to teach one of the courses. More news on this in future months.
- On April 5th, Siempre Con Cristo celebrated its 4th anniversary with a special service and food and over 130 in attendance.
- I preached my third Sunday sermon on April 19th. I was pleased with how it went.



At the April 6th Bible Institute Teacher Training held at Hoy Con Cristo in Caracas.

Worship Workshop

As of April 2009 I am officially a worship ministry consultant having been invited to give my first ever Worship Ministry Seminar. I shared my knowledge and experience with all three people in attendance! (Actually it was just an all-day workshop with a few musicians but I think it is fun to refer to it as a Worship Seminar!)

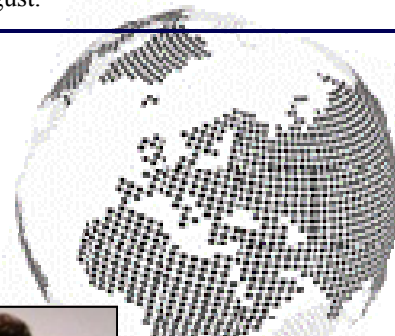
Adam Nathanson and his wife Diane are planting a church in west Caracas and have recently partnered with our Team Expansion group of church planters. He asked me to spend a day with his newly formed worship team teaching songs, giving guitar and voice lessons and sharing ministry materials.



The Nathanson family.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the six baptisms in April.
- ◆ **Praise** for four years of Christian community at Siempre Con Cristo.
- ◆ **Pray** for the preparations leading up to the Bible Institute launch in September.
- ◆ **Pray** for August youth camps now fast approaching.
- ◆ **Continue to 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.



Team Expansion

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