



JULY 2009



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.

Vacation Bible School Blowout; 80 Kids!!!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Siempre Con Cristo children's ministry held a 5-day Vacation Bible School July 20-24, with over 80 kids attending. On the following Sunday, we had 200 people attending and half were VBS children and their parents! They came to receive their VBS certificates. All heard the message of salvation in Christ.

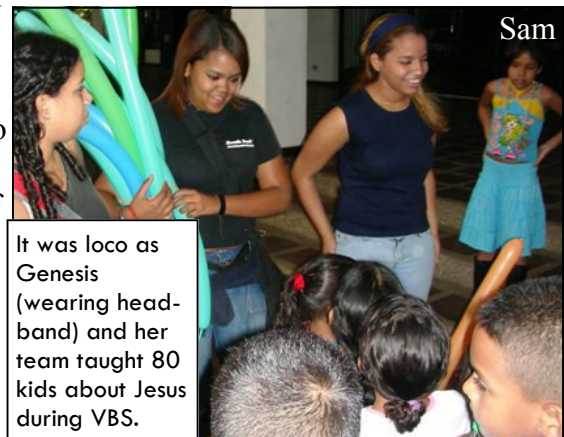
The leader of our children's ministry is a 20-year-old girl named Genesis, who was saved and baptized in SCC in 2005. God has raised up Genesis and a team of young adults for this important ministry.

Experts say one of the keys to church growth is a strong children's ministry. Parents will more readily attend Sunday services if they know their children will

receive an age appropriate Bible lesson. An hour of free childcare is a big draw as well.

We thank God for the young, volunteer, Venezuelan servants who are telling people about Jesus, both young and old.

With Joy in Christ,



Sam

It was loco as Genesis (wearing headband) and her team taught 80 kids about Jesus during VBS.

Meet Mr. And Mrs. Matt Johnson

On Saturday, August 1 my teammate Matt was married to Elsa Claret. This was the fourth wedding in the history of SCC. Matt and Elsa had been dating since the summer of 2007.



Matt and Elsa pledge their respective troths. I was honored to be a groomsman (background, right side, yep, that's me holding the flower). Banner-photo: Matt smiles with some of the ladies of Siempre Con Cristo.

Our church family celebrates, not only for Matt and Elsa and their newfound marital bliss, but also because Elsa will join SCC, leaving behind our sister church Hoy Con Cristo where she was co-director of the children's Sunday school and a cell-group leader.

Like acquiring a veteran slugger for the ubiquitous "player to be named later," we at SCC are feeling good about this transaction.

Miscellaneous News

- Eglin is a timid young woman who has attended SCC since 2005 along with her mother and sister. Along with a mental handicap, she also suffers from a rare skin disease that causes bubble-like growths to form all over her body. Normally innocuous, these growths have become larger, painful and in need of operation. Eglin's family is extremely poor. Responding to the need of urgent help, SCC held a food sale to raise funds for Eglin's medical supplies. The equivalent of about \$90 was raised; a modest sum for which Eglin's family was grateful.
- For the curious, SCC's average monthly giving for the first half of 2009 was 4,500 Bs.F per month (or approximately \$672 per month) Note: this number does not include tithes and special offerings coming from missionaries such as myself, Matt, or Eric before his departure.
- Sensitive Field and his family are one of the four missionaries that SCC supports financially. The S. F. family visited on July 12th, sharing testimonies from their work evangelizing Muslims in North Africa with Team Expansion. S. F. converted to Christianity in our sister church Hoy Con Cristo in the early 90s.
- I returned to the pulpit on Sunday, July 19 giving my 4th sermon of the year on the doctrine of grace.
- I also was invited to speak to the youth group on July 11 and 18, teaching a two-part class on a practical method for studying scripture.



A Word From The Prez



Dear Friend of Team Expansion,

Sometimes, when I explain how Team Expansion is set up, I have to chuckle. Think about it: We approach the most gifted and skilled people we can find. We ask them to leave their salaried jobs, their parents (and grandparents), their clear & clean drinking water, the amusement parks, the softball league, Christmas with family, and Mexican Food. To talk them into this, we dangle in front of them the prospects of having to raise their own salary, work expenses, and travel costs. We challenge them to serve in a place where they can't watch (American) football real-time. We have to help them figure out ways to get internet by satellite, postal mail in the town down the road, and the water -- well we point them to a couple of really good quality filters. No wonder you love your favorite Team Expansion missionary. No wonder we do too. Join me tonight in giving thanks to the Father of the one who also left home (in Heaven), traveled to a far-away unfriendly place. Join me in thanking God for your favorite missionary.

Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the amazingly successful VBS and the young leaders of the SCC children's ministry.
- ◆ **Praise** the wedding of Matt and Elsa.
- ◆ **Pray** for the health and security of the SCC church family.
- ◆ **Pray** for my plans and preparations to start studying in an online Masters program this fall.
- ◆ **Pray** for the opening of our Seminary in September.
- ◆ **Continue to pray** for a new living situation as I will be forced to move out of my current house when my roommate Matt returns from furlough with his new wife in September.

