



Venezuela 2009

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Matthew 16:18

Address: NEW!!!

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Note:

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OCTOBER 2009



Bible Institute Kicks-Off

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This fall we officially opened classes for our new Bible Institute which we will use to develop future leaders for VISION 2020: our vision to plant 120 churches in and out of Venezuela by the year 2020.

Our first class consists of 40 students enrolled mission-wide with seven of those students studying at our Cúa campus at Siempre Con Cristo Church. We pray that this first class would be successful and set a tone of excellence for the future of the institute.

At the Cúa campus, Dairo, Matt, and I rotate teaching classes in the program which, at present, is designed to cover 10 subjects over a 2 year period, though it continues to be fine-tuned. Subjects covered will include:

- Bible Study and Interpretation,
- Old Testament Survey,
- New Testament Survey,
- Doctrine,
- Personal Spiritual Life,

- Teaching Methods,
- Ministry Education and Admin.,
- Plus three other subjects.



Dairo teaches class in the Bible Institute. Classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm-9pm.

There are several aspects in the development of church leaders: moral character, relationship with God, people skills, work ethic to name a few. Theological learning is certainly an important aspect as well. The Bible Institute will play a key role as we work to develop all the necessary qualities of leadership, both in our students and in ourselves,

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

Seminary Update: First Fall Intensive

While I am teaching Bible Institute classes in Venezuela, I am also receiving classes through Bethel Seminary's InMinistry online study program. This is an interesting dynamic as sometimes I am teaching and receiving classes in the same subject. From October 24 thru November 5 I was on campus in St. Paul for my first two-week intensive (see banner-photo above). While there I was able to make some new friends, attended to some administrative details, and take part in over 60 hours of fascinating class lectures and discussions.

SCC Worship Team Update

At the beginning of 2009, my goal was to implement a rotation of worship leaders for our Saturday youth meetings. Praise God that this goal has been achieved as Daya (every 1st Saturday of the month), Noel (every 2nd Saturday), Erick (3rd), and Elias (4th) have each led Saturday worship once a month this year leaving me free to devote more time to teaching and preaching and to concentrate on Sunday worship (I also covered the four 5th Saturdays).

More good news for the SCC worship ministry has been the arrival of Edwin and his wife Ambar who recently moved to the Cúa area in the fall. Edwin is thirty-something and a multi-talented musician. He was recommended to our church by his former pastor who is a friend of our mission. Already serving in supporting roles, Edwin is sure to be a key player in the future of the music ministry.

Miscellaneous News

- September Sunday Avg. Attendance: 119
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- Our weekly giving was down to about \$63/week with almost 120 people in attendance. Even by Venezuelan standards that is not good. Although minimum wage is about \$145/month, some employers cheat and pay their employees less. This can take a toll on tithing figures. The church, which pays its own rent and utilities and also employs a secretary, was in danger of falling in the red. We put the matter before God in prayer and in October the church gave a healthy sum of about \$750. We praise God for answering prayer. Please join us in praying that SCC members would work hard, receive their due wages, and tithe faithfully.

A Word From The Prez



Dear Friend of Team Expansion,

All around me there are positive signs for a resurging USA and global economy. Apple and MAC stocks are up (I guess lots of folks are buying those iPhones.) and the Dow Jones Industrial Average (a stock indicator) just climbed back into the 10K+ stratosphere. We're seeing more gainers than losers, more money-makers than broken-hearted, and a returning optimism that has taken a while to develop. But the good news is, most of the Team Expansioners with whom I talked have said that the sluggish economy didn't seem to impact their functional finances. Praise God. When I'm asked why, the only response I can dream up is that there is a strong link between most Team Expansion workers and the donors that sponsor their projects. That strong link is personal... and it's based on a strong belief that Team Expansioners will finish what they started. I'm here today to tell you that we take that trust very seriously. Thank you for supporting the work of your favorite Team Expansion worker. We appreciate you!!!

Doug Lucas

President, Team Expansion

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** the kick-off of our mission's Bible Institute
- ◆ **Pray** that the Bible Institute students excel in their studies and successfully complete the two-year program
- ◆ **Praise** for the Saturday Worship leaders rotation
- ◆ **Praise** for the addition of Edwin to our Worship team.
- ◆ **Praise** for a great two weeks in St. Paul for my first intensive.
- ◆ **Pray** for the brethren SCC to be generous givers.
- ◆ **Pray** for all the work and remodeling required to make my new rental home fit for living.

