



## Venezuela 2009

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

Matthew 16:18

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# Together Venezuela

NOVEMBER 2009

CÚA, VENEZUELA

## A Special Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the toughest parts of my job as a missionary is also one of the most rewarding. The part of my job I am referring to is relying on free will donations for personal and mission funding, which can test one's faith and can also be a humbling and poignant experience.

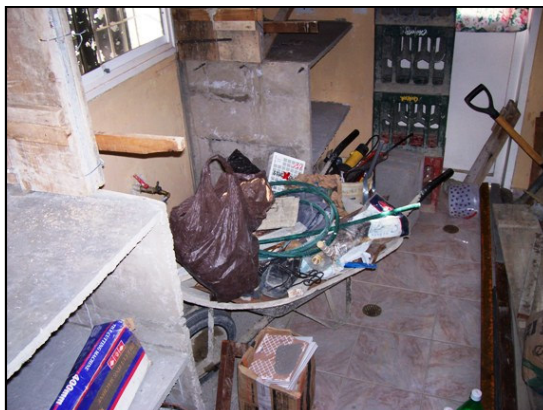
In my few years as a missionary I have been amazed and blessed by those who financially support this work; for your

generosity and for your commitment to the World Christian Movement. This year those blessings reached a new level. During difficult financial times for much of America and the world, donations to this work have not declined but rather they have actually increased.

This fall I began my seminary course work and at the same time I moved into a house in need of repairs and where I would no longer share rent with a roommate. These two changes caused my budget to increase significantly. Several of you my supporters have already responded to the situation and pledged to increase support. For this I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all of you who sacrifice to make this work possible. Thank you and may God bless you richly both now and on that Day.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam



Phase one of construction in my kitchen began in October. Here you can see the beginnings of a sink and counters. I was eating a lot of PB&J until I found a lady down the street that sells home-cooked meals. Banner-photo above: I study by candle-light. Due to the energy crisis in Venezuela (see page 2) we experienced power-outages daily in October and November that lasted anywhere between 3 seconds to 3 hours. Below: Christmas In July gifts from Hope Summit Christian Church Christmas.

## Christmas In July - Thank You HSCC

Christmas In July arrived from the good brothers and sisters at Hope Summit Christian Church. I received some books for personal reading, some guilty pleasures such as Reese's Pieces, and over two quarters worth of text books for my seminary studies. Thank you very much and Merry Christmas!



## Electricity/Water Rationing

So there's this thing called El Nino. It's a weather phenomenon that occurs every few years that causes some parts of the Americas to receive lots of precipitation (remember all the snow that Minnesota got in November and December?) while other parts of the Americas get hit with heat and draught. Venezuela is on the dry end of El Nino this year: intense heat and no rain.

There are two results. First, water reservoirs are dropping causing the government to intensify water rationing (where I live we have always gone without running water two days a week and now sometimes more frequently). Second, much of our electricity is generated by hydroelectric dams which are producing less due to the lower water levels. In October and November the government began rationing electricity and we experienced power outages on a daily basis. Currently we are without power twice a week for 3 hours at time.

All this makes it tough to work and study and live comfortably. Pray that the rationing would not effect our work and that rain would soon fall again on our dry land.

I finally had a fully functional bathroom in November, at least on days when there was no water rationing. Note the buckets of water that are used on the two-or-more days a week when there is no running water.



## A Word From The Prez



Dear Friend of Team Expansion,

Recently, Team Expansion called together all of its team leaders throughout the world. They all met at Emerald Hills, our missions nerve center in Louisville, Kentucky. For four days, they dreamed, planned, reported, brainstormed, coached, and re-casted vision. This every-other-year Team Leaders' Summit is one of the most important things we do. It was an exciting event, with some 50 current and future team leaders coming alongside 20 mentors & coaches. It was stupendous, but it's only one small part of the many ways we try to leverage

every worker to his or her max. Through these and many other forms of training, coaching, and accountability, we are demonstrating to all our supporters -- you included -- that we yearn to get better. No wonder you care about your favorite Team Expansion missionary. He or she is led by a top-notch, well-trained team leader. Thank you for investing in our future... and thank you for supporting the work of Team Expansion.

Doug Lucas, President,  
Team Expansion

## Miscellaneous News

- I preached on Sunday November 22. This was my 7th Sunday sermon this year. I preached on some topics that we covered during my fall intensives in St. Paul.
- By November I had a fully functional bathroom with a repaired faucet, a new sink, a new toilette kit, and a repaired shower knob.

## Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for the generosity of those who support this work.
- ◆ **Praise** for the Christmas In July gifts from HSCC.
- ◆ **Praise** for the construction making my rental home livable.
- ◆ **Praise** for the opportunity to gain experience preaching.
- ◆ **Pray** for the water and electricity situation in Venezuela. Pray that the draught and heat wave would end soon. And pray for diligent and competent leadership of the country during this time.
- ◆ **Pray** that the rationing would not effect our work.



**Team Expansion**

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