



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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January Camp 8 Baptisms!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Siempre Con Cristo started the year off in good fashion by holding its annual all-church camp on January 2-4. We returned to the site of last years camp, Camp Zion which is tucked away in a mountainous area about an hour and a half drive from Cua.

Some 64 people attended; that is about 53% or our entire church population. God really moved in mighty ways while we were there. We knew that about 10 of the people that were with us were not believers. After 2 1/2 days of preaching on the will of God for our lives, 6 of those people made decisions for Christ and were baptized!



Later in the month we baptized two more people. We praise God for a great start to the new year. Pray that we would be receive power by the Holy Spirit to make disciples in 2010.

With Joy in Christ,

Sam

Baptisms in the Camp Zion pool. Left to right: Dora, Jose Gregorio (in front of Matt), Alexi, Luis Sr, Luis Jr, and Pilar before and Dora Jose Gregorio, Alexi, Luis Sr, Luis Jr, Pilar. 2 more were baptized later in the month for a total of 8 in January.

New Sunday Worship Rotation

A new era began in SCC at the start of 2010 when a team of five musicians, four Venezuelans and myself, began rotating as worship directors for the Sunday morning services. This marks the first time in the history of the church that the majority of Sunday worship services are led by SCC musicians other than me.

Erick, Noel, Elias, and Edwin are still growing in their ability to plan, prepare, and lead quality worship services and it will be one of my priorities to help them improve over the course of the year by providing guidance during prep time and filling any musical role needed (see page 2 for a listing of all my 2010 goals).

When it is my turn to lead I normally invite Dayanira to co-lead with me. Daya has all the musical tools but still needs some encouragement and oversight. I also continue to head up the music for the youth meetings, developing the next wave of young musicians. These are exciting times as SCC moves toward indigeneity in the area of music leadership. We've come a long way in five years.

2010 Personal Ministry Plan

1. **Serve as missionary on Cúa sub-team leading Siempre Con Cristo to be an indigenous church**
 - a. Self-Propagating
 - i. 125 average Sunday attendance
 - ii. 45 baptisms
 - iii. Leadership development (see below)
 - b. Self-Governing
 - i. Leadership development (see below)
 - c. Self-Supporting
 - i. 5,500 Bs.F. monthly giving
2. **Serve as SCC Worship Director**
 - a. Coordinate Sunday worship rotation consisting of Noel, Erick, Elias, Edwin, and myself
 - i. Co-lead with Erick, Elias and Edwin until they are able to lead on their own
 - ii. Incorporate Daya, Rosita, and other vocalists in song direction
 - b. Exit Sunday worship direction by August
 - c. Lead and/or coordinate Youth worship
 - d. Incorporate new musicians (see #3) into youth group, and Sunday worship.
3. **Serve as SCC Music Institute Coordinator**
 - a. Start lessons with 2 new musicians
 - b. Coordinate and oversee music lessons
 - i. Assist professors (Erick, Daya, Carlo)
 - ii. Encourage students (Samuelito, Argenis, Jose Manuel, Yohali, Josaura, Oscar)
4. **Serve as a teacher and preacher**
 - a. Teach weekly Wednesday night Bible Study (finish Acts, next teach on an epistle, next TBD)
5. **Weekly discipleship with Oscar**
6. **Lead Audio/Visual Ministry**
 - a. Coordinate 4+ person rotation
7. **Lead Sound Technician Ministry**
 - a. Sound board off stage before 2011
 - b. 4+ person rotation before 2011
8. **Establish Anfitriones Ministry**
 - a. Dependant upon a successful 2.b.
9. **Personal Goals**
 - a. Read Bible entirely
 - b. Daily prayer
 - c. Read 12 books
 - d. 200 hours of piano
 - e. Pass all Seminary coursework

As is customary I here include my PMP for 2010 so that you might know the direction of the ministry and be praying for our goals.

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Praise** for a the great beginning of the year at Camp.
- ◆ **Praise** for the SCC's new worship director rotation.
- ◆ **Pray** for our 2010 goals.
- ◆ **Pray** that our ministry would not be effected by black-outs.

Electricity Rationing

As part of Venezuela's electricity rationing, power is cut to different sectors of Cua at different times of the day depending upon their location on the city's power grid. Supposedly there is a set schedule for the outages but they have been quite random.

For four straight Sundays in January and February, SCC had its power cut from 11am until 2 pm. Our service runs from 10 to 12noon. So we moved our service time to 9 to 11. Then they stopped cutting power at 11! Instead we are without power from 6am to 9am when we are trying to preparing for our service.

Power cuts on a fixed schedule can be managed. However, random power cuts could hinder our work as moving the service time will, among other things, hurt attendance.

Miscellaneous

- We had our Mission Team Planning retreat January 24, 25, 26 (see page 1 banner-photo). The planning sessions were great; watching the Vikings loose, not so much.
- Mibzar is one of our most faithful servants. She was one of the original church planters of SCC and she has been with us ever since. Early in 2009 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After months of chemotherapy and radiology, her tests are looking good and she is back serving with us. Although timid and reserved, Mibzar is a vital member of our church's leadership and we praise God that for healing her.
- We had a monthly giving total of 5,140 BsF (approx. \$800) in January. Our target is 5,500. That is a good start.

