



Samuel and Hilda Schutz

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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.

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

Matthew 16:18

Together Venezuela

JUNE 2011

CÚA, VENEZUELA

Future Plans For Sam and Hilda

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hilda and I would like to inform you that we will be leaving Venezuela to move to the United States in the spring of 2012. At that time we will carry out an end-of-service furlough for a few months and then we will resign from Team Expansion to take an indefinite break from full-time mission service. This important decision was brought about by a number of factors.

First, I personally desire a break from full-time mission work. It is common for a missionary to take a year-long furlough after four or five years of service on the mission field. I will have served in Venezuela for over six years and will be due for a furlough, making this a good time to make a transition.

Second, it is important for Hilda to learn English and the best way to truly learn a foreign language is by total immersion just as I have done here in Venezuela learning Spanish. Thus for the good of our relationship, Hilda will be able to study English in the U.S. and also learn about my cultural background.

Third, our financial situation is a factor. Thanks to God and His providence, and to you, our faithful supporters, I have been blessed with solid financial support since coming to Venezuela in 2006. But the cost of living continues to rise and the effects of the economic downturn along with a lack of an extended furlough to re-raise support have caused a

lag in my finances. More importantly, in the last 18 months I have experienced several life changes which have greatly affected my budget. I moved into my own rental house doubling housing and utility costs. Also, I started my masters studies at Bethel Seminary in the fall of 2009 and tuition and book costs have been steep. Finally, I married Hilda at the beginning of this year and am now faced with trying to make a single man's budget stretch to meet a couple's needs.

Fourth, our house and community pose slight security risks. Since our house lacks the outer security wall common to Latin American homes our vehicle has been exposed to vandalism and several items have been stolen from our yard. I am very tall and very white and, while I might blend in in Caracas, I stand out in Los Valles Del Tuy which is also a risk for my family.

Fifth, I still operate with a short-term Venezuelan tourist visa and am obligated to leave the country every few months. I cannot continue to live like this. But, obtaining a long-term transient visa would require me to live in the US for anywhere between 6-12 months and even then there is no guarantee that I would be granted one.

Sixth, I have a few health issues to clear up. Nothing life threatening but simply some things that I prefer to have treated in the US. For example, my surgically

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Future (continued)

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repaired left knee has been bothering me for over two years.

Please note that it is not one single reason, but rather it is the accumulation of reasons listed above that leads Hilda and I to make this decision. We have talked about it and prayed about it and we have peace that God is leading us in this move and He will continue to lead us in the future.

Hilda will finish her 5-year college degree at UNEFA early in 2012. We hope to arrive in the states in the spring of 2012. We will ask supporters to continue their giving for a few months after our arrival in the US. This will give us a chance to find an apartment/house, buy a car, move and settle our belongings, look for a job, debrief with Team Expansion, meet with supporters and all the other little things that go along with an international change of work and residence.

I hope to find work outside of full-time paid professional ministry and will likely return to chemistry/laboratory work while I serve the church as a volunteer lay-worker. Looking beyond this is speculative. I have at times considered planting a church, but until I sense a clear calling I am not sure what the future holds except that we will walk with the Lord and enjoy Him and the journey.

A lot can change between now and spring 2012. For instance, UNEFA, Hilda's university, is notorious for changing curricula and graduation requirements on a whim. So we will keep you posted on our plans as 2012 approaches. We covet your prayers during this exciting and emotional time. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

With Joy in Christ,
Samuel and Hilda

A Word From The Prez



Dear friend of the Great Commission, I'm sure that somewhere in the world, there is a big non-profit organization with hourly employees who open the mail with very little thought as to individual donors. With near robotic detachment, they enter gift amounts and prepare reports for higher-ups who have no relationship with those writing the checks.

*** Team Expansion is not that organization. ***

As a Team Expansion missionary myself for 33 years now, I can testify that whenever we receive a gift of any amount, it's like Christmas all over again. My mind recounts, "Someone cared enough to sponsor our work!" or "Someone sacrificed for Jesus so that others can know His love." "Someone gave up coffee (or a new boat), and I won't forget it." Your favorite Team Expansion missionary is exactly the same. How do I know? Because I talk with them every day. Like Paul, they "give praise to God at every memory of you," (Philippians 1:3, Bible in Basic English). So next time you send a gift, please realize -- the person opening that envelope knows you, thanks God for you, and praises God because of you.

With a grateful heart,

Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

Prayer/Praise Points

- ◆ **Pray** for our future plans to move to the US in spring 2012.
- ◆ **Pray** that we would gracefully exit the ministries of SCC.
- ◆ **Pray** that we would be able to sell our belongings in Venezuela and/or ship them to the US.
- ◆ **Pray** for our pending house, car and job searches.
- ◆ **Pray** for our emotional strength during the transition.
- ◆ **Pray** for the continued growth of SCC during our transition.

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