



Jorge & Diana Lugo

Field Address: 4ta Ave. Los Palos Grandes, Res. Unión Apto 41, Caracas, 1060 Venezuela.

Internet telephone: (513) 276-4929

E-mail:
jdlugo@teamexpansion.org
lugodye@msn.com

Forwarding Agent:
(This is where financial gifts need to be sent)

John Spalding
208 Assisview Ct.
Cincinnati, OH
45238-5975,
Phone (513) 3105319.

For IRS purposes, please make checks payable to **TEAM EXPANSION**, without using our names. Thank you.

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Venezuelan Report

April 2017

Dear family,

It has been a month of blessing, but it has also been a month of many tribulations because of the magnitude of the political crisis, the protests, and how difficult it is to move around the city.

First I want to share a community project that touched my heart. We had the idea of buying vegetables and chicken and making enough soup for 170 people in the street. That day my heart ached to see whole families desperately eating. Many of them were eating from the garbage until we arrived. In one of the squares that we visited, there were so many people desperate for food that it was hard to leave there.

That day we did not invite them to our church, but we told them that Jesus loves them and that he died for them. We suggested they go to any church in the community. We prayed for them, and we wept with them as we shared the Good News with people who have no hope for the country or their own lives.

Please continue praying as we want to do this activity at least every two months.





Again there is much tension and many large protests in the streets of all Venezuela:

There is growing unrest in the midst of crippling economic crisis. Delinquents who roamed on motorcycles after an energy blackout went through neighborhoods and shot people who were protesting. This is after a Supreme Court decision in late March to assume the functions of the congress. The court quickly overturned the most controversial part of its decision, but the Venezuelans reacted, and four men were killed in protests with more than 300 arrested nationwide.

Many neighborhoods blocked their streets with trash or burning debris, resulting in street melees and clashes with security forces. People are demanding the government call for delayed state elections, and they also want an early presidential vote after authorities quashed a recall referendum against the president last year.

Venezuelans have been suffering food and medicine shortages for months, leading many to skip meals or go without vital medical treatment. Lines in the hundreds form in front of supermarkets, and the people jostle for hours in the hot sun hoping to get food.

On April 19th there was a massive protest and tomorrow again. The whole area around the church seemed to be at war. People protested with stones and sticks, and the police were suppressing them with gas; paramilitary groups were shooting the people without hesitation. There are already 26 dead, and the protests continue. Many of the businesses near the church were looted; our church building was under gunfire, and we had to jump to the floor. Keep praying.



Our church is on this street



Despite the unrest, there is a new generation of preachers:

We have a new generation of men between the ages of 16 and 25 who are learning in the church to preach. It is difficult to find because the majority of people in our churches are single, divorced women. It is culturally expected that men in Venezuela have several women and not be faithful in their marriages. Please pray for this whole situation.



Update on the church:

We have worked hard to remodel the church building, trying to install air conditioners and constructing a baptistry since west of the city none of our churches has a place to baptize new Christians, and we want to be a blessing for them and for our church.

Dear brothers and sisters, we continue to be attacked. Some bandits broke through the roof of our church and entered in the night. Thank God the gap was not large enough to take the sound system, but they took the projector, broke the base, and stole a monitor.

We have much work to do to repair the roof and reinforce it. For now we are moving all the equipment to a room at the landlord's place, which is a lot of work, but we have to until we secure the roof with iron reinforcements. It will take a lot of effort and some financial investment.

Please pray for protection for our churches. Our church in Casarapa was attacked by a gunman who entered during a service and stole cell phones and an Ipad from several brothers. Pray for the funds for these repairs and for protection.

Prayer requests:

Pray for the situation in Venezuela. They are calling to make a very big protest that will paralyze the country.

Pray for Diana who has been experiencing tachycardia.

Pray for our safety. The gases from tear gas pumps have affected the area where we live, so we must keep our windows closed despite the heat.

Pray for this new generation of preachers in our church who are in the rotation of the Lord's Supper. Pray for the church planting training that we are giving in our mission.

Pray for the new pastor Alfredo who will be leading *Impacto* Church starting in June.

A note from the president of Team Expansion:

In the 2000 years since the first Easter, a lot has changed. Enemies of the faith would like you to believe Christ-followers are on the decline. But according to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston), Christianity is, in fact, on the rise – from 33.2% of the world in 1970 to 33.3% of the world in 2020. Now granted, that growth may be incremental, but at least it’s “up” and not “down.” Still, if Heaven and Hell are real (and we believe they are), nothing is higher in priority than getting the Word out to the entire World before He comes again.



Thank you for your partnership and prayer, both of which propel forward your favorite Team Expansion workers. And thank you personally for your own work in spreading the Good News of a risen Christ! You are not alone.

Doug

March Starting Balance:	7,292.84
Chapel Rock Christian Church	917.00
Discover Christian Church	1,400.00
First Christian Church Morris	1,583.33
First Christian Church of Scottsburg	200.00
First Church Burlington	227.51
First Church of Christ Xenia	200.00
Garden City Church of Christ	200.00
Hilliard Church of Christ	600.00
Horsepen Church of Christ	100.00
Northside Christian Church	1,000.00
Outlook Christian Church	300.00
Park Christian Church	250.00
Western Hills Church of Christ	1,420.00
Individual Donors	50.00
Total Receipts	8,447.84

March Ending Balance:	8,788.68
Benefits	
100 · Salary	1,442.00
110 · Medical Insurance	211.00
111 · Special Medical Expense	137.36
150 · Housing Allowance	1,178.00
160 · Utilities	122.00
170 · Education for Children	327.42
180 · Contributions	200.00
Total Benefits	3,617.78
Education	
200 · Books/Periodicals	57.56
Total Education	57.56
Christian Education	
300 · Printed Material	155.00
320 · Hospitality	87.00
Total Christian Education	242.00
Evangelism	
470 · Joint Team Projects	228.00
490 · National Co-Workers	50.00
Total Evangelism	278.00
Office	
600 · Supplies In the Field	253.48
640 · Facility/Utilities	427.00
660 · Mission Phone	124.00
661 · E-Mail	32.00
670 · Secretaries/Assistants	85.00
Total Office	921.48
Promotion/Representation	
740 · Home Office	100.00
Total Promotion/Representation	100.00
Travel	
806 · Vehicle Maintenance	831.00
810 · Meals While Traveling	156.39
830 · Housing While Traveling	58.56
840 · Legal (Travel Fees)	325.64
Total Travel	1,371.59
Miscellaneous	
900 · Unspecified Equipment	124.95
920 · Banking Fees	27.00
930 · Mission House	211.64
Total Miscellaneous	363.59
Total Expenses	6,952.00