



God's blessings have been beyond measure in 2003. As we come to the end of the year and reflect on all He has done in our personal lives and with the work in East Caracas, we are humbled and awed. Please share in this rejoicing and be in prayer for the continued growth of the work.

Before sharing with you the exciting news from East Caracas, please allow me to share with you a **brief Bogotá update**: I had not visited the congregation in North Bogotá since the beginning of June. Even in those few months of absence, there was much growth to be celebrated. There are now about 50-60 meeting on Sunday mornings with many personal Bible studies being conducted around the area. While I was in Bogotá at the beginning of December, I was able to be present for the first mid-week service of the congregation. They will continue with this time of study every Wednesday at 7:00pm. I also was blessed to be present for the one-year anniversary service of the North-West congregation: a work established by members of the North Bogotá congregation. They invited Rafael Valderrama to preach for their anniversary service (pictured). May God continue to work in the lives of our Colombian brothers and sisters.



It's easy to forget all that God has done when one is caught up in the problems of the moment. Sunday, December 14, La Iglesia de Cristo en el Este (Church of Christ in the East) had twenty-one for services (a great number for the holiday time); twenty-four present for an end-of-the-year party; and a long list of God's blessings since the beginning of this congregation, established in February 2003. It was encouraging to finally see **the identity of La Iglesia de Cristo en el Este be formed and solidified**. There were even a few people who mentioned as a goal for next year that we not change the preachers or anyone working with the church in East Caracas!

It seems cold to just share with you a list of what we've done over the past year, but the truth is there's not enough paper in the world to share with you all of the **victory stories** from each of these activities, studies and growth. Please accept my cordial invitation to come and visit the work for yourself. We'll put you to work and you will return home so encouraged by how God can use you in East Caracas and by the warm reception by your Venezuelan brothers and sisters (just ask my dad who visited in early November).



Major Accomplishments of 2003/Summary of Events:

- Preparatory work done by Elías Elcure (July 2002 – February 2003)
- The official establishment of the work in east Caracas (February 2, 2003 in Michelle's apartment)
- Arrival of Luis and Fabiola Gómez, along with son, Daniel (February 2003); Juan Carlos Martínez (February 2003); and Michelle Goff (March 2003) – all as full-time workers in east Caracas
- Five baptisms
 - (Rosa Elena Bastardo, Néstor Muñoz, Fernando Becerra, Ana Pacheco & Christopher Marquez)
- Establishment of the identity of the Church of Christ in the East with unity and love
- Weekly Bible Studies: Tuesday prayer meetings and Wednesday evangelistic studies
- Moving into the Hotel Continental, Altamira, for Sunday services (June 1, 2003)
- Caracas-area Evangelistic Campaign with Bob Brown (June 20-22)
- Vocational Training of Workers Seminar (September)
- Caracas-area Ladies' Conference with Sharla Marcum and Ann Baker (October 3-5)
- Various Sunday potlucks (April 13, August 17, & December 14, 2003)
- Innumerable answered prayers!



Primary Goals of 2004:

- Spiritual and numerical growth of the congregation
- English classes using the Bible as an evangelistic tool (to begin in January)
- New Bible study in the largest university in Caracas (to begin in February)
- Central Venezuela Women's Retreat to be hosted by the Church of Christ in the East (November)
- Greater unity among each other and with our Lord
- Finding our own permanent meeting place for Sunday service and mid-week activities
- Continued growth in all areas of ministry we have begun in 2003



Before closing, I must mention the tremendous opportunity I had to speak at the **Annual Eastern Venezuela Ladies' Conference** on the topic of purity (camp site pictured in Puerto Ordaz). I felt honored to be invited and to be used as God's instrument in the lives of so many ladies in need of that lesson and/or a personal touch later. Just prior to that conference, I was invited to translate for Dana Curo at a ladies' day in **San Cristóbal**, Venezuela. While in town, I was also able to teach several ladies' classes (one pictured below). It was exciting to share with all of

those ladies about the work in East Caracas as well. May of those individuals have family or friends who live in East Caracas with whom we can study the Bible.



Please remember to check out even more pictures and stories on the website: www.davidagoff.com (**Michelle's Mission Pages**). I have been able to start even more personal Bible studies in the month of December. My prayer is that this will be a part of the growth we will experience as a congregation in 2004. There are so many other plans and dreams we have as a congregation. We cannot do it without your help! We need you to be a part of the work in East Caracas through your donations and your prayers. If you're wondering what to do to get that last tax break before the new year, please keep us in mind. I greatly appreciate those of you who have been our constant support and guide in this work. You are our prayer warriors and God is faithful. Thank you! Keep it up!

Please pray for the following:

- Non-Christian Studies: Anita, María, Jeanette and María Carolina
- Christian/Discipleship Studies: Ana, Erminia, Rosa and Aurora
- Thanking God for the blessings of 2003
- The general growth of the church here in east Caracas
- Our goals for 2004
- Your involvement in this work.



Caracas, Venezuela: a city of six million in desperate need of the gospel

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Thanks again for your prayers and support! We can't do it without you!