

The month of August started with a visa-renewing trip to Bogotá, Colombia. After encouraging the church there and conducting numerous personal and group Bible studies with the women, I hurried back to Caracas to continue the final preparations for the East Caracas campaign to the Amazon. During the week before our departure to the Amazon, I was invited to speak at the downtown Caracas congregation (El Silencio) on Giving Thanks, Saturday, August 12. This was the day before the Central Venezuelan Area-Wide Worship Service which almost 500 people attended. It is always exciting to bring that many Christians together to worship. The other churches present were inspired by the young East Caracas congregation's commitment to take a group to the Amazon later that week.

Early Thursday morning, August 17, a group of twelve set off on a twenty-hour drive to the Amazon. The beauty of this trip was that it was done by Venezuelans for Venezuelans. It was an eye-opening experience for the East



Caracas members. Everyone came back with a new perspective on their Christian walk and the spiritual maturity that can only be acquired by serving others and reaching beyond your comfort zone. God blessed those efforts and allowed the mission team to visit four indigenous communities and the Amazon capital city of Puerto Ayacucho. In each of the communities, there was the opportunity to teach the adults, conduct children's classes and encourage the new Christians. In one community, Caño Pasa, the gospel had never been preached. Nine were baptized and the church was started in Caño Pasa. I really have no words to describe the blessing it was to spread the good news, see them accept Christ as their Savior, share a meal with the brand new church and encourage them in

their new Christian walk. The East Caracas congregation has adopted the new church in Caño Pasa and I encourage you to check out the pictures and learn more about this amazing experience online: www.MichelleMissions.com.

Immediately upon returning to Caracas, I left for the U.S. to pack up my things in Denver, Colorado, and drive them to Baton Rouge for the closing on a new house! Some of the brethren in Baton Rouge helped me find the right house and the right loan – an opportunity that couldn't be passed up. Please make plans to visit me in Baton Rouge starting in March 2007. My family has already been gracious enough to help me make the house a home.

All of the arrangements and plans for the house have been a stark contrast to some of what the church in East Caracas is facing. Luis and Fabiola Gómez had been hosting the Tuesday night Bible studies, but after threats from their building managers, we have had to move that study. We have recently opened a new Bible study, starting in the book of Philippians, here in my apartment. The same night I wrote this newsletter, I began to receive negative comments from neighbors. The difficulty in hosting Home Bible Studies and the increased attendance on Sunday mornings has created a greater urgency for a more permanent meeting place. Please join us in prayer for that need. The real estate market in Caracas is extremely competitive and very expensive. God is greater.

One Sunday filled with blessings, we had an attendance of 72; a young Christian led singing for the first time; Denis and Robbie Ruiz (missionaries in Puerto La Cruz) were visiting so that Robbie could teach a ladies' class and Denis could preach; and best of all, Zulmelly (below), a young lady with whom I've been studying the Bible was baptized!

If all of these activities seem overwhelming or a lot to do in a short amount of time, you're absolutely right! Every line of this newsletter could be expressed by a page or more of stories. A picture is worth a thousand words, so please take a look and hear more of the stories: www.MichelleMissions.com God continues to bless and use us and I can't wait to see how He continues to use us in the future. Thanks for being a vital part of these ministries!

Keep up the prayers and the support! M.

Please pray for the following:

- Non-Christian Studies: María de Pilar, Beatriz M., Norma, Irma, Beatriz G.
- Christian/Discipleship Studies: Zulmelly, Zahira, Deyanira, Lorena, Alexandra, Elizabeth, Dayana, Vanessa, Mercedes, Rosa, Evelyn, and Fabiola
- Thanking God for His innumerable blessings
- The growth of the church in East Caracas
- The brothers growing in leadership
- My transition moving to the U.S. Feb. 2007
- ***Our own meeting place!***

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