



# Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ...

November 2001

## The Van is at Work!

There is a verse in the Psalms where David says, "I would perish had I not seen the love of God in the land of the living" (translation from Reina Valera in Spanish) Isn't that true! In my last newsletter I sent you an urgent prayer request concerning the entrance of the van into the country. Jorge and I have passed through a busy month of making phone calls to customs agents, paying various fees to process papers, and struggling with impatience.

Jorge has had to use numerous taxis to get to work because of the lesser access of transportation to Caracas. It was difficult especially for him because he felt as if he was spending all of his salary in taxi money. However, we were hoping and praying everyday with all of you! We praise the Lord and are thrilled to let you know that we now have the van in our possession! Thank you so much for your ready prayers! God has answered!

We went to Puerto Cabello early in the morning on the 24th of October to pick up the vehicle. We took a taxi for the 3 hour drive, and the driver turned out to be a

brother in Christ. He was praying that God would provide him a good day in his wages when lo and behold we came his way for the long trip! We arrived at about 9:30 in the morning and finally received the van in the evening about 6:00 pm. The van is in great shape after its long voyage. We just noticed a few small marks inside the car that weren't there previously and the rear-view mirror was taken down for some reason.

Driving in Venezuela is one big adventure ... or at least that's the way I try to think about it. Forget about people using turning signals, stop signs and speed limits.

Transportation on the highway is a free-for-all, so you better watch out for the other guy! Needless to say I'm learning the unwritten rules on the road here, and all is working out. Please pray that Jorge's drivers license will be processed soon. Since he hasn't driven in a long time, he is a bit nervous. Please pray that God will grant him safety as he learns to drive again.

Just it's first Sunday in Venezuela the van took all of the food and many people to the park for a special service. It's already being put to work! Praise the Lord!

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## A New Ministry

Meanwhile, Jorge and I have jumped into the ministry here in pretty much everything. It's been interesting learning about the people in this new place because although they are just about an hour from Caracas they are very different. They are much more laid back than people in the city in their dress and time orientation, but they are also much more open and friendly in a lot of ways.

We have a challenge of helping to inspire them into action and organization in the church without offending or pressuring. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would urge our brothers and sisters here into action in this community.

Since it is a small congregation, all of us need to be active in the Lord's work in order for the church to prosper and grow. Please pray for the following requests right now:

- 1) That I can help to organize the Sunday school and children's church.
- 2) That God will give us success with the youth.
- 3) That God will inspire the men of the church.
- 4) That all of the newer Christians will be disciplined.
- 5) That the church will grow.

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## A New Youth Group

Jorge and I feel that we have had a recent victory in the youth group. After making some visits and calling some of the youth that have previously visited the church but are not faithful, we had our first youth meeting with four of these teens.

Our first meeting went really well, and all of the teens, Engelbert, 18; Andreina, 15; Michel, 15, and Luis, 14 were all excited as well! We played

games and had snacks for them and a short message.

Our main objective is first to help them see the importance of having a relationship with God. Next, I have started to offer free English classes to some of the teens in the community, just for those between 12 and 17 years of age.

My first student is Laura who lives in our building and also Andreina and

Michel would like to join the class. I think that with the youth I will be able to not only help them learn something that will be helpful to them but also show them the love of Christ. Laura, 12, is not a Christian, and Michel and Andreina are really struggling. If I can offer some support and stability in the Lord, that will be wonderful!

## A New Cell

We just started a new cell in an apartment building that is located in one of the poorer areas. You must take a bus up a long narrow winding road with oncoming traffic and no guardrails to get to these apartment buildings that were built specifically for the people who were left without houses after the mudslides in December of 1999.

This is an answered prayer because these are exactly the people whom we

have been praying to witness to. The cell is in the apartment of an outgoing lady who recently became a Christian. Although thus far we have just had the cell with her family, we are already seeing fruits. Her husband, Willy, has expressed the desire to become a Christian. Please pray that he will make the commitment to accept the Lord and be baptized.

We have been handing out invita-

tions and talking with the people in the building and can see the hand of the Lord working through us. Already we have had people open up and share their stories with us like the man named Jose, who just lost his job and doesn't know where to turn to.

Please pray that God will continue to work in this new cell to bring these people to Him.

## Special Prayer Requests

Finally, I would like to express to you some needs that the church plant has at present. We still lack a projector, which was stolen from the church two months ago and was used for the worship time and sermon outlines for the church services. Also, the church needs a copy machine so that we won't have to make a trip to Caracas just to make

copies, as they are too expensive here.

Please pray for these needs, and if you should know of a church or an individual that has some of this equipment and it is not being used, please let us know! Thank you so much for your prayers. God is certainly answering!

Your friends,

*Jorge and Sara Navarrete*

P.S. Now that most of you know Jorge, He will be writing a portion of the newsletter so that you can also have a Venezuelan perspective of our ministry! Look forward to that in the coming newsletter!

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All contributions go directly to Sara and Jorge's ministry in Venezuela.

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