

MATURIN VENEZUELA JUNE 2007

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I give thanks to the all powerful God for allowing me to communicate with you all once again. It is my great desire that all of you are well, being protected by the powerful hand of our Savior. Following are the details of my report.

THE WORK IN MATURIN

The church in Maturin continues forward, still dealing with the details of finding a new place to congregate after having to abandon the place where we had met for several years. If you remember our place of worship had been robbed. In the home of our sister Ana Caro, where we are temporarily meeting, we have had many visitors that the brethren have been inviting, met through their personal work efforts.

Internet Studies We continue to have students interested in email Bible studies. We are able to maintain contact with people, answering questions, sending new lessons and encouraging them to keep studying.

RADIO

In June we transmitted program #148. This month we were only able to hold two radio programs because of official news that was being sent on radio and television during our normal broadcasting times. Otherwise, this spot seems to be good for spreading the message, reaching the ears of many listeners and promoting Bible study.

NATIONAL PREACHING TOUR

As you might guess, this first half of the year was especially moving, with many invitations to travel to preach in other congregations. It was a pleasure to share in their love of Christ, to edify and support our brothers in the faith.

Barquisimeto On Wednesday the 13th, at 8:00 pm, I left by bus to reach Barquisimeto. I arrived on Thursday at 9:00 am. That same evening I presented a Bible study for the members of the church there and for those they had invited, about 40 people.

Coro, Falcon State On Friday the 15th, at 10:30 am, I left by bus from the city of Coro. It is the capital city of the state of Falcon, founded in 1527 by Santa Ana de Coro. There in the town center for about the last 20 years is the church of Christ. Its beginnings were controlled by the Institutional church, but today, thanks to God, it makes all efforts to follow faithfully the way of Christ. That evening I participated with my beloved brethren in a prayer service. On Saturday the 16th at 7:00 pm, I prepared to send a radio broadcast via telephone to the station in Maturin, however it wasn't possible because official business was being transmitted again during our time slot. On Sunday at 9:30 am we met

for services where I had been asked to preach. At 6:00 pm I met again with the members where we had a class on Authority and Laws about marriage, Civil Law, Marriage , Divorce and Remarriage. It was a very interesting and active meeting that lasted 4 hours. On Monday the 18th I dedicated my time to be with Daniel Gutierrez, the preacher here. I left by bus again on Tuesday and arrived back at Barquisimeto on Wednesday at 4:30 am.

Barquisimeto. On Wednesday the 20th at 7:00 pm I attended a Bible study group with a mixture of Christians and non-Christians.

Acarigua, Portuguese state On Saturday the 23rd, in the morning I traveled to Acarigua in the Portuguese state. It is located to the south of Barquisimeto about 86 km. It is not the capital, but it is a major city because of its agriculture and farming. It is nicknamed the “Barn of Venezuela”. The church here was established in 2005 when a group of people from the “liberal” church decided to study the “controversies” and they were asked to leave the congregation. The group that was cut off formed their own church and others joined later. Now two years later they have a good meeting place and are united in their efforts to spread the gospel of Christ. That Saturday that I arrived we had a Bible class at 7 pm with the members of the church there. On Sunday at 10:00 am we held worship services and I preached. I had intended to return home early if possible, but the brothers in Acarigua had a surprise for me since it was my birthday. We all met in the home of the Mirabal family and enjoyed a succulent lunch of grilled chicken, yucca, bread, corn, salad and soda. They presented me with a birthday cake and sang our traditional birthday song. I blew out the candle and everyone enjoyed a piece of cake. At 4 pm I left this warm brotherhood meeting to return home. I appreciate with all my heart their kind gesture. May God continue to guard them in the faith!

Continued Agenda in Barquisimeto On Thursday the 28th at 7:00 pm I participated in a Bible study similar to the one held there before with the members of the church, but also with several visitors who were not Christians. On Friday the 29th at 6:00 am I was able to conduct the radio program with Orlando Vargas, the preacher there. On Saturday the 30th at 7:30 am we conducted the program again.

Change of Plans in Comuna In an earlier report I had spoken about the possibility of beginning a new work in a rural area near Maturin. I guess that about 10,000 people live in that zone. Economically, the people are mostly farm workers that work in various farms surrounding the area. That being the case, we know that Bible classes would have to be offered at night, but then the problem arises that there is no transportation for us to return back into the city. The public transportation service ends once night falls. Given this limitation to working in this area, I have redesigned my plan for evangelism. After talking to the members here, we have decided to initiate studies in the city of Cumana capital of our neighboring state Sucre, to the north of Maturin. It is about 229 kms from here, about a 4 hour trip. Even though this location is further away from here, there is an opportunity to use their daily papers to promote Bible studies via the Internet and correspondence course until we can make personal contacts. We can use public transportation to get us there. I should also say that in Cumaná there are two liberal

groups, but no faithful group. We ask that you pray that God will help us to make this happen.

FINAL WORDS *In the next report, Lord willing, I will inform you about the culmination of my preaching trip. Again I ask for your prayers and with all my Herat I appreciate your participation with me in the evangelism of Christ. It is my greatest wish that the Savior continue blessing you richly.*

In the love of Christ,

Antonio and family