

## Sydni's Prayer Letter September/October

**Pray With Me For:** Health (stress from cultural adjustment), getting more water, Bible studies, Algo Diferente, starting English club, finding a location for the retreat in November

**Praise God for:** Providing energy and helping me to adjust smoothly

*Dear Friends and family,  
Thank you so much for enabling me to come to this place where I can spend the next year growing in my faith and pouring out to others. I really appreciate all the letters that I received from some of you - they were a great joy and encouragement to me when I found them my first night here. Since this is the first update, I will focus on acquainting you with my job and life here.*

### Getting Settled In

The first week here was solely an adjustment period. My roommates and I got settled in, familiarized ourselves with the city, and bought groceries, new things for the house, things we forgot, and new phones. One of the biggest challenges to adjustment is not being able to have water all day long since it is being rationed. When we have a lot of water, we get 6 hours a day – 2 hours in the morning, afternoon, and evening. One day we only had half an hour of water for the afternoon and evening combined! To get more water our building orders a water truck, which we fear comes from Lake Maracaibo (where the city's sewage is dumped)! *Pray that we will get more water, and that it does not come from the lake!*

### Goals

The next week our team formulated a plan for the year – looking at the schedule and deciding what our goals for the year would be. These are the 4 goals we came up with based on

**Campus Crusade's Mission:**

**Win -**

★ Have 8 Gospel conversations each week with 100% reconnect (contact those people again to invite them to our weekly meeting and/or meet with them again)

**Build -**

★ Challenge 4 Venezuelans to partner in leading 4 advanced/beginner men's and women's Bible studies each week after our weekly meeting

**Send -**

★ Offer 3 mission trips to 3 different cities before Christmas break

★ Plan and launch a Venezuelan summer project in 2010

### On Campus

Our goal here with **Vida Estudiantil**, or "Student Life," (Campus Crusade) is to reach the students that attend La Universidad del Zulia, aka **LUZ**. LUZ is one university, but has many different "facultades" (campuses). Students have classes only on the campus that corresponds to their major. This semester we are focusing on two - **Engineering** (which is next to Architecture/Graphic Design) and **Humanities** (which is next to Economics and Law). Though they are all part of the same university, each campus has a different "schedule" – which is very confusing! Unlike the US, there are no set start and end dates for classes. Due to riots, strikes, and other reasons for classes being cancelled (such as teachers just deciding not to show up

for class or students going on vacation), semesters drag on for forever, and students end up taking exams 2 weeks before their next semester starts. So when we first started going on campus here, we were talking to students who were finishing up their last semester. The next week we were talking to a mixture of students who were taking exams, hanging out on campus even though they didn't have classes, doing registration, and beginning their new semester.

### Ministry Schedule

With no interruptions, our weekly schedule would look like this:

- \* Going on campus Monday - Thursday
- \* Meeting with the servant team (4 pairs of student leaders each in charge of a different activity)
- \* Meeting with students for discipleship
- \* Team training (studying different books – we just finished In the Name of Jesus. Next is The Prodigal God)
- \* Reconnect (two times a week) - contacting students and praying
- \* Tiempo Libre
- \* Staff prayer with the national team
- \* Team meeting
- \* Various Vida activities on Saturdays (Our activities are on Saturdays because the students all live at home, and it is easier for them to be allowed to leave home to attend meetings on Saturday afternoons.)

### Ministry Details

The activities that Vida offers are:

- \* **Tiempo Libre** (Free Time) – Weekly outreach meeting with free lunch, games, and a short talk. Now we have Bible studies following the meeting.

\* **Algo Diferente** (Something Different) – meeting for Christians, aka AD

\* **Serving with a Purpose** – Reaching out to the community by picking up trash, visiting hospitals and orphanages, etc.

\* **Fraternidad** (Fellowship) – Parties and other activities to build community. The team that I coach is AD. Contrary to the name, the servant team leaders always end up doing the same thing each week. This year we really want to **redirect AD to be more of a time where students can really connect with God through prayer and worship**. To make sure that gets accomplished, we are changing one of the bi-monthly AD meetings to a Prayer meeting.

I really want to start up an **English club** in the next couple of weeks. This is such a great opportunity in so many ways! It will help me connect with students even though I don't speak much Spanish. I love teaching and this will give me experience for the future. There are so many times when I've had a conversation with someone who wants to learn English, but doesn't feel comfortable coming all the way out to Tiempo Libre. Many students will be able to come to the club since it will be on campus, and it will give us the chance to re-connect with them, and share the Gospel again. *Pray for a room to use on campus, and for a good time.*

*Thank you so much for your prayers, support, and encouragement. May God continue to bless you beyond measure! Please let me know how I can pray for you specifically. If you are receiving this letter via snail mail, please send me your email address today to help save the environment. [Sydni.gould@uscm.org](mailto:Sydni.gould@uscm.org)*