

# Pred etc.

A non-monthly Stevazine

Dec 2007

Your guide to the ministry of Stephen Predtechenskis and Hidalgo



## **Exclusive** **Interview with Stephen Inside!**

Some of you see me weekly. Some I haven't seen in years. This is my attempt to update you on what's going on in my life and my current opportunity to serve God through local missions. I hope you enjoy reading about how God is working.

*Stephen*

**Winter 2007/2008 Update**



# No Speako El Spanisho...yet

## The Language School Question

My Fall 2007 goal of attending language school in Mexico has been postponed because of God's blessings. In answer to prayers for new volunteers, God provided a great new group, and therefore a greater need for me to be with them in Dallas for now. Although I still plan to go to language school, God has also provided Spanish practice in the meantime through friendships with the Hidalgo apartment's head of maintenance (Gabriel) and the manager (Zaira). Gabriel uses our fishing outings, soccer outings, or whatever to help me with my Spanish. Zaira was taking a college English class and asked me to be her weekly conversation partner. Since then, Zaira has come to our Hidalgo worship service and helped us invite and take needy families from Hidalgo to Northwest Bible Church's Christmas Market. (Zaira also helps by teaching me which phrases I learned from Gabriel that I shouldn't use in public or mixed company.)



*Top: Gabriel and Stephen (with Benjamin--not pictured) attended an FC Dallas soccer game--on wig night. Above right: Zaira showing off her Bible.*

# Did you know?

“Nationally less than ten percent (10%) of all multihousing residents, regardless of ethnicity or social-economic background are churched or saved.”

Source: [www.newchurches.com](http://www.newchurches.com)



*Teenagers at Hidalgo's Tuesday night Youth Group*



*Cristina and Raymond show off the new shoes provided by Hidalgo supporters. They live with their great grandmother.*



## A Broken Arm Works Like a Charm

Much like the saga of Big Bird and Mr. Snuffle-upagus on Sesame Street\*, the seven “Smith” kids (not their real name) had told us for years that they lived with their parents, but I had yet to see the parents. Finally, in August I had a Smith parent sighting when their mother came with her teenage daughter Sulma to a Hidalgo Ladies’ Craft Night. The existence

was confirmed, but a relationship with the parents was yet to be formed. All of the kids have been involved at one point or more in our ESL classes, weekly kids’ club, and/or our weekly Hidalgo church service --but up to that point, never the parents.

That’s when we had to resort to drastic measures! Okay, not really. We didn’t break the youngest son’s--Rosbi’s—arm. But God was rather clever to let it happen the night we had a doctor and his wife—Jeff and Carrie Hurley—guest leading at Club Hidalgo. Jeff recommended Rosbi get an x-ray and arranged for him to see an orthopedic doctor the next day. That’s how I ended up spending two doctor visits with Rosbi, his mother Ofelia, and his older brother. And, after the second visit ,we came home to find Rosbi’s dad and brother working on their truck. I met and spent some time talking to the dad as well.

Then the next Sunday at Hidalgo’s church service, another of Rosbi’s brothers, who had been attending the service regularly, gave indication that He wanted to receive God’s gift of salvation.

Yes, God can use all things—including broken bones—to further His kingdom.

*\* This story is sponsored by the letter “O” and the number “7”.*





## They Moved Back Because of “Church”

*(Above: Iris and Stephanie at a Backyard Bible Club several years ago. They just moved back.)*

I was in my conversation practice with the apartment manager when the mother of two of our Hidalgo girls stopped in the leasing office. This family had lived at Chapel Creek Apartments (the Hidalgo community) for years, but several months ago moved to another apartment complex down the street. The girls had continued to walk from their new apartment much of the time for our weekly Kids’ Club. While in the office to discuss her application to move back, **this mother told the manager the reason she was moving back was because of the Hidalgo ministry.** They now live directly beside our Hidalgo clubhouse—only a few yards from “church”.

*(This story is not unusual. Through the years we’ve had kids that attended Club Hidalgo while living in the community who then continued to attend after moving away. That could mean having to cross a major road—Webb Chapel Drive—on foot, ride the bus, or get dropped off by parents. We also have a couple families that drive over for the adult Bible study and Sunday afternoon worship as well.)*

## Called into the Principal’s Office

Well, not actually called *into* the principal’s office—just called *from* the principal’s office. The principal from Cigarroa Elementary School—our Hidalgo Kindergarten through 5th graders’ school—recently called and asked me to be on a task force to help ensure the school is on track to bringing up the kids’ achievement test scores.



# Exclusive Interview: Stephen Tells All

## (Or, at least A Lot)

I recently interviewed myself (no one else was available) to get the inside scoop on what's happening in my life. Here's the gist of the conversation:

**ME:** Hi, Stephen. Thanks for taking the time to talk to me today.

**SP:** My pleasure, Mr. Predtechenski. May I call you "Pred" for short? That last name is a mouthful and I don't want to pull a muscle.

**ME:** Sure. Now let me start with what everyone is asking. Are you full-time now with CAM working at Hidalgo?

**SP:** No.

*[Pause. Both of us staring at each other, waiting for the other to speak.]*

**ME:** Oh. Okay... Well, you reduced your training at ExecuTrain from full-time to 2 days a week back in January 2007 so you could focus on ministry and support-raising. How is that going?

**SP:** Well, the ministry is going well. God is truly blessing. But it's also taken most of my focus, so I did less on increasing the ministry support team. With raising support while in local missions and working at ExecuTrain, it's like having three part-time jobs, and the support-raising is the one where I work alone and set my own hours. The structured, more tangible responsibilities get the most attention.

**ME:** Is that good?

**SP:** Wow. You're really pressing aren't you? Well, it's not ideal. One

friend reminded me that giving people the opportunity to invest their prayers and finances in ministry is a ministry as well. It's just harder to keep that perspective, though it's correct.

**ME:** I understand.

**SP:** I thought you would.

**ME:** Finally, Stephen, what are your greatest needs in the coming year?

**SP:** Well, Pred, the greatest need is prayer support. A faithful, consistent pray-er is actually harder to find than a financial investor. And if people are praying for the ministry needs, God will raise up providers as well.

**ME:** But you do need financial "partners" as well, right?

**SP:** Oh, definitely. Once I have sufficient support coming in monthly, I can leave my computer contracting work altogether and focus full-time on the Hidalgo ministry through CAM International.

**ME:** By the way, for those readers who don't know, what is CAM?

**SP:** Great question, Pred. CAM, actually CAM International, stands for Central American Missions, a missionary organization started by C.I. Scofield. Although I lead a ministry associated with Northwest Bible Church, in order to raise support I joined a missions organization. I was impressed with the people from CAM International with whom I had met and/or worked--people like Amado Lozano, Craig Prather, and Gene Purvis. That was a huge influence on my decision. I also liked CAM's attitude of allowing creativity and an entrepreneurial spirit towards ministry.

**ME:** I can see that you like to try think outside of the box. Well, Stephen, I really appreciate you taking this time with me today. You're a great guy—I don't care what everyone says about you!

**SP:** Um, thanks... I think.

**As an aid to Stephen and to help people who would like to partner with him in ministry, we included information about giving on the last page.**

## Keeping Connected

To hunt me down, here's all my contact info. If you haven't seen me or heard from me lately, please call or email and we'll try to fix that.

### Personal Address:

8775 Southwestern Blvd., Apt 2158  
Dallas, TX 75206  
(214) 288-7929 cell  
stephenp@caminternational.org

### Financial Address:

CAM International  
8625 La Prada Drive  
Dallas, TX 75228  
www.caminternational.org  
(800) 366-2264

### Web sites:

Stephen: [www.predetc.com](http://www.predetc.com)  
Hidalgo: [www.gohidalgo.com](http://www.gohidalgo.com)

## Join Me in Ministry

Some of you have asked about partnering with me in ministry. Here are some ways to do this:

- Praying
- Volunteering time
- Financially through CAM International

If you would like to partner financially, checks can be written and sent to CAM International with my name in the memo line. For monthly giving, an automatic electronic transfer form can be downloaded from [www.gohidalgo.com/stephen.htm](http://www.gohidalgo.com/stephen.htm).