



SPREADING GOD'S LOVE IN PARAGUAY WITH THE POWER OF MUSIC

## Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!

Happy Easter everyone! Well, another month has come and gone and believe it or not Stephen and I have now been in Paraguay for five months! Wow! Almost half a year has passed and we are so thankful for the continued support we receive from our church family and friends back in the United States. I've said this countless times but it's no less true today than yesterday; Mission 403 would be nothing without the grace of God and people like you who give faithfully. Thank you for answering God's call and investing in this ministry. Great things are happening and I believe greater things are yet to come.

Something special that's happened recently in Paraguay is that Stephen and I got to experience what it's like to have a mission team visit. For the last two weeks we've had the privilege of working alongside Charlie Scruggs and Amáris Santos, a couple from Virginia who are engaged to be married next month! Charlie is the Virginia State Youth Director and his soon-to-be wife Amáris is his partner in ministry. Charlie was the speaker for the local church here

in Carapegua for Easter Sunday and Amáris taught a lesson to the girls of the Quyquyho children's home that same Sunday night.

About a week after this couple came to visit, the Lester family arrived. Ken Lester, along with his wife Sandi (A.K.A. Sweetie), and his two children Megan and Ryan all came to spend the week after Easter at the Promise Land Campground in Carapegua. Ken is the pastor of Huddleston COGOP located in Virginia, where Charlie and Amáris attend church locally. Once the Lester's arrived it was all hands on deck to build a custom set of couches for the living room of the children's home. Stephen and I had a wonderful time making friends with these special people. Having a visit from home was like a breath of fresh air for us and it renewed our spirits to continue on in this ministry God has given us. Thank you so much to the Lester family, Charlie, & Amáris. You have blessed us these past two weeks and we are glad to now call you friends.



A Ministry of the Church of  
God of Prophecy

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## We Need a Sound System!

Not long after Stephen and I first came to Paraguay, we became connected with the National Music Team for the Church of God of Prophecy here. This is a group of church musicians from all over Paraguay who volunteer their time and talent in order to produce quality music for praise and worship during the church's national events. I know that for youth camp alone, the music team met for hours every Sunday afternoon for at least six weeks in order to prepare for the camp. Since then, Stephen and I have become members of the team, and are working hard right alongside the Paraguayans to develop a great music program for our church.

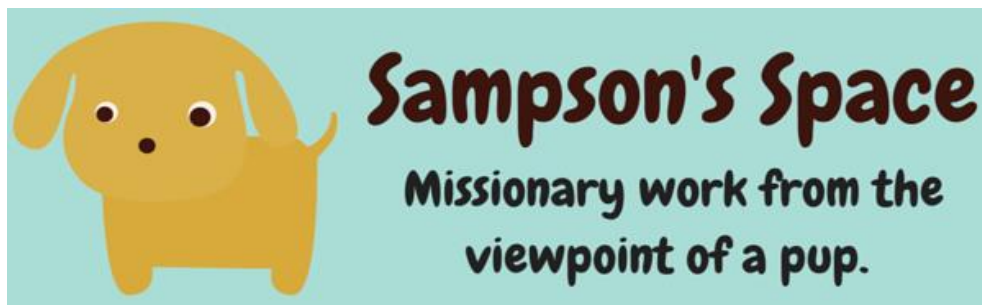
The National Music Team is now in demand more than ever, and we are finding ourselves traveling to various locations in order to minister. At one of our latest meetings, the team discussed as a group its need to purchase a new, quality sound system. The equipment we are currently using is often times borrowed from one church or another and not in the best condition. We would like to purchase a complete system in the name of the national church so that the team might transport the equipment whenever it is needed. Each team member has been tasked with taking this need to their local churches in order to generate funds from within Paraguay. However, I would like to ask for those who support the Mission 403 ministry to pray about how God could use you to help us purchase this equipment. If you are interested in helping the COGOP Paraguay National Music Team to generate funds to purchase a new sound system, please email me (Jessica) at [jhwschaefer@gmail.com](mailto:jhwschaefer@gmail.com).



*Jessica Schaefer playing bass at the local Church of God of Prophecy in Carapegua, Paraguay.*



*Sampson is a 5 year-old German Shepard mix living in Paraguay. He loves giving kisses to little kids who lay on him.*



So recently, I've discovered a new place here on the campground and I think it might be my favorite spot in all of Paraguay!!! It's the pond! Almost every afternoon, mom and dad take me down beside the pond and they string up their hammocks to rest for the afternoon. The culture in Paraguay is that everyone gets up really early every day, but after lunch there is something called a siesta time. This means that during the hottest parts of the day here everyone usually rests or takes a nap. The whole campground goes quite from about 1:00pm to 3:00pm as the kids from the children's home are all sleeping. Believe or not, sometimes it's hotter inside than out down here, so going to the pond is a nice way for everyone to cool off. I love testing the water out with my paws and splashing around. Mom and dad seem to like watching me too because they always laugh when I go into the water.

But to be honest, swimming scares me a little bit. Yes, I'm a pit bull mix, but that doesn't mean I don't get scared. The idea of my feet not touching the ground makes me terrified. I don't like the dark either. When mom and dad take me outside at night to do my business I never want to go into the shadows. They usually have to drag me past a certain point where the light doesn't reach. I don't understand this at all! Who knows what monsters might be lurking where you can't see? I'm a lover, not a fighter people! I get scared by all the funny noises at night! One evening, mom and dad where so hot inside that they took their hammocks and me outside to cool down for a bit. I thought they were crazy! They kept telling me to lay down in the grass but I couldn't get comfortable with all the chirping and hooting going on! I can't see everything and who knows what could've snuck up on us in the night? You know, some people might think me a scaredy-cat but I don't care! I don't like the dark! And deep water kind of freaks me out too! I know I can't be the only sane dog in the world who feels this way too!



# Concert Campaign: Quyquyho!



At the beginning of this year, the national offices of the Church of God of Prophecy here in Paraguay launched a campaign to promote church growth and increase the outreach of the church's ministry throughout the entire country. The basics to this campaign is to utilize what we would call small groups to minister to unreached people and connect the church on a more personal level within communities. Stephen and I are really excited about this new campaign as I've seen several

churches in the United States explode through small group engagement. Instantly, we knew we wanted to do something to help our church with this endeavor, so we talked to the national overseer of Paraguay, Bishop David Orozco, and with his blessing launched a concert campaign to aid in church growth. Our plan is to hold free concerts in the plazas (the center of every Spanish town) of the cities where the church is actively working to open new small groups and church plants. By holding the concerts in the plazas we are able to entertain the public with great music, but we can also inform them about our church and when and where they can participate in a small group or attend regular church services.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Mission 403 held its inaugural concert in the small village of Quyquyho, where Stephen and I are building our house. The Church of God of Prophecy is the only functioning church of any kind in this village of about 7000 people. For about a month before the concert, we held rehearsals with volunteer musicians from the Paraguay COGOP National Music Team. Most of the musicians who helped with the concert are shown on the bottom picture to the left. We prayed, fasted, and prepared much, but around 5:00am the day of the concert, the skies opened up and let down a flood. In Paraguay, it's difficult to travel while it's raining. Many people don't own a car or travel by motorcycle. It's a real sacrifice to stand in the rain while waiting for a bus you'll have to ride for a couple of hours soaking wet. Nevertheless, many of the musicians dared the storms and arrived for the concert regardless of the difficulties. There was one member of our team, our drummer Gabriel Lopez, who lived on a road that was impassable in the rain without a 4x4 vehicle. When it became clear that Gabriel wasn't going to be able to make it, Stephen took our 4x4 truck to go and get him. A trip that normally would've taken 45 minutes turned into 2 hours one way! The road was flooded so bad that the water reached the hood of the truck on one occasion, but at that point Stephen had no choice but to go forward or get stuck on a road where the water level was continually rising.

With the grace of God, everyone made it safely to Quyquyho and by the time of the concert that night the weather had cleared. The sky was beautiful with the stars shining on everyone in attendance. The concert was a huge success with several people in the audience despite the earlier weather. The neighbors surrounding the plaza were all out on their porches listening to our music and the salvation message being preached. Several people even stopped to listen as they passed by on their motorcycles. I want to give a big thank you to Guillermo Careaga and his team from the Unites States for supporting this concert with food and I'm sure lots of prayers. This group was visiting the children's home in Quyquyho on a mission trip during the time of the concert and without questions lent their help. They provided 50 milanesa sandwiches for the team to eat while in Quyquyho! This was a huge blessing to us as it relieved a giant burden of supplying food for all our volunteers! Thank you also to Osvaldo and Maria Recalde for all their help and continued support of our ministry in Quyquyho! The concert was awesome and I think we can expect even greater things in the concerts to follow!!

# Mission 403- Ministry Statement

*Mission 403, as an affiliate ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy, will seek to save the lost by drawing people to Christ through the power of music. We will instruct students how to play musical instruments for praise and worship using Christian songs as teaching tools. Mission 403 will bring a dynamic music program to the Church of God of Prophecy in Paraguay to spark a revival in our churches and communities.*

## How can you help?

Doors have been opened, but the dream of Mission 403 cannot become a reality without your help. Stephen and I are currently looking for dedicated people who can partner alongside of our ministry by supporting us with small monthly donations (\$10- \$50 per month) or with a one-time gift. It is estimated that we will need approximately \$1300 per month to fully cover daily living and operating expenses while in Paraguay.

There are two ways you can give to help support us and Mission 403. You can give online via our church (The Church of God of Prophecy) at [www.cogop.org](http://www.cogop.org). Once on the webpage click on **online giving**. From here you can set up an account to automatically draft monthly donations from your debit/credit card or you can select quick give for a one-time donation. Be sure to designate your online gift towards Mission 403 Paraguay via the drop down menu. You can also support Mission 403 via the offerings at your local Church of God of Prophecy. If you do not attend a Church of God of Prophecy and you would like to support Mission 403 with financial donations, please set up an account online as described above or you can send your donation to the following address:

**Church of God of Prophecy  
Global Missions  
P.O. Box 2910  
Cleveland, TN 37320-2970**



helping hand



**If you ever write a check to support Mission 403, please make it payable to Church of God of Prophecy and write Mission 403 in the memo line.** All donations to Mission 403 are fully tax deductible. We thank each and every one of you for all your support and prayers! God bless!



[www.Mission403.org](http://www.Mission403.org)



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