



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



A Ministry of the Church of
God of Prophecy

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IN THIS ISSUE

Getting Our Paraguayan Documents!

Needless to say, we've been seriously trying since January to get our Paraguayan documents (a.k.a. our temporary residence card). A lot of the research I was able to do at home, however, I never anticipated the roller coaster ride to come once we started dealing with the Paraguayan government.

One of the requirements to apply for permanent residency here is that we both had to have a federal criminal history check conducted by the FBI. It took 3 months for everything to be completed, but this timeline was clearly stated on the FBI's website and was expected. Fortunately, we were able to get the completed check before we left in November. I was told by the Paraguayan embassy in Washington D.C. that any federal document we had didn't need to be legalized before we could use it in Paraguay. However, when we got to the immigrations office in Asuncion they said this was not true. They sent me to the U.S. embassy here saying they could legalize the documents for us. So, I made an appointment and came back to the city again. Once I got to the U.S. embassy they said the immigrations office did not give me the correct information. In fact, to get

my FBI check legalized I had to send the files all the way back to the United States to the federal authentications office in Virginia.

It took 3 weeks to FedEx my documents back to the U.S. and for them to return to me here in Paraguay. After picking them up, we went yet again to the immigrations office. It was then that they chose to also inform us we needed our documents in English to be officially translated to Spanish. Also, we needed to submit a letter from the church to the Ministry of Religious Affairs that we are here as missionaries and have it legalized too. So, now we are waiting until next week when that letter will be ready.

I would like to publically thank Gaby Caceres, a friend of ours here that has been helping us through this entire process. She is an English teacher here and has been a life saver in helping us navigate this process. I honestly don't know how we could have figured some of this stuff out without her translation skills. It just goes to show you; God puts people in your life at the right time for a reason. Stephen and I are very lucky to count her as a friend!



Our music school is in full swing! Kids are learning and the ministry is growing!!

Page 2



Update to our house in Quayquyho!

Page 3

Mission 403 Music School!

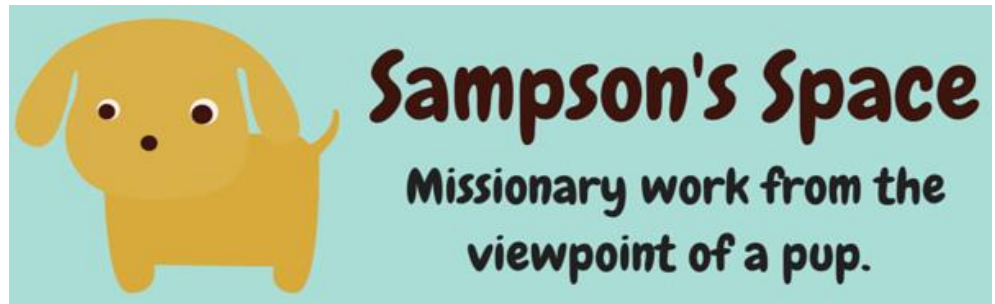
It seems like every week we have a new person interested in joining our music school in Carapeguá! We are very excited to have so much interest among the community and have even seen some of our students begin to attend church services! Public school has recently started back here and I was talking with a couple of our students a few weeks ago about how their first days were going. One of the girls excitedly explained how she told her friends about learning to play guitar. A few of her friends said that they also knew how to play guitar, but when she showed them her music notebook with actual sheet music none of them knew what they were looking at. Apparently, her friends just knew how to play a few chords but have never learned to actually read music. Playing by ear is great and it's a skill that I want to develop in each of our students, but I want them to be able to read music as well. That way they can play anything they want and not be limited in their musical endeavors. Our students are proud that they are learning to read sheet music for their chosen instruments and I am excited for how many doors this is going to open up for them not only in ministry but in life. Hopefully, we will soon open two new music schools in the towns of Quyuquyho and San Lorenzo. Pray for us as we begin these new works!



Jesús is one of our newest students for guitar! He's just started but shows great potential and talent for music!



Sampson is a 5 year-old German Shepard mix living in Paraguay. He loves his new friend Pedro who's always eager to take him on a walk!



I have a confession to make ya'll....I ate my mom's hair brush! I know it was bad and that I shouldn't have done it but just the feel of it in my mouth made me want to tear it apart. I've been after that hair brush for weeks. Mom would always catch me just when I'd sniffed it out of the new hiding place she'd stashed it in. But one day while she was taking a nap I got it! Usually mom wakes up at the slightest noise I make, but I guess on that day she was really tired because she didn't even flinch when I cracked down on the handle. I got into a lot of trouble once she woke up but chewing up that hair brush was like scratching an itch that was just out of reach. It felt good and I'm sorry for it. Truth be told though, I'd probably do it all over again.

Other than the hair brush, mom and dad drove me out to where the new house is being built again. This time though, the building looks more like an actual house rather than just a pile of bricks. The yard is really big and I am excited for when I'll be able to run around in it. I met a few of the neighborhood dogs while I was there and we barked our hellos. The dogs here have funny accents so a lot of times it's hard for me to understand them when they talk. But everyday I'm learning more of the local lingo. My friend Shadow says that it'll get better with time. Her family speaks English too so we have a lot in common. When we move to Quyuquyho though I won't have Shadow around to talk to so I'm a little sad about that. I'll be all on my own with these funny sounding dogs and that makes me a little nervous. It's never easy to be the new dog on the block but I guess I'll have to make new friends. Fortunately for me I have a winning personality and everyone usually loves me. You guys do love me right?



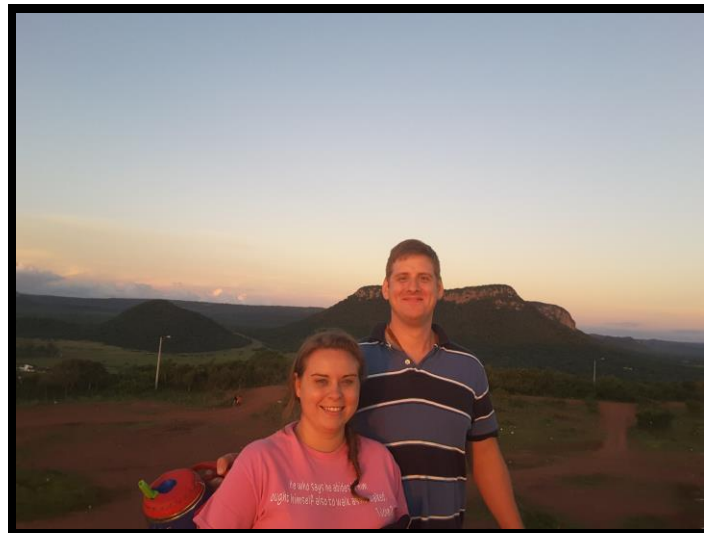
Quyquyho House!



For those of you who don't know, Stephen and I are building a house in the small village of Quyquyho. Several years ago we saw ourselves one day working in this town and that is now becoming a reality. Building a house in Paraguay has become a lesson in patience for me. The local work crew we have hired are fabulous and I think that their craftsmanship is amazing, but with Quyquyho being such a rural area it's been a little hard to get supplies out to the construction site. A lot of times Stephen and I have to go into the Asuncion (the capital city 2 hours away) with Dan Miller to buy the materials we need. All in all, though, I think the house is starting to take a beautiful shape and I cannot wait to live in it.

On the positive side though, going into the capital to buy building supplies has a few benefits. We were able to find a new insulation material their designed for buildings with metal roofs that helps cut down on the heat generated inside. Dan has been so impressed with this material that he says he's going to use it in his house as well as future building projects at the campground.

Post-Youth Camp!



A new experience for Stephen and I this year was to attend a post-youth camp event at the end of February. This is sort of a reunion meeting for everyone who attended summer youth camp in January and lasts for one whole Sunday. The event took place at a quaint conference type place and of course Stephen and I were asked to help with the music. We attended music practice for the event a couple of days before and were excited to see all of our new friends we'd made once again.

An interesting bit about post-camp this year was how we met a man named Dean. A couple of months ago our friend Carlito called and asked if we could meet him one day to help practice and record some music for a friend of his. Carlito is the national music director for our church and a wonderful person so we were happy to help. In his day job, Carlito works as a counselor helping men recover from addiction and transitioning back into normal society after a period of incarceration. Dean is one of the men Carlito is currently working with. He found Christ while in prison and is striving to not return to his old ways. While practicing with him, Stephen and I mentioned we were building a house in Quyquyho. Dean perked up at the mention of the town saying that one of his daughters lives at the children's home there. In fact, Stephen and I know exactly who his daughter is and were able to inform him that she'd recently decided to follow Christ in her life. The joy that came over Dean's face is indescribable. He's been out of jail for only 6 months and separated from his children for years.

Through a series of events, Dean became the main speaker for the post-youth camp Stephen and I attended. He has a powerful testimony of what God has done in his hard life. He spoke about how wonderful it was to hear news of his daughter and I thought about how sweet it is when you know God has placed you in the right place at the right time. Recently, I've learned Dean got to visit his daughter for the first time in years. They are trying to build a relationship where before there was nothing. Just this past Sunday, the daughter told me how much her father has changed. That's the power of God. Anything is possible.

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. 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



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