



A Ministry of the Church of
God of Prophecy

NOVEMBER
2015

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

IN THIS ISSUE

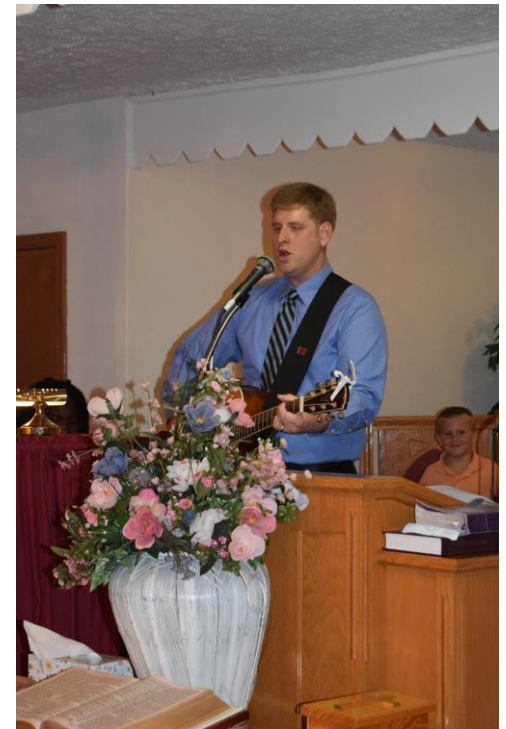
We're Finally in Paraguay!!

It was pure chaos in my house the two weeks prior to our move to Paraguay! Boxes were everywhere with no place to sit and Sampson wandered aimlessly searching for his favorite chair which unbeknownst to him we'd thrown away. However, even though we were uprooting our lives, we still were able to take a break to say goodbye to the many people who'd made the vision of Mission 403 come true. Ward Avenue Church of God of Prophecy, our home church in High Point, NC, gave us a great going away party to send us off. Many people gave us their blessings and encouragement to pursue the path God has laid on our hearts. I was touched by everyone's kind gestures because it's not easy to change your whole life. Yes, we have faith but change is difficult and its human nature to be nervous during transition, but the encouragement received by those we loved helped to alleviate those fears and look forward to the great things ahead!

As we drew closer to November 9th, I grew more nervous about the flights and about flying with a dog for the first time. In order for Sampson to fly, we had to get an international veterinary health certificate, along with legalizing stamps from the USDA and the Paraguayan government as well. Most of you already know that Sampson isn't a small dog, so he had to go under the plane,

and I read all over the internet about the horror stories of flying with a dog in the cargo hold. To make the journey easier for him, we bought our airplane tickets out from Miami. Kathy and Robert, Stephen's parents, graciously agreed to drive us from North Carolina all the way to the Miami International Airport! I was able to stop in Georgia to visit my family for a few days where they threw us a great going away party like our friends in High Point. Again, we got lots of hugs, kisses, and support from our loved ones which helped to lighten the stress of the move.

Finally, the big day came and we found ourselves at the check-in counter of Aerolineas Argentinas in Miami, FL. Because of weather, the dog, and several other factors, we weren't sure if Sampson was going to be able to fly with us or not. I'd been praying for weeks that the Lord would make a way for him to fly with us all the way to Asuncion without any problems...I even anointed his travel crate with oil and prayed over it. Let me tell you folks-prayer works! All three of us made it from Miami to Paraguay with no delays, no problems, and no incidents. I believe God's hand was upon us every step of the way and I give thanks that we are now in Paraguay ready to implement the dream of Mission 403!



We need your help!!! Learn how you can get involved and help support Mission 403 and the ministry in Paraguay.

Autryville COGOP & Life Impact (Winton-Salem) COGOP

On October 4th, Mission 403 was honored to visit two churches to gain support for the upcoming work in Paraguay. Both of these churches are long-time supporters of Paraguay so it was a joy to go and share the new ministry of Mission 403.

Autryville COGOP is pastored by Jesse Matthews, a long-time friend of ours. It was he, along with Keith Burch, who helped to push Stephen and I together as a couple in 2007. Since then, we've gotten to know his family as well and count them all as good friends. When we went to visit their church, I felt right at home. Autryville is a small congregation, but we received big support from them and are grateful for the visit. I hope that one day soon, Pastor Jesse will

bring his son-in-law along with his grandsons to visit Paraguay!

In the evening of October 4th, we drove back towards home to visit Life Impact COGOP in Winston-Salem, NC. We were invited to Life Impact by Sid Autry, the missions director for the church. This church is heavily invested within the children's home ministry of Dan & Gwen Miller. Families sponsor individual children and provide monetary support for their needs. We were thrilled to visit them and pray that they are blessed beyond measure for their faithfulness in giving. We hope that Mission 403 was able to minister to them in the service.

We are so grateful to all the churches who have invited us in faith to visit them. We hope that Mission 403 will be long-term partners in ministry with churches like Autryville COGOP and Life Impact COGOP. It is the support of people like them that makes our ministry possible. And I pray that God will bless them for their sacrifice and act of faith in their giving.



Jessica Schaefer plays bass at Autryville Church of God of Prophecy on Oct. 4, 2015.



Sampson is a 5 year-old German Shepard mix who is surprised to find himself living in Paraguay. However, he's now enjoying getting to know new doggie pals and country life.



Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup...

They treated me like I was a piece of luggage! I have never in my life had such a terrifying night! First, we went to this place where there was a bunch of different people and huge bird-looking things kept flying over making lots of noise. They took me to this weird "doggie" park where mom and dad insisted that I use the bathroom in front of everyone. Next, I went into my crate and they started to say goodbye. "Goodbye?" I barked. "Where are you going?" And then they just left me and let a strange man roll me away on a cart!

They put me into the belly of one of those big metal bird things! It was a bumpy and long ride and just when I thought it was over they put me into another one! This flight wasn't as long, but I thought I was never going to get out of my crate! When we landed the

second time some strangers took me out and put me on this long belt right along with a bunch of suitcases. I had to ride the carrousel belt up this big long ramp and that's when I finally saw them again! There they were waiting for like it was nothing! They took me off the belt and outside into the blistering heat to go potty! There were so many new smells that I was almost overwhelmed at first. Mom said welcome to Paraguay Sampson and it was then that I finally understood what she'd been telling me all those months. Well, I now live in Paraguay and although it's still a little strange to me I think I'm going to like it here. I have a new friend named Shadow and I think she's great! I'm looking forward to everything else that is to come....just as long as I don't have to fly again.

Mission 403

Monthly Support

Mission 403 is looking for individuals to sponsor the ministry by contributing small monthly gifts anywhere between \$10 and \$50 a month. All donations given towards the Mission 403 ministry are tax deductible through the Church of God of Prophecy. You can donate towards this ministry via online or by sending a check by mail. To donate online visit www.cogop.org and click on online giving. You can elect to set-up an account to automatically draft your donation from your credit/debit card each month or you can select quick give for a one-time gift. Please remember to designate your contribution to Mission 403 Paraguay via the drop down menu.

You may send a donation by mail to our church's international headquarters in Tennessee at the following address:

Church of God of Prophecy

Global Missions

P.O. Box 2910

Cleveland, TN 37320-2910

Please make all checks out to Church of God of Prophecy with Mission 403 in the memo line.

Thank you for all your support!!! We appreciate every one of you and ask that you pray for our ministry!



Jessica & Stephen posing with Pastor Samuel Hall of Falcon Church of God of Prophecy

The Rock COGOP- Rockingham, NC

On October 11th, Mission 403 went to The Rock Church of God of Prophecy in Rockingham, NC. We were very excited to visit this church as the pastor, Steve Gilmer along with his wife Vonnie, are longtime friends of Stephen's parents. For the morning service, Stephen and I got to do something we've yet had the opportunity to do. We got to spend the Sunday School hour visiting with the high school group of the church answering questions about ministry and telling great stories about our adventures in missions. They asked great questions like what was the weirdest thing we've ever eaten while on a mission trip to the scariest situation we've ever been in. It was lots of fun and Stephen and I enjoyed spending time with the teens.

After Sunday School, Mission 403 played a couple of songs for the congregation just to introduce ourselves as the entire night service was scheduled for our presentation. Pastor Steve invited us back to his house after church and I got to take a Sunday afternoon nap! Fundraising every weekend, I don't often get the opportunity to rest on Sunday, but lying comfortable in the Gilmer's guest room, I slept like the dead for at least an hour and a half. I don't think I even knew I existed while I was asleep. I didn't move at all which is very uncharacteristic of my sleeping habits.

In the night service people really responded to the vision Mission 403 has for ministry and I am really excited to have such a great group of people behind us. I think that The Rock COGOP and Mission 403 can expect to see great things on the horizon.

Falcon COGOP- Godwin, NC

On October 18th, Mission 403 visited Falcon Church of God of Prophecy in Godwin, NC. This was a particular special visit because I (Jessica) got to see a old friend that I haven't seen in a long time. Pastor Emeritus, Thomas Wrench, was on the same mission team as I was when we went to Peru in 2006. It was on that trip that I met Dan Miller who first invited me to visit Paraguay. As we were at the Falcon COGOP, I thought a lot about that trip and all the fun we had. I remember that one time our boat stalled on the Amazon River and I was scared for a minute that we were going to be stuck in the middle of the Amazon Jungle. I remember when Pastor Thomas



preached to a small village along the river and many people came to hear about God and how much He loves them. I remember so much about that trip because it was a turning point in my life. Now I am visiting Pastor Thomas's church to help me enter the ministry of foreign missions full-time. I have a mix of emotions as I think about how far God has brought me and all the things yet to come. Thank you so much to Pastor Samuel Hall for inviting us to come and speak to your congregation. It was wonderful to meet everyone at your church and the lunch fundraiser you provided for us was delicious. I am looking forward to when Mission 403 can visit Falcom COGOP again! May God bless your church and increase your ministry beyond measure!

Brunswick COGOP- Brunswick, NC

On October 25th, Mission 403 made the long haul to Brunswick, NC to visit Brunswick Church of God of Prophecy pastored by Keith Burch. I (Jessica) have known Bro. Keith all my life and can remember sitting in his classes at Camp Echeeconne in Lizella, GA as a young girl. Bro. Keith was also a member of the 2007 mission team to Paraguay where I met Stephen for the first time. It was he and Pastor Jesse Matthews of Autryville COGOP who sort of "encouraged" Stephen and I to become a couple. Well, I guess God's



plan was in their teasing because here we are some eight years later. It is amazing how sometimes God places people in your life and how they have some of the biggest impacts on you. I know that Bro. Keith doesn't remember me sitting in in classes, but I remember him. I remember how he taught us about the love of God and how He could enter our hearts and change our lives.

Mission 403's visit to Brunswick COGOP was a great time! We got to take PJ Dublin, Isaiah Mack, and Taquiceya Johnson with us once again to help play music. The people of Brunswick Church gave a huge offering towards our ministry and we are very grateful for their support. Everyone was very kind and enthusiastic about what is going to happen in Paraguay.

After church, Bro. Keith and his wife Lynda took us to eat at a seafood restaurant along with their six foster children. I don't think I've ever seen people impact the lives of children so much as do those who take them into their own homes. It takes a lot of work to look after so many children when several of them are still toddlers. But still, we all had a good time and members of our crew stepped in to help.

After lunch, we all went to visit Jekyll Island because we were so close to the beach being in Brunswick. Upon Bro. Keith's recommendation, we went to Driftwood Beach, a stretch of sand where driftwood washes up frequently. It was the most beautiful beach I've ever been to! It wasn't built up or all touristy, but you could walk on the beach without having to worry about stepping all over someone else. We all had a great time and it was a good thing to walk upon the beach to just reflect about the last couple of months and the big move ahead of us. All the changes taking place in our lives are wonderful, but they can be scary and stressful all at the same time. Walking upon such a lovely beach helped me to think about the beauty of our Lord and how much He has done for us. I know He is going to provide for our every need in this new chapter and I am excited to take this step of faith for my Lord into Paraguay.

Eden COGOP- Eden, NC

On November 1st, Mission 403 made its last tour stop for fundraising at Eden COGOP in Eden, NC. This church is pastored by Les Herod and we were very excited when he sent us a message via our Facebook page inviting us to come and visit his congregation. I was very impressed at the beauty of this church when I stepped into the building and looked up at its gorgeous ceilings. We wasted no time in setting up for the service and were delighted to have some of the church's local musicians helping us during the service. It was a great time with the Lord and several people came to the alter to pray during



the worship service. I was moved beyond measure at how God could use me and the song we were playing to minister to other people to bring them closer to Him. Throughout the entire service there was a sweet spirit of worship and I am humbled by this experience.

After we concluded with our presentation, Pastor Les invited his son, who is a worship pastor for a church in Bangkok, Thailand, to come and pray over us. He and his family were scheduled to return to Thailand the very next day and I am glad that we got the opportunity to meet them before they left. It was awesome to hear about their ministry and how music was helping to reach lost souls.

After church the pastor took us to lunch at a fabulous Mexican restaurant where they served some freshly made guacamole! It was great and a wonderful treat for us to have just before we left the United States. We had a wonderful time with Pastor Les and his family and I am looking forward to when we can visit again.



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



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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