

**mis\*sion\*ary** (*noun*)  
 someone who leaves their family for a short time, so that others may be with their families for eternity.



A Ministry of the Church of  
 God of Prophecy

**OCTOBER  
 2015**

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

IN THIS ISSUE

## It is Official! We have a date!

On November 9, 2015, Mission 403 will fly out of the Miami International Airport bound for Paraguay! God has provided, and even though we still have a few more fundraising goals to achieve, we know that everything will work out according to His perfect will. As our imminent departure grows near, I (Jessica) have had time to reflect upon what the whole process of "becoming a missionary" has meant to me. And I think that this experience has been one of the most wanted and most challenging times in my life.

Being able to enter the ministry as a full-time missionary is a life-long dream for both Stephen and me. However, this transition has also made us truly test our faith in God. We are literally starting over in our lives. We are leaving our jobs, selling almost everything we own, and leaving our family and friends behind to pursue this life. And even though this is something we desperately want to do, it's a little scary. As humans, we want to be secure. Security is not only knowing that you are safe from external threats, but it's the sense of stability you achieve from having a steady job, having a roof over your head, and the familiarity of home. However, when you are called to the foreign mission field, you have to overcome

the human nature hardwired into your brain, and this is very difficult to do.

These last few months have made me truly appreciate what the disciples did in Matthew chapter 4. When Jesus asked them to follow Him, they set down their fishing nets and did as he asked. This passage of scripture gets underrated a lot I think in the church. They were fishermen; that's how they secured income for both themselves and their families. To drop everything in their lives to follow Christ without any certainty of things to come is amazing to me! How many of us have that kind of courage? Yes, Stephen and I are leaving too, but this venture is something well planned and years in the making. To leave instantly...I do not know if I could have done it.

So, I want to challenge myself and everyone reading this newsletter. What kind of faith do you have? What is Christ asking you to do in your life? I know that sometimes, the things God asks us to do may seem scary or impossible, but I promise you it's worth it to seek God's will in your life. God's plan for you is so much bigger and greater than that of your own. Just take the leap and learn what it is like to be a true fisher of men.



**Learn all about Mission 403's current fundraising progress and how you can help them grow the ministry!**

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**Learn about Mission 403's upcoming church visitation schedule. See you there!**

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# Hamlet COGOP- Hamlet, NC

On September 13, 2015, Mission 403 had the privilege of visiting Hamlet Church of God of Prophecy in Hamlet, NC. This church is pastored by Bishop Steve Crews and is a thriving congregation full of wonderful people. Once again, Mission 403 was thrilled to have three of our friends and fellow musicians travel with us to Hamlet- PJ Dublin, Isaiah Mack, and Taquiceya Johnson. The service was great and many people felt led to give and support the Mission 403 ministry. Pastor crews even had a special treat for Stephen, displaying some amusing photos of him from a previous trip to Paraguay in 2013. I think that I saw his face change shades to match his hair (he's a

ginger), but we won't go into that.

After the service, Pastor Crews and his beautiful wife took us out to a great lunch with a few other members of his congregation. We talked about the great things God has done in each of our lives and how He has helped us all face difficult situations. What is beautiful about this is that even though we all went through different hardships, God was able to bring us out the other side as better people. Even more, we've all been able to help others facing similar circumstances.

No matter where I go or whom I talk to, I always find this-everyone has been through something, but those that trust in the Lord always overcome the obstacle. You may not get the answer you think you want, but God will never abandon His children. He is a loving God who wants the very best for us. Life is full of growing pains, and I thank my Lord for bringing me through the fire.



*Jessica & Stephen sitting in the pews of Hamlet COGOP waiting for the service to start.*



## Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup...



*Sampson was adopted by Jessica and Stephen Schaefer in February of 2011. He is an avid couch potato and can take a nap almost anywhere. If you want to snuggle, Sampson is your kind of pooch.*



OK, so I think aliens might be invading or something. Our house is full of boxes and Mom and Dad keep packing things away. This means that we have to be leaving, and the only way Dad would let that happen was if little green space men came flying down from the sky. Maybe that Paraguay thing is the name of their home planet! But why would we be going there?

I'm so confused and no one around here barks well enough for us to have a decent conversation. Mom keeps looking at new doggie crates and the other day she actually got out a tape measure and measured me! I don't know if she's noticed, but I have fur...I don't wear clothes! Well, I guess I do if you count my Superman costume, but who doesn't

like to dress up as Superman every now and then?

Whatever is going on, I now know for sure we are going somewhere far away very soon. I can tell everyone is stressed out and I keep trying to help, but apparently no one is interested in chasing me around the house while I run with a shoe. I think shoe-tag is a lot of fun, but I guess others are entitled to their own opinions. I just hope that wherever we end up going there is a big comfortable couch for me to lie on. I know some dogs like to snooze on the floor, but I prefer a softer touch if you know what I'm saying. And air-conditioning- there's got to be AC!



## Mission 403- Fundraising Progress



60%

Mission 403 has currently received monthly support pledges totaling approximately 60% of its needed monthly budget. These funds will be used to sustain itself physically and provide the financial means to minister effectively in Paraguay. It is estimated that Jessica & Stephen will need \$1300 a month to cover all their personal and ministerial costs.

Are you interested in supporting Mission 403 and the work in Paraguay? To learn more about how you can help, please turn to page 5 of this newsletter or visit <http://www.mission403.org/>.

## Mission 403-Upcoming Church Visits

**Oct. 4-** Autryville COGOP in Autryville, NC (AM) & Life Impact COGOP in Winston-Salem, NC (PM)

**Oct. 11-** Rockingham COGOP in Rockingham, NC

**Oct. 18-** Falcon COGOP in Godwin, NC

**Oct. 25-** Brunswick COGOP in Brunswick, GA

**Nov. 1-** Eden COGOP in Eden, NC.



*Stephen Schaefer & Isaiah Mack on-stage at Faith Christian Fellowship COGOP in Hillsborough, NC.*

## Faith Christian Fellowship COGOP Hillsborough, NC

On September 20, 2015, we visited Faith Christian Fellowship Church of God of Prophecy in Hillsborough, NC. Bishop Ronnie Bradford, pastor of the church, invited Mission 403 to speak to his congregation after he heard of our ministry at the NC State Church of God of Prophecy Convention held in August 2015. We were very excited to visit this church as they've had no connection with the ministry in Paraguay as of yet.

We were also very happy to bring our nephew, Carter Wood along with us to Hillsborough. He got to hear about all the things his uncle and aunt are going to be working on while in Paraguay, and I think that this will help him cope better with the separation to come. As always, the people of Faith Christian Fellowship were very kind and generous! This church turned out to be very mission focused and they embraced our ministry with open arms. The church had a beautiful mural painted behind the pulpit and I don't think I've ever seen anything like it in a sanctuary.

After the service, Pastor Bradford took everyone out to lunch at a great little diner close to the church. I must say that this place had the best banana pudding that I've ever eaten! Many of the church members dined with us and we had some great conversation.

I hope that Faith Christian Fellowship, with it's missionary heart will send many people

to Paraguay to help us in ministry. They have many young people I got a chance to meet in the service, and I think that this church has a great future.

During the visit, Carter seemed to have a really good time too and I'm glad for this. You see, I've come to realize that foreign mission work doesn't only affect the missionaries- it also has a tremendous impact on the family. Stephen is a major male role model in our nephew's life and I know Stephen being in Paraguay is going to be really hard on him. We're no longer going to be available for all the birthday parties, family dinners, and all those unnotable moments that form the backbone of family relationships. The good news for us is that with technology we'll be able to stay in contact much more than missionaries of the past. It's going to take some adjustment getting used to the separation, but I don't want to dwell on that. I want to think about all the good times to come and all the visits we'll get from our family in Paraguay!



# New York, New York!

On the morning of September 26, I found myself on a plane bound for New York City! I am from a very small town in Georgia, and never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be going to New York to speak

to churches about ministry. Nevertheless, God made a way and I was on my first trip ever to the big apple! Kade Green, the youth pastor of Ward Ave. COGOP lived in Brooklyn for many years before coming to North Carolina. He connected us with churches in the city and even arranged for us to stay with some wonderful people, Jackie Gunter and Ashley Dennis of Brooklyn. On our first day in New York, they took us all over the city and acted as our personal tour guides. We went to Times Square, Grand Central Station, and my personal favorite- the New York Public Library! By the time we were done were all about to collapse from exhaustion. There is so much to see and do in New York that it's impossible to cover everything with one trip. Therefore, I obviously must go back!

On Sunday, September 27, Mission 403 scheduled three different churches to visit! We started out the morning at Brooklyn Church Avenue Church of God of Prophecy pastored by Bishop C.J. Walters. This was an amazing service and I was delighted to see a female musician playing the drums for worship! Even though we came from a different part of the U.S., the people of this church made me feel welcome. There were excited about the ministry and I hope that Mission 403 will have a great relationship with Bishop Walters and his congregation in the future.

The second service of the day took place at Malta Street Church of God of Prophecy, pastored by Bishop Oliver McDowald. I was blown away by the worship service at this church! There were several very talented musicians present and I hope everyone at Malta Street recognizes what a blessing it is to have such gifts among the members of their own congregation. People seemed to really respond to the vision of Mission 403 and they gave mightily. I am so thankful for this church and Bishop McDowald. They are great people and they helped Stephen and I immensely when it came time to find a taxi to go to the next church. I am looking forward to visiting this church repeatedly!

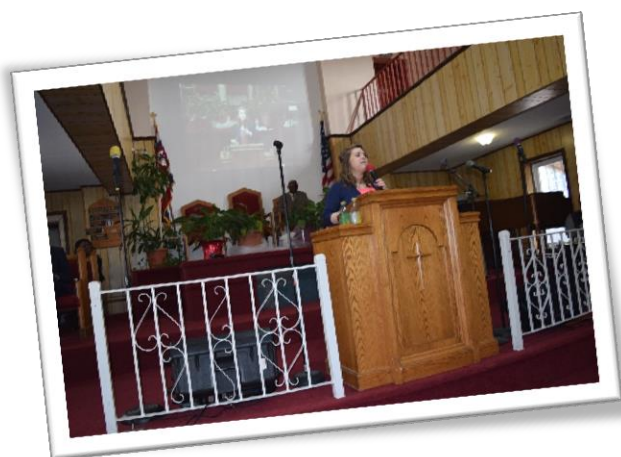
In a whirlwind, we finally made it to our last church of the day, St. Mary Church of God in Christ Pastored by Rev. David Butler. This congregation held their service in a beautiful cathedral with detailed stained glass and vaulted ceilings. I have seldom seen such a beautiful church! At the end of the service, they all gathered around Stephen and me and prayed for us. Their prayers and their willingness to help in our ministry honored me. After service, I got a chance to listen to their choir practice. To put it bluntly, I was more than impressed. This group sounded amazing and almost every one of them expressed interest in coming to Paraguay on a mission team! A couple of individuals even approached us about providing Mission 403 with various ministerial materials! How much people wanted to help astounded me. It made me feel good and blessed that people were excited about the ministry. It was only another confirmation of what God would have us do in our lives.



*Jessica & Stephen in Times Square- NYC.*



*Stephen playing guitar at Brooklyn Church Avenue COGOP in Brooklyn, NY.*



*Jessica sharing the vision of Mission 403 with the congregation of Malta Street COGOP in Brooklyn, NY.*

# 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 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 collaborate 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 support the Mission 403 ministry. 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 37320-2910



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 one of you for all your support and prayers! God bless!



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



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