



*A Ministry of the  
Church of God of  
Prophecy*

***“He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear the Lord  
and put their trust in Him.”***

**-Psalm 40:3**



MISSION 403 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

## A Difficult Decision: Going Back to the U.S.



In July 2015, Stephen and I were so excited to receive news from the international offices of the Church of God of Prophecy (COGOP), that we were approved as missionaries for the country of Paraguay. Immediately, we started fundraising and speaking at several churches in the states of North Carolina, Georgia, and even New York. Our commitment period was two years, and when that time ended, we knew we must decide whether to continue working in Paraguay, or return to our lives and families in the U.S.



After much prayer, thought, and discussion, Stephen and I have decided that our time here in Paraguay has ended. On September 5, 2017, we will be flying from Asuncion to Miami, FL, and then we'll be driving the rest of the way to North Carolina. We're flying into Miami so that our dog Sampson will have to endure the least amount of time flying as possible. We believe the Lord is calling us home to NC, and we are excited to see what this next chapter in our lives has in store. We are sad to be leaving Paraguay. Over these past two years we've made many friends and memories that we will forever cherish. But, we are also proud of what we have accomplished during our time here. We have taught many different students about music. We've played at countless worship services and special events. It's been the adventure of a lifetime, and we're so thankful to God and to everyone whose made it possible for us to minister in this beautiful country.

After speaking with the international offices, donations for the Mission 403 ministry will be processed as follows. For the months of August and September, we will receive your contributions as normal. However, starting in October, any money received for our ministry will be redirected to the national offices for the Church of God of Prophecy here in Paraguay. This money will be used by national overseer, David Orozco, to benefit the many active churches throughout the country. If you have created an automatic debit account to give to our ministry monthly, please don't forget to log in and discontinue your giving after September. Stephen and I will continue to minister right up until the day we leave, and we need your continued support through September to keep up with our operating costs and to help provide for the moving expenses we will incur returning to our lives in North Carolina. Again, we want to thank each one of you reading this newsletter for all the support you've given us over the last two years. Thank you for your prayers, your monetary support, and for your encouragement. We love you and cannot wait to reconnect with many of you when we return home. Be blessed!



## Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup.



in Paraguay and I'm sorry to be leaving. Also, I really don't want to go on the airplane again. Don't tell anyone, but it's a little scary riding in the cargo hold! Although, if I go back to the United States, it means mom will take me to that doggie spa that I like! I love how the ladies massage my fur when they're giving me a bath, and let's be honest I could use a mani-pedi at this point. If only I didn't have to fly! I don't understand why all the foo-foo dogs like chihuahuas get to ride in the cabin with the humans while canines like me are forced below decks! It's an injustice I tell you! Why don't I have the same rights? Sure, I'm a different breed, but that doesn't mean I'm less of a dog. I think I'll start a petition when I get home to fight for equal rights amongst all dogs! That's one of the benefits of democracy, isn't it? When you're unhappy about something, you let your bark be heard so that things can change. Well, I might have to ride in the bottom of the plane this time, but somewhere, someday, all dogs regardless of breed, size, or drooling habits will be able to fly in comfort in the cabin of the airplane! I will not rest until my work is finished! My name is Sampson, and I approve this message! #Sampsonforprez2020

## North Carolina Paraguay Mission Team



In July, we were blessed by a visit from some awesome people from the great state of North Carolina. Fourteen individuals from High Point, Lexington, and Greensboro braved the skies to travel all the way to the wilds of Paraguay! For the first week of their visit, the team spent most of their time working on two different building projects for some needy families near the campground. They built extra rooms for two single women, a mother, and her daughter, along with the daughter's children. The daughter only lived in a one-room house with a dirt floor, and had mattresses that she and her children used to sleep at night. This lady was very grateful to the team for providing the means to build an extra room for her and her children. She, along with her oldest son, were there everyday, helping to hand buckets of mortar to the brick layers so that they could work in the most efficient way possible. The older woman, the first lady's mother, lived only a few feet from the first worksite in a one-room house of her own. She'd moved away from her husband and sons due to abuse, and it was a blessing to the team to help the abuelita (little grandmother) have a better living space.

The NC mission team also paid a visit to Quyquyho, the village where Stephen and I live. Amanda Moore planned a fantastic children's program to



go along with the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes we gave out to the community. We hosted the program at the new Quyquyho church building under construction beside my house. Many children came to the event and were excited to receive a gift along with the arts and crafts activities and snacks we provided.

After Quyquyho, the team then went to Argentina to visit the Iguazu Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. We walked for hours around the Argentine side of the falls. Mariea (Bill) Shean, kept track of our journey with a pedometer to see just how far we walked. In total, walked over four miles and still

didn't get a chance to see everything. That night, we also visited the local church in Ciudad del Este (City of the East) and had a wonderful time fellowshiping with the local church members afterwards. Overall, this team was a great experience for everyone involved. This was the first mission trip experience for many of the team members and I think they'll be excited to participate in other ventures as they come along. For me and Stephen though, it was nice to spend time with people from "home". So, thank you to the team for coming to Paraguay, and thank you to everyone who made their trip possible!

## Paraguay Fun Fact



**According to Paraguayan etiquette, what is the proper way to approach someone's house?**

In Paraguay, and for most of South America, it's rude to enter someone's property and knock on their door. Now I know many of you reading this will ask, "how do you go to someone's house if you can't knock on the door?" Well, in Paraguay, if you want to alert someone that you're at their house, you should approach the gate to their property and clap. Do not enter the property until someone gives you permission to proceed. Usually, the owner of the property will tell you "adelante", which means "come in". It took Stephen and I a while to associate a clapping noise to mean someone is at our house and wants to get our attention. So, boys

and girls, if you're ever in South America, you now know how to politely approach a house without offending anyone!

Next month's question: Yesterday (Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>) was the anniversary of Asunción, the capital city of Paraguay. Do you know how and when this city was first founded?

## Prayer Requests

Stephen and I always covet your prayers for us and our ministry, but here are a few specifics to throw in too!

1. Stephen and I will be leaving the mission field and returning to the United States on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for safe travels as we make another international move.
2. Pray for our continued support as we still need your help to cover the financial costs of ministry and the moving costs we will incur while moving back to the United States.
3. The national overseer of Paraguay is looking for a full-time pastor for the new Quyquyho church. Pray for wisdom during the selection process.

# 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 ministry of Mission 403 cannot continue 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. We need approximately \$1300 per month to fully cover daily living and operating expenses in Paraguay.

There are two ways you can give to help support Mission 403. You can give online via our church, [The Church of God of Prophecy](#). 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**

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!



## Follow Mission 403 on Social Media

