



*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

FEBRUARY 2017

Youth Camp & Ladies' Retreat

Happy Valentine's Day!!! This month, we've been very busy with the Mission 403 ministry. In late January, the Church of God of Prophecy hosted its annual youth camp for ages 12-21. Like last year, Stephen and I were invited to help with the music for the camp as part of the national music team. On Friday night, Mission 403 oversaw the entire worship service along with the help of musicians from the southern region of Paraguay. Stephen played the piano along with Cristian Lopez on lead guitar, Gabriel Lopez as drummer, and Santiago Barrios on rhythm guitar. I (Jessica) was the lead vocalist with Stephen and Cristian singing backup vocals. All



four days of youth camp were great, and Stephen and I really enjoyed working with the many great musicians on the national music team. This year, we were especially grateful to provide a quality set of drums with all new equipment. Our drummer, Gabriel, told us that 2017 was the first year the camp had a drum set with new drumheads and nice cymbals. This is all thanks to the donations of our supporting churches from North Carolina and the southeast U.S.! So, thank you to everyone who donated!

A few weeks after youth camp, the annual Church of God of Prophecy ladies' retreat was held at the Tierra Prometida Campground. Instead of staying in the girls' cabins with the

other ladies, I opted to sleep with the girls of the Hogar Puerto Seguro Children's home located on the same property as the camp. I miss the girls a lot since we don't live at the campground anymore, so this was a great opportunity to catch up and spend some time with them. If you've been following our newsletters for a while, you'll know that last year I was elected the queen of ladies' retreat. This year, I had to turn in my crown for a new queen. If you look to the picture on the right, you'll see a little elderly woman in an orange shirt with a blue headband. Her name is Esperanza, and she is the new queen for the 2017 ladies retreat. She loves poetry and even recited a couple of poems for talent night this year. It was truly a joy for me to crown this sweet woman as queen and I hope she has a great reign. Congratulations Queen Esperanza!





Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup.



Hello everyone! I hope you're all getting lots of love from the pups in your life today because we all know cats are finicky creatures. Dogs rule! Anyway, many have asked me what's a typical day like being the Sampson. So, this month I'm going to take you through a day in life of being the

coolest dog around- me! Usually, I start off my mornings early because that stupid rooster next door is relentless once the sun comes up. My bed is on the floor at the foot of mom and dad's big bed, so when it's time for me to go out, I usually go over to mom and wake her up by nudging her with my nose or licking her in the face. Dad wakes up for nothing, so she's my best bet. It's funny seeing mom stumble around in the dark like a zombie, and some mornings I get a good laugh watching her trip over a shoe I may or may not have accidentally placed in her path. Hehehehe! Once outside, I make my usual route around the perimeter of the fence. I've got a nice path

worn all the way around our yard now, and two of my neighborhood pals usually stop by to chat a few minutes while I'm checking everything out. Around mid-morning I usually take a short nap so I'm ready for when all the music students arrive to study lessons with mom and dad. I like to lay outside on the porch and listen to the music as they play, but I'm also there in case anything sketchy comes close. The other day there was a suspicious looking cow grazing near the fence, and I had to show her who was the king of this house by barking and chasing her away. I like it when the kids come over for music lessons because I get lots of extra pets and hugs from them! In the evenings, I usually make another run of the fence while mom's watering the flowers, just to make sure things are locked up tight for the night. Usually, night time is quiet, but every now and then I wake mom and dad up in the middle of the night because I heard something creepy outside. Dad says I'm just chasing the spooks, but I know they'd both be long gone by now if it wasn't for me! My bark is ferocious, but don't get me wrong, I can also be bribed for cookies. Yum!

A Student's Musical Progress



Since starting the music school out of our house in Quayquyho, there's one student who's stood out from the rest. She always comes for her lessons prepared and she always asks if she can come and practice more than just her weekly lesson. This young lady is named Margaret, and she's one of the girls of the "El Puente" children's home for girls here in Quayquyho. Margaret has a real desire to learn the piano, and because of her drive, has advanced far enough to begin playing the piano with Stephen and I as we lead worship services here

every Sunday night. I think it's amazing to see a student put all the pieces we've taught her about music together to form a song. For Stephen and I, it's important that our students not only know how to play their instruments, but what they're playing too. Sure, our students learn to play chords, but they also learn about music theory and how to read music. They know the individual notes they're playing that make up a specific chord, along with the key signatures, musical terms, as well as ear training. We want our students to be well rounded musicians who know what they're playing, and Margaret is well on her way to become a fantastic piano player.

A Visit from Alejandra



In January, Stephen and I were very happy to have Alejandra, a young lady from the Hogar Puerto Seguro Children's Home in Carapegua, come visit us at our home in Quayquyho for almost two weeks. This past December, Ale graduated from high school, and as she's turned 18, is able to travel outside the children's home and visit other people for an extended period of time. If any of you reading this newsletter have ever met Ale, you know she's a fun loving girl who loves people and has a great desire to speak English fluently. I think she's a fantastic young lady, who's driven and with a little encouragement can accomplish great things in her life. When I invited Ale to come and stay with us, I must admit I purposely planned to spoil her rotten every second she was with me. I think I baked chocolate chip cookies from scratch three times just because she loved them so much. We went to Asuncion on a day trip and took a boat ride and went to all the big malls. One day we took her to a national park and went hiking, and Stephen even managed to give Ale a few driving lessons on how to operate a manual transmission. I cooked tacos, a meal Ale never tried before, and we watched movies on Netflix. Ale and Stephen really bonded watching a few of their favorite TV shows: Supergirl and the Flash. When she left to return home, I felt sad looking at the room she'd stayed in, and I think Sampson even missed her as well. But, I'm excited for Ale too, because next month, she's planning to start college and has enrolled in an English education program so that she can become a high school English teacher here in Paraguay. I'm so excited she's going to be able to follow her dreams and study a subject that excites her. Stephen and I wish Alejandra all the best and hope she can come back to visit us soon!

Paraguay Fun Fact



What world renowned international race is Paraguay currently hosting for the first time in history?

This year, Paraguay became the 29th country to join the Dakar Rally, an offroad endurance race for adventurous overlanders who want to test their skills and push their boundaries. In the Dakar, there's no definite path, just a general route that's must be completed all offroad in stages. The 39th edition of this race was held January 2-14, 2017, and began in Paraguay. If you want to learn more about this extreme overland competition, click [here](#).

Next Month's Paraguay Fun Fact Question- What's so unique about the Paraguayan Flag? No cheating!

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 have a few students who are really starting to progress in their music. Pray for them that they will continue to succeed and be dedicated to continuing to learn.
2. Men's retreat, Paraguay COGOP's national convention, and several other events are on the horizon.

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!



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