



*A Ministry of the
Church of God of
Prophecy*

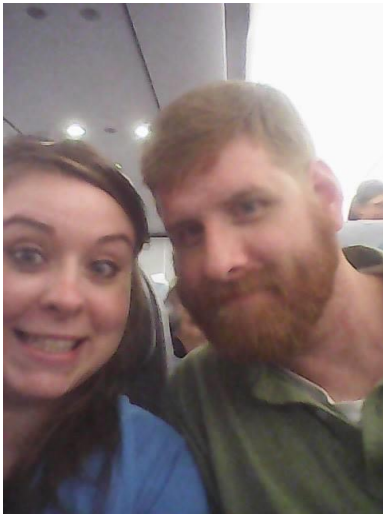
***“He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in Him.”***

-Psalm 40:3



One Year in Paraguay: Then & Now

Happy Thanksgiving everyone, and while I'm at it, Merry Christmas too! As most of you know, this month Stephen and I have officially been in Paraguay for one year. So, I decided that I'd take everyone down memory lane and recap what this past year has been like for us. In November 2015, I was so excited to be moving to Paraguay, but I was also very nervous as well. Sampson was traveling with us and I'd never arranged for a dog to fly on a plane before so that was scary for me. The photo to the left is a selfie Stephen and I took on our first flight out of Miami right before we took off, leaving U.S. soil. At this point, there were still a lot of unknowns for us about our future lives in Paraguay. Where were we going to live? Would people come to our music school? Would we fail?



We arrived in Paraguay on November 10, 2015 and went to live at the Tierra Prometida Campground in Carapegua. Our original plan was to live in the small village of Quyquyho, so after realizing that renting a place in this village was not going to be an option, we decided to build a small house. It took nine months for the house to be completed and during that time we set about opening the music school in Carapegua and getting involved with the Paraguay Church of God of Prophecy at both the local and national levels. This past year, Stephen and I have helped provide music for youth camps, pastors retreats, ladies' retreat, men's retreat, district rallies, special local church events, musical concerts, etc. We also lead worship at both the Carapegua and Quyquyho churches. We've been teaching music in

Carapegua every Monday night since we've arrived and we are now teaching music on Thursday and Fridays in Quyquyho. We've been living in our house in Quyquyho since June and we are so happy to have a space to finally call our own. As I look back at my life over the past year, it's amazing how so much changed in such a short period. In one year, I've moved to a different country on a different continent, I'm speaking Spanish better than ever, I'm a better musician, I've adapted to a different culture, my relationship with Stephen has improved (we spend 24hrs. a day together), and I've learned the true meaning of living by faith. Life in Paraguay has changed me for the better, although at times it was very difficult. I am thankful for these experiences because I believe it has made me a better person and no matter where life takes me I will always cherish the memories Stephen and I have made this first year.





Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup.

Happy Turkey Day everyone! I hoped you all enjoyed eating your delicious birds this year because I sure didn't!!! I haven't had turkey for a whole year because mom and dad say they can't get a turkey at the grocery store. It's a shame because I really do love turkey! Just ask my Nay-



Nay and she'll tell you how one year I stuck my whole face in the Thanksgiving leftovers when no one was looking!! Haha!!!! Good times! Anyway, this month I've really been trying to make new friends in Quayquyho. Mom and dad have started a music school here so when all the kids are over I try to show them how smart I am and do all my tricks. I don't know why humans think it's so awesome when I sit down or give them high-fives? Really people, a puppy could do those things, but it makes them happy to see me perform so I play along. Other than showing off, I've been on a mission to finally catch the neighbor cat once and for all. One night, I got the thing treed in our yard but I couldn't quite get to him. So, I jumped up on this round circle thing in our yard to get a better look. Mom went ballistic when I did this because apparently, the round thing is an old-fashioned open well that didn't have a cover. I was perfectly balanced on the rim, but mom was afraid that I'd fall in so she made me get down. There are boards covering the opening now, and I've been forbidden to climb back up there. Luckily, mom can't watch me all the time because if she saw half of the things I did she'd never let me out of my crate! YOLO people! YOLO!!!!

Mission 403 Music Ministry: Update



Over the past month, Stephen and I have made several musical instrument purchases to increase the effectiveness of our ministry here in Paraguay. Due to donations from various churches and individuals, we have been able to purchase equipment to better our drum set – cymbals, cymbal stands, etc. We bought a new small guitar for our younger students, and some much-needed maintenance equipment (guitar strings, bass strings, picks, etc.). With youth camp coming up in January, Stephen and I are aiming to have our drum set in pristine condition (new drum heads, sticks, cymbal stands, etc.) for the church to use. The music schools in both Carapegua and Quayquyho continue to thrive with about ten regular students in Carapegua and about twenty-five steady students in Quayquyho. After visiting the local high school's English class in Quayquyho, Stephen and I have seen increased interest in our ministry from the town and have even made friends with the

local police who ride by our house and wave at us from time to time. We are busy throughout every week in the ministry and are excited to see what the next year brings.



Quyquyho Community Center Construction



In 2009, Stephen and I helped purchase the Quyquyho property (where our house currently sits) along with two other couples. The goal for buying this land was to build a community center for the town, which would also operate as a church building where we could hold services. In Quyquyho, the Church of God of Prophecy is the only functioning church, outside of the Catholic Church, that I am aware of for a region of about 7000 people. A few years ago, construction was stalled on this project because we couldn't really find anyone to work on the building anymore. However, after our contractor, Don Tito, finished our house, Dan hired him to start working on the community center again. Here are some photos of the project with all the stucco completed.



Dan Miller returns from the U.S. next week, I hope that further progress can be made on the building. Once completed, Stephen and I would like to hold our music classes for Quyquyho there. It will also be nice to only have to walk about twenty feet or so to get to church! ☺

Paraguay Fun Fact



What vehicle is considered the most common means of transport in Paraguay?

Believe it or not, the motorcycle is the most common means of transportation here in Paraguay. I've seen families of five people riding on one motorcycle down the street. Motorcycles are also used to haul all kinds of things here. The other day, I saw our neighbor hauling a huge pile of wood strapped to the back of his motorcycle. One time, I even saw a man balancing a washing machine for clothes on his thigh while the person in front drove. Kids of all ages ride around on motorcycles here every day and you can often see mothers cradling their newborns on the back of the motorcycle while the husband drives. There are laws that say you have to wear a helmet while riding, but most people do not wear one. Sometimes I am amazed at just what people can do with a little creativity.

Next Month's Paraguay Fun Fact Question- What 18th century philosopher features Paraguay in one of his most famous works? What is the title? (I know, I know! The librarian in me is coming out!)

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. Please pray as Stephen and I once again attempt to complete our immigration documents. It's been a struggle.
2. In a few weeks, a mission team from the U.S. will be traveling to Paraguay. Pray for them.

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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