



*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

MAY/ JUNE 2017

Just Another Day at the Office



Greetings from Paraguay! This month I'll be combining the May and June newsletters into one edition, and we've got a lot of ground to cover so I'll just get right to it. Alongside our weekly music lessons that we teach, Stephen and I have also been trying to establish a worship team at our local church in Carapegua. This has been a little touch and go for a while, but over the past few months I think we're starting to see a group form. Mickey, our drummer, moved to Carapegua a few months ago to stay with his grandparents while his mother went to work a job in Brazil. At first, he wanted to play with us just to get some practice in on the drums, but I must say that over these past few weeks, Stephen and I can definitely tell a difference in his drumming skills. He's now our regular drummer at church and I think that if he keeps practicing and playing he'll be an amazing musician as he grows older. On the bass we have Leandro, one of the former residents of the Hogar Puerto Seguro Children's Home. He's now living in Carapegua while he finishes his high school studies. On the guitar is David and helping with vocals is Ruth. I think this group really has potential and we really enjoy working with all of them.



Other than the worship team, life in the local Carapegua church is booming. We've moved to a new location a little way down the road. We had a party to celebrate the move which included grilled sausages and hamburgers! Yum!!! All in all, life is good in Paraguay, but there are some bumps along the road. For example, the other day Stephen and I were riding

along the 9-mile dirt road we must travel to get to our house and our tire suddenly went flat. Luckily, we had a spare and Stephen was able to change the tire quickly, but I think that was our 3rd or 4th flat we've had to endure since living here. Yesterday, we almost made it to the pavement when we had to turn around due to flooding. A trip that normally takes 1 ½ hours turned into a 3-hour journey. The water was too deep for the truck to pass safely so we had to turn around and go all the way back to Quyuquyo to take a longer road to get to our destination. But you know through all the headaches and sighs, I think these little adventures is what makes life interesting. I think I'd get bored if things always went my way...without a little struggle what's the point of it all anyways?



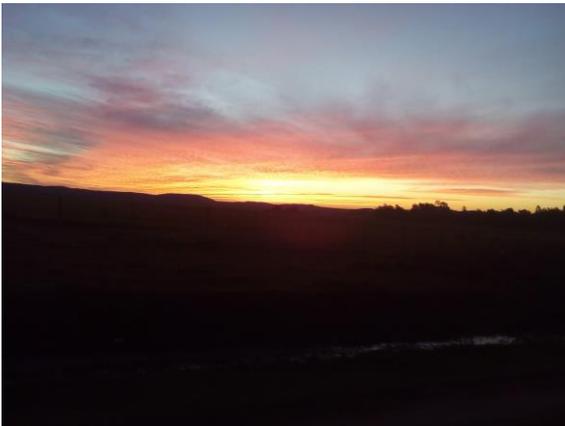
Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the
viewpoint of a pup.



Hello everyone! To ensure public safety, I need to inform all my canine pals reading this newsletter of a terrible lesson I learned a few weeks ago. You all know that mom's been on this horrible diet kick for a few months now. Dad and I are starting to look like skeletons, but she doesn't look like she's lost an ounce! Anytime she's not looking, I try to nose around and see if I can find a forgotten treat on the floor. There's only so much kibble a dog can eat before he starts craving a little variety. I mean, what's life without a little peanut butter every now and then? Anyways, one day mom's back was turned so I jumped up on the stove with my two front paws to see if I could score some goodies. Unfortunately, at that moment mom was boiling water to make tea and my paw got caught up in the gas flames. All I remember seeing was a ball of flames engulf my paw before I jumped back down. Mom was screaming and this horrible smell filled the air. I thought I was a goner, but then mom started laughing. Props go to my doggie guardian angel, because I didn't get hurt at all from the fire. My fur was scorched and I had a little bit of a bald spot, but the flames never touched my skin! It wasn't even red! So, take it from me guys! No matter how good something smells, always check to make sure the stove isn't on before you try to sneak a snack because you may get more than you bargained for. Oh, and as a side note...mom felt so bad about my paw she gave me an apology cookie...hehehehe!!!

Support the Mission 403 Ministry in Paraguay



Mission 403 is a ministry of the Church of God of Prophecy that seeks to further the message of Christ using the power of music. We teach music to empower and enrich other's lives, and we play music to reach the hurting and lost. We believe that music is a powerful force that can reach people on a soul-level and speak to hearts and minds where mere words have no impact. To the left are photos of Stephen and I playing at a COGOP youth camp, and at a recent wedding of one of the former girls of the Hogar Puerto Seguro Children's Home.

We are continually expanding the ministry but we cannot do it without your help. We have a goal for support set at \$1300 a month. This money goes towards things like putting gas in our car or paying the electric bill, things that allow us to keep ministering. Recently, Mission 403 has been falling short of this goal. Can you help us reach our monthly support level of \$1300? We are looking for people who can commit to giving a small amount to the Mission 403 ministry, anywhere between \$10 and \$50 a month. It's this consistent support that helps us to continue to minister. If you'd like to become a monthly supporter, please go to www.mission403.org/donate to learn more. All donations to Mission 403 are completely tax deductible and every dime you give goes towards spreading the love of Christ in Paraguay.

Softball...Paraguayan Style



Last month a group from California came to visit the Quyquyho girls home with a bat bag full of softballs, gloves, and bats for all the girls to play! In Paraguay, baseball is not a very popular sport. Many here have never seen a game played and have no idea of the rules involved. So, with all this new equipment, it was up to Stephen and I to teach these Paraguayan ladies a new sport!! Let's play ball!!

*******After playing softball with the girls*******

I now know why Paraguayans aren't really into baseball. Every Saturday afternoon we practice, and every time there's always someone on the sidelines serving tereré to the players in the infield.

For those of you who don't know, tereré is this tea-like beverage

Paraguayans drink almost constantly. More than the tereré, I've caught our first baseman sitting down eating mandarines while someone is at bat, and our outfielders tend to sit in the grass if they don't see any action after a few minutes. I've never laughed so much in my life!! Yes, the girls are getting better at bating and throwing the ball, but there's just something hilarious about seeing someone running across the field with tereré while another person is hitting a softball in their direction! I'm not sure if baseball is going to catch on here anytime soon, but Stephen and I really look forward to Saturday afternoons just to see what other aspect of Paraguayan culture will change our perception of baseball forever!

Paraguay Fun Fact



Besides soccer, can you name two other popular sports widely enjoyed by the Paraguayan people?

Soccer is king in Paraguay, and every school age boy and girl grows up playing soccer almost everyday. But, other than soccer, Paraguayans also enjoy volleyball and cycling. Check out this [YouTube Video](#) Stephen took at the campground of the kids trying to play volleyball with no hands!

Next month's question: Paraguay made big news a couple of months ago with stories appearing on CNN, the New York Times, and even the BBC. What happened?

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. In recent months, Mission 403 has fallen short of its \$1300 per month fundraising goal. Please pray for our donors and that God would continue to provide for us and our ministry.
2. Pray for the upcoming mission teams to Paraguay this year.
3. Pray for the ongoing saga over our Paraguayan immigration documents.
4. Pray for the many ongoing projects of the COGOP in Paraguay.

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

