



*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

DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017

Happy Holidays: Paraguayan Style

Happy 2017 everyone!!! It certainly has been an eventful time for the Mission 403 ministry lately so this month I am combining the December 2016 and January 2017 newsletters into one! So here we go! As most of you know it's summer in Paraguay during this time of year. That means it's HOT!!! Like upper 90s hot! So, that in itself makes the holiday season a little odd for Stephen and I. It's weird seeing people put up Christmas lights and Christmas trees while everyone is wearing shorts, but sometimes you got to just role with it! This year though, all




of us here in Paraguay were blessed to receive an all-Spanish speaking mission team from Georgia and Florida. This team consisted of seven members: Ebli De La Rosa, Noemi De La Rosa, Ebli De La Rosa, Jr., Edwin De La Rosa, Ashley Flores, Frelin Calix, and Dennise Cubas. From the time they arrived, this team was on the go. On the first Wednesday night they were here, the Carapegua COGOP had a special service with Bishop Ebli De La Rosa bringing the message. Three of the team members, Ebli De La Rosa, Jr., Ashley Flores, and Frelin Calix all accompanied Stephen and I to a music practice four hours before the service began. Ebli Jr. played the guitar, Frelin had mad skills on the bass and Ashley dazzled everyone with a fantastic singing voice. We were also joined by two Paraguayan locals, Cristian Lopez on guitar and Pastor Gabriel

Lopez on the drums. It's been a while since Stephen and I enjoyed playing music with a full band and let me tell you, the service was fantastic. We are so glad that all these guys (and one gal) decided to share their talents with us, and later the whole team spent two days in Quyuquyo ministering to the community we live in. We had a great time sharing and making memories with all the team members and we hope to see them again either here in Paraguay or even State-side!

For the Christmas and New Year's holidays this year, Stephen and I opted to spend time with the Millers and the children of Hogar Puerto Seguro (Safe Harbor), an orphanage on the COGOP Tierra Prometida (Promise Land) Campground. Celebrating Christmas and New Years in Paraguay is a lot like the 4th of July in the United States. Both occasions call for a big BBQ along with all the usual fixings! YUM!!! Children aren't whisked to bed on Christmas Eve, instead everyone stays up to shoot-off fireworks at midnight! Everyone had a great time watching all the colors light up the night sky! Stephen and I hope that each of you had an amazing holiday season and we pray you have a blessed year in 2017!!





Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup.



on this stupid cone hat while he took pictures. Humans...I'll never understand their strange ways but sometimes you have to go with it in order to have your piece of cake! Anyway, I posed for the photo shoot and tried not to bite the flaming candle while they sung happy birthday! The worst of it is that mom actually posted my embarrassing ordeal on Facebook so now I have all the neighborhood dogs snickering behind my back when they think I'm not looking. Geez!! How am I supposed to keep up my rep when I've got the two most cheesiest cheese balls for parents? Dad says he's not cheesy but let me tell you he's just full of the cheddar. Now anyone in the neighborhood is going to think they can do whatever they want!! Before you know it that pesky neighbor cat will be lounging in my grassy spot!! Just yesterday, I had to chase away three chickens who thought they could waltz right in to my house! I don't think so! Generally, I'm more of a lover not a fighter. I'd rather give kisses than growl, but I might have to step up my game a little bit so these locals don't get any strange ideas of who they're dealing with!! I'm the boss of this yard! YOU SHALL NOT PASS!!!!

A Musical Proposal!!!



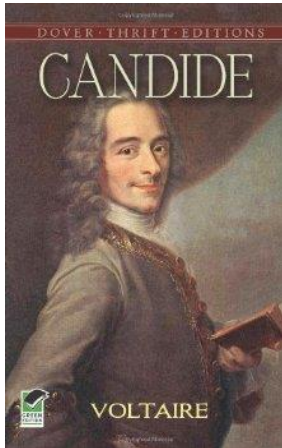
Around the end of September 2016, Stephen and I were approached by a young man named Cesar Mosqueira with a special request. You see, for a few years Cesar has been dating a young lady named Monica (Rocio) Perez. Rocio came to the Hogar Puerto Seguro Children's Home when she was about 14 years old. I remember attending her 15th birthday party back in 2008 when I was a sophomore in college. This year, Rocio graduated from university with a degree in accounting and Cesar wanted to surprise her by proposing marriage when she came home to celebrate her graduation. So, for over two months, Cesar came to have a private music lesson with Stephen and I every Monday evening. He wanted to be able to play the guitar and sing [Tu Poeta](#) by Alex Campos in front of the entire church congregation just before he proposed to Rocio. At the first lesson, he could barely play the chords and didn't really have a lot of confidence when it came to singing. But with each lesson, Cesar improved more and more and by the time he finally popped the question on Dec. 18th he was playing and singing with strength! The proposal went beautifully and I believe the couple is now planning a wedding for April 2017. It was amazing for Stephen and I to be able to help this young man with such an important event in his life. We were blessed by this entire experience and are looking forward to helping out with the wedding music if needed!!! Congratulations Cesar and Rocio!!!



Schaefers vs. The Paraguayan Immigration Office

Over the past year, Stephen and I have struggled to get our immigration documents completed for the Paraguayan government. The repeating story is that each time we go to the immigration office, we are told we have everything except one document. This went on until one day our FBI background check from the U.S. expired. This particular document is standard for a U.S. citizen living abroad, but it is a three month process to obtain this paperwork and it includes you turning in a professional copy of your fingerprints. So, when our first FBI background check expired in April 2016, I decided to wait until Stephen and I went back to the U.S. for the assembly in July 2016 in order to save money on international shipping. In November, we finally received another updated copy of this document and proceeded to try and apply for temporary residency status in Paraguay once again. In mid-December, Stephen and I were sure we had everything we needed to successfully turn in all our paperwork. And we were right! Stephen was able to apply for his temporary residency card, but when it came to my documents there was a problem. In Paraguay, when a woman marries she doesn't necessarily change her last name...she just adds on her husband's surname. It was a matter of confusion for the Paraguayan officials to understand why my birth certificate and marriage license had my maiden name and my U.S. passport had my married name. They did not believe me when I told them the name in my birth and marriage certificates was the same person in my passport. So, here was Stephen with all his stuff turned in and I was having an identity crisis. To satisfy the immigration office, I had to go before the U.S. embassy in Paraguay to have a sworn affidavit stating my two names belonged to me. So, on Dec. 28th I went back to the immigration office and finally was able to turn in my paper and apply for my temporary residency card. Stephen and I both should receive our cards in February and I just might pose for a few pictures with mine because it's been a long, expensive, and hard fought battle to get that little thing!

Paraguay Fun Fact



What 18th century philosopher features Paraguay in one of his most famous works? What is the title?

Candide is a French satire published in 1754 by philosopher Voltaire. I personally read this fast-paced silly short novel about six months ago and was surprised the role Paraguay had to play as a main setting. The book is centered around the idea of optimism and criticises Leibnizian optimism, which is a theological based philosophy on how everything in this world is optimal because God would not create a world with such flaws and imperfections. From a philosophical standpoint, *Candide* is best read by adults firm in their faith with the Lord. Although it is funny, there are some deep questions posed in the book we all ponder from time to time as humans. Why do bad things happen and why does God allow bad things to happen? So, if you're looking to be more well-read or want to learn more about Enlightenment Era philosophical works, I'd suggest taking on *Candide* first and enjoying what it has to say about Paraguay.

Next Month's Paraguay Fun Fact Question- What world renowned international race is Paraguay currently hosting for the first time in history?

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 helping to provide the music during this year's youth camp! Pray that everything goes well and that attending teens will be blessed by the Lord.



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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