



*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

JULY 2017

Mission Team Season



It's the most wonderful time of year here in Paraguay—mission team season!!! All the way from June through September, people from all parts of North America will be flocking to South America on various mission teams. Some will be working on construction projects, some will be focusing on ministerial outreach, but whatever their trip's goals, it's sure to be a great time!

campground in Carapeguá. However, they also



The first team to visit this summer (summer for North America, winter for South America), was the international youth ministries team led by Charlie and Amaris Scruggs in June. This team was called the Canopy Project with people from Virginia, Tennessee, and California. The main purpose of the group was to build an amphitheater at the Tierra Prometida took a weekend to provide youth ministry training to all youth workers in Paraguay. Stephen and I were asked to help provide music for the weekend, which included the training seminar, a regional youth service, and a regional Sunday morning church service to end the event. Once again, we asked on our good friends Cristian and Gabriel Lopez to help with guitar and drums, and different team members helped sing and play bass. I must admit I was rather impressed with Ryan Lester of Virginia. I was told he played drums and bass, but since I had Gabriel to play the drums, I automatically put him on the bass. He did get a chance to fill in for Gabriel, and I was blow away by this young man's talent! He plays guitar and bass really well, but the drums are clearly his instrument. In the vocal department, I had some very gifted young ladies helping to

carry the melody: Mariela Bor, Amaris Scruggs, and Damaris Orona We practiced for hours at a time before the training weekend began, but I must say these young people stuck it out and the music sounded fantastic. On this team, Stephen and I were able reunite with old friends and make new ones as well. I think that's one of the best things about being a missionary—all the people you get to meet along the way. Whether it's the local people from Paraguay or a mission team coming to help, I am always amazed and grateful for the opportunities I have to meet so many fantastic people I never would have met otherwise.



Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup.

Guys, I'm famous!!!! All last month and even right now, people have been coming to Paraguay just to bring me presents!!! I mean I'm making out like a bandit. Last month I got a big bone and bacon treats, and right now I'm chewing on another bone someone else brought. They say being



famous can be tedious, but I think it's great!!! I've been posing for pictures, giving high-fives, and everyone wants to meet me!!! To be honest, I think mom and dad might be a little jealous. I can't help it I'm so popular!!! I mean, who wouldn't like me? I'm the best!! I do all kinds of tricks, I love to give kisses, and I can cuddle with the best of them. I think it's a little like high school...like mom and dad are the nerds who resent the cool kids. It's not like I'm going to stuff them into their lockers...but I did steal those cheesy sausages...and

that one guy's lunch...and maybe I dug around a little in mom's flower beds. But other than that, there's no reason they should begrudge me all the attention I'm getting from the mission teams that come down! Let's be honest, who would you rather spend your time with? Me or a couple of grumpy musicians?? That's what I thought. 😊 P.S. thank you to everyone who sent me doggie treats from the U.S. They're delicious!!!

North Carolina Comes to Paraguay



Right now, as I type this newsletter, I'm surrounded by North Carolinians from all over the Triad area. Some are from my local church in High Point, and others are from Lexington and Greensboro. Some of them I've known for years, and some I've only just met, but it feels like home has come to visit me in Paraguay. This week the team is working on blessing some poor families that surround the campground by building much needed additions and making repairs to their houses. This upcoming weekend, the whole team will be traveling to Quyquyho to check out the ongoing construction and minister to the village. The girls of the Quyquyho children's home have requested the team play softball with them, so I think we're in for an interesting afternoon later this week. After

Quyquyho, we'll all be heading to the Iguazu falls in Brazil and to take a tour of the one of the world's biggest hydro-electric dam. I don't want to give too much away right now, because next month I'll have an in-depth account of all the team's adventures then.

A Miracle at the Immigrations Office



Well, it finally happened!!! We got our Paraguayan temporary residency card!!! Praise be!!! Right now the heavens are opening up and a choir of angels are singing!! After more than a year's struggle and effort, we are finally done with submitting documents and worrying about our legal status as foreigners. After several struggles and battles, we were able to officially turn in all of our paperwork in December 2016. When we submitted everything we were told it would be 90 days until we received our cards. It short we had to wait six months. At one point, the immigrations office called me to say I needed an extra interpol document that apparently Stephen did not need. I also had to go to the U.S. Embassy to get paperwork declaring that my married name and maiden name were the same person. I think it's funny how Stephen didn't have to do anything extra but I needed all these other documnts that were not on the application list. Regardless of all the headaches, though, we made it through the struggles. #thankyouJesusthat'sover

Paraguay Fun Fact



Paraguay recently made the national news with featured stories on CNN, BBC, and the NY Times. What happened?

In April, Paraguay experienced some slight political unrest. The current president, Horacio Cartes, made a play to seek a second term in office, something that is currently prohibited by the Paraguayan constitution. Right now, Paraguayan presidents are limited to serving a single five year term. Until 1989, Paraguay was ruled by a dictatorship, and the single term rule was made in hopes of preventing another dictator rising to power. When opposition forces found out that Cartes

was trying to change the law, many people took to the streets in riot. The congressional building was set afire, and police took to the streets decked out in full riot gear, using rubber bullets and water cannons to disperse the angry mob. One person was killed in the riot, which sparked even more outrage. Cartes has since said he will no longer seek a second term, but a lot of people are still on alert for fear another authoritative regime will come to power. You can read more about the Paraguayan riots here: [BBC News- Paraguay Burns Congress](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-14042017)

Next month's question: According to Paraguayan etiquette, what is the proper way to approach someone's house?

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 mission teams' safe travel to Paraguay this year.

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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