



SPREADING GOD'S LOVE IN PARAGUAY WITH THE POWER OF MUSIC



A Ministry of the Church of  
God of Prophecy

**DECEMBER  
2015**

IN THIS ISSUE

## Merry Christmas from Paraguay!!

What can I say about Paraguay? Well, it's hot!!! Please don't get me wrong because Paraguay is a beautiful country with lots of wonderful people. The culture is fascinating and I think Paraguay has a lot to offer our world, but if you come down during any other time than winter you'd better be ready for the heat! The first day we landed in Paraguay on November 10<sup>th</sup>, the temperature was close to 100°F!! I thought Sampson was going to have a heat stroke, he just laid around panting all the time. However, we made it through and there are breaks in the heat when the rain comes, praise Jesus! As I write this now it's raining outside so the temperature is comfortable today. Some days though I think I take at least three showers just to get the sheen of sweat off me. On days like those you just have to toughen up and make sure to put on an extra layer of deodorant. I have always said that missionary work is not for everyone. It seems glamorous but in reality the life of a missionary can be very difficult at times. But for those of us who are called to do this work, the challenging stuff doesn't seem so hard because we are serving a greater purpose by being in the field ministering and making a difference where we are

Other than adapting to the weather, this first month in Paraguay has been very busy.

There are lots of things to do and papers to sign when setting up your life in another country. We've managed to set up a way to retrieve money via a local bank here and have almost gotten all the documents required to start the process for our permanent residency cards for Paraguay. We are temporarily living at the Tierra Prometida Campground with Dan and Gwen Miller right now, but we are forming a plan as to where we will permanently set up shop for the Mission 403 ministry and have a house. For the mean time music lessons have begun and we are trying to develop a great music program for the local church here in the town of Carapegua, where Dan Miller is currently the pastor. We bought a truck, which you'll read about a little later, so that we could be mobile to reach our students at the campground and in Carapegua. Hopefully in the coming days we will also begin music lessons within the village of Quyuquyo where there is another children's home. Nevertheless, our days are filling up with work and we couldn't be happier. Summer youth camps are starting this weekend with the children's camp up first. We are super excited and we thank God for His blessings and pray continued favor as we minister in Paraguay. Merry Christmas everyone!



**Bring the gift of music to a youth in Paraguay. Mission 403 needs assistance buying instruments for the ministry. Can you help?**

## Help Mission 403 Buy Instruments!!

Mission 403 is currently looking to buy instruments for instruction and for some of its students who cannot afford such a purchase on their own. Currently we are teaching lessons in guitar, piano and the electric bass. We hope to offer drum lessons sometime in the near future.

As of right now, we would like to buy the following instruments:

- 3-5 acoustic guitars- \$120 each**
- 1 electric bass- \$500**
- 1 keyboard (piano)- \$1000-\$1500**
- 1 drum set (with cymbals)- \$600**

If you or your church is interested in helping Mission 403 with the purchase of instruments for ministry, please contact Jessica Schaefer by email at [jhwschaefer@gmail.com](mailto:jhwschaefer@gmail.com)

All instruments or donations given to Mission 403 always go directly to support the ministry. Already, we are seeing people being drawn into the church through music and the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument. The people here are amazed that they can learn how to play an instrument for absolutely free. Mission 403 always wants to be able to provide this ministry free of charge to the people of Paraguay, but we cannot do this without your support. Please consider helping us buy some of these instruments, and if you would like to offer regular support to Mission 403 please turn to page 4 of this newsletter to learn how you can become a monthly donor.



*One of Mission 403's students practices his electric bass lesson.*



*Sampson is a 5 year-old German Shepard mix who is enjoying his new life in Paraguay. He's made lots of new friends and is currently learning how to bark in Spanish.*



## Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup...

So now that I've had time to get over that horrible night I spent in the airplane, I really am starting to like living in Paraguay. My new friend Shadow and I like to play together a lot and even though I'm not supposed to chase the neighbor's chickens I still like to scare them every now and then. I think it keeps them on their toes...or talons because chickens really don't have toes.

While mom and dad are teaching music lessons I like to lay on the floor and listen. The music puts me to sleep and I like how all the kids who come give me extra pets and sometimes treats! I do have to admit that I was a little naughty last week though. There was a man doing construction work near my house and he just left his whole lunch right in the window where I could get it. I mean I'm just a dog people. How am I supposed to resist such temptation?

Mom got really mad at me for stealing the lunch. She said I was just like a schoolyard bully, whatever that means. Anyway, she had to pay to replace the man's lunch box I accidentally cracked while I was eating his food. It was really good while I was eating it but I felt ashamed afterward when everyone found out what I did. To tell the truth, if I had to do it over again I'd probably do the same thing. But this time I'd be sure I didn't get caught!

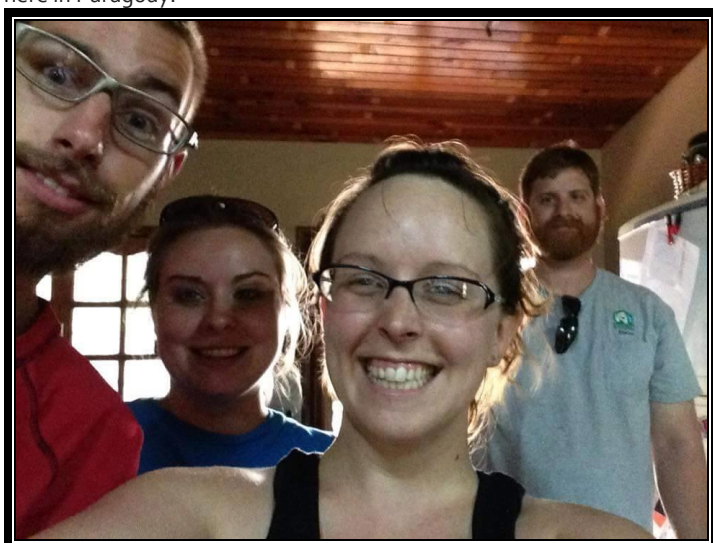
If I had to choose what I miss the most about my old home, it would probably be my big fluffy chair I used to flop into and take naps. I've put in a request for another chair, but I don't know when I'll be getting it. Maybe for Christmas. Speaking of...Merry Christmas everyone! May your stockings be full of dog bones and treats come Christmas morning!



## A Paraguayan Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Day came fast bringing our first holiday outside of the United States and away from our families. This year Stephen and I were very lucky to share our

American Thanksgiving traditions with two Canadians, Kyle and Danni Miller, who are also here for the next two years serving as the campground caretakers. Two weeks before Thanksgiving, I started looking for a place to buy a turkey. The giant bird isn't very common here so to buy one in a supermarket would be really expensive. I could have bought a live bird from the neighbor down the road, but that would mean I'd also have to kill, clean, and pluck the bird myself and I don't think I've been in Paraguay long enough to go there just yet. Nevertheless, we celebrated with some amazing chicken and delicious side dishes and pies! Thank you Kyle and Danni for letting us use your house and kitchen to celebrate Thanksgiving. We enjoyed spending the day with you and we appreciate the work you're doing here in Paraguay.



## The TRUCK!

From the moment we starting planning to move to Paraguay to become full time missionaries, Stephen and I were always in agreement that we should look for some kind of 4X4 pickup truck to buy as our vehicle once we got here. Looking for a vehicle to buy in Paraguay can be very stressful. First, there is a language barrier and there are different laws regarding the purchase of a vehicle. Stephen and I speak decent Spanish but we aren't quite good enough just yet to successfully complete a business transaction on our own.

Second, automobiles are not manufactured in Paraguay. All vehicles must be imported into the country and that makes them more expensive to buy here than they would be in the U.S. And third, you really want to buy a vehicle out-right here because to buy one on payments it's customary for the financier to charge upwards of 30%-40% interest on the price. So, we had to have a strict budget when shopping around for this truck. We looked for a solid two weeks for just the right vehicle. We went to Asuncion, the capital city, multiple times and to be honest most of the trucks we saw were really beaten up and not very sound mechanically. I prayed a lot for the Lord to lead us to the right vehicle because I didn't want to be stuck with a lemon.

On Thanksgiving Day, while Stephen and I were preparing to celebrate the holiday, two pickups randomly pulled into the campground driveway. People had heard we were looking for a truck and wanted us to look at a 1999 Ford Ranger they thought we would like. We took the truck for a test drive and we immediately knew this was the one we were meant to buy. It had everything we wanted: 4X4, straight shift, diesel, turbo, and the air conditioning was ice cold! The best part about this truck was that the price the owner was asking for was right within our budget and we managed to negotiate a price below what we thought we would have to pay!

I totally believe that God heard our prayers regarding the purchase of this vehicle and he even provided curb side service. We didn't have to go out and find this truck. God brought it right to our doorstep and provided the means for us to make a great purchase so that we could be good stewards of the funds He has provided for us! The only thing that needs to be done to our new truck is to replace the radio, but that is an easy fix. With our own vehicle, we can now be independent and operate our ministry without having to rely on others for transportation. In fact, we have already used our truck to help drive some of the kids from the children's home to the various places that they need to be. I thank God for guiding us in this purchase and I'm looking forward to all the wonderful things to come!



# 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 dream of Mission 403 cannot become a reality 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. It is estimated that we will need approximately \$1300 per month to fully cover daily living and operating expenses while in Paraguay.

There are two ways you can give to help support us and Mission 403. You can give online via our church (The Church of God of Prophecy) at [www.cogop.org](http://www.cogop.org). 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 37320-2970



**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!



[www.Mission403.org](http://www.Mission403.org)



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