



A Ministry of the Church of
God of Prophecy

September
2015

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

IN THIS ISSUE

The Adventure Begins!

Welcome everyone to the first ever Mission 403 newsletter! We are Stephen & Jessica Schaefer from Ward Ave. COGOP in High Point, NC, and we are about to embark on an adventure to become foreign missionaries in the country of Paraguay, South America. It's been a long road with lots of prayer and hard work, but the Lord has blessed and we are rapidly preparing for our departure currently planned for November of this year. Last year, we officially received an invitation from Bishop David Orozco, the national overseer of Paraguay, to go and minister in Paraguay. We are tasked with starting a music ministry as many people have expressed interest in learning how to play musical instruments to facilitate worship both in church services and for use in outreach. It may even be possible for Mission 403 to go into the public school systems to teach music to the children. We are looking forward to having access to such a precious group of people.

Other than music, Mission 403 may also have a rare opportunity to help improve the educational system in Paraguay via its libraries. I (Jessica Schaefer) hold a master's degree in library science and have already been approached to help the local schools develop their book collections for their students. As God opens doors, I want to help the people of Paraguay in any way that I can.

Stephen and I will use all of our skills, musical or otherwise, to serve those most in need.

After getting the final approval from the international offices of the Church of God of Prophecy, we are now in the process of visiting various churches to gain support and funding for the Mission 403 ministry. We are ecstatic to have the privilege of working alongside our long-time friends Dan & Gwen Miller of [Paraguay Missions](#). Every day, God is proving just how great He is and we are honored to have the opportunity to minister in Paraguay. If you would like to hear more about our ministry, please visit our website at www.Mission403.org or plan to attend one of the churches we are scheduled to speak at. Our calendar for church visits is ever evolving so please look to our website and Facebook page for more updates:

Sept. 13- Hamlet COGOP
 Sept. 20- Hillsborough COGOP
 Sept. 27- Brooklyn, NC COGOP
 Oct. 4- Autryville COGOP (AM) & Winston Salem (PM)
 Oct. 11- Rockingham COGOP (AM & PM)
 Oct. 18- Falcon COGOP
 Oct. 25 Brunswick, GA COGOP
 Nov. 1- Eden COGOP



Learn all about Mission 403's current fundraising progress and how you can help them meet their goals.

Page 3



Learn about Mission 403's vision and goals for ministry in Paraguay.

Page 5

Ward Avenue- High Point, NC

One week after Stephen and I returned from leading a short-term mission team to Paraguay, we decided to make the big announcement of our decision to move there as full-time missionaries to our home church of [Ward Ave. Church of God of Prophecy](#). I was really nervous about standing in front of all the people whom I've come to know and love like family over the last five years. For Stephen, this was even more intense because he's been attending Ward Avenue since he was five years-old. As we were preparing to essentially "come out" to everyone about our plans, I kept thinking about what happened to Jesus in Matthew 13:57-58 when he returned to his hometown of Nazareth to minister.

"And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.' And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith"

Would the people who know us the best really be interested in supporting us? I prayed to God that my fear would not rule my thoughts and to my delight, the people of our home church had nothing but happiness and well wishes to give us after our announcement. They said that they would miss us, but that they would all be behind us to support the work of Mission 403 in Paraguay. I am so grateful to everyone at Ward Ave. for all their encouragement and love. We could have never dreamed of doing this without them. Through some of the darkest times in my life, the people of Ward Ave. have lifted me up in prayer and have always offered their love and support. We will miss our church family dearly, but we know that it is time to step into the role we were meant to fulfill.



Jessica & Stephen standing alongside of Maria "Bill" Shean. She was the first mission director from Ward Ave. COGOP to connect with the Miller's ministry in Paraguay. It's because of her efforts that the road was paved for Mission 403 to become a reality.



Sampson was adopted by Jessica and Stephen Schaefer in February of 2011. He was Jessica's very first Valentine's Day present from Stephen as a married couple. He is a German Shepard mix who has lots of love and kisses to give to everyone he meets!



Sampson's Space

Missionary work from the viewpoint of a pup...

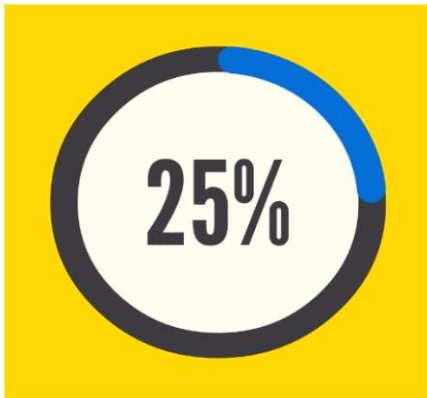
There's something funny going on around here. My mom and dad are all the time playing loud music in the house. I think it sounds good, but when I try to sing along they always tell me to be quiet. I'm just trying to help, but I guess they don't appreciate my artistic talents.

Anyway, mom keeps saying something about an airplane and how real soon I'm going to take a ride to something called a Paraguay. I just smile and give her high-fives so I can get a treat, but I really don't know what she's talking about. What's an airplane anyway? Is it like a car? Cars are scary! They're big monsters whose teeth keep going up and down trying to eat you. I remember when I was just a little puppy and the

car monster tried to bite me when I stuck my head out to get some sniffs. Thank goodness I got away, but now I have a strict policy of only riding in the middle of the seat. Why humans feel the urge to ride around in monsters I'll never know. Hopefully, the airplane won't be so bad.

However, I still have no idea what a Paraguay is. Maybe it's some sort of new code that means the vet! All this new stuff is very confusing, but I know that as long as I have my family I'll be ok. And my red ball---it goes without saying that I'll need that.

Mission 403 Fundraising Progress



Mission 403 has currently received monthly support pledges totaling approximately 25% of its needed monthly budget. These funds will be used to sustain itself physically and provide the financial means to minister effectively in Paraguay. It is estimated that Jessica & Stephen will need \$1300 a month to cover all their personal and ministerial costs.

Are you interested in supporting Mission 403 and the work in Paraguay? To learn more about how you can help, please turn to page 5 of this newsletter or visit <http://www.mission403.org/>.

MISSIONARY FACTS

67%

Despite Christ's command to evangelize, 67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present day have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ.

2%

Christians make up 33% of the world's population, but receive 53% of the world's annual income and spend 98% of it on themselves. That means that only 2% of over half the world's income goes to charitable/mission work.

Statistical information retrieved from <http://www.aboutmissions.org/statistics.html>



Members of Grace Chapel Church of God of Prophecy in Cochran, GA pray for Stephen & Jessica Schaefer and for the future work of Mission 403 in Paraguay

East Center Street-Lexington, NC

On August 16th, Mission 403 had the honor and privilege of visiting [East Center Street Church of God of Prophecy](#) in Lexington, NC. It was a wonderful reunion with Maria "Bill" Shean and Pastor Gerald Shean who have worked along side of missionaries Dan and Gwen Miller for many years in Paraguay. In fact, it was Maria who first convinced Stephen to go to Paraguay and participate in missions activities. The people of Lexington were very excited about Mission 403 and how they could be a part of the beginning of a new ministry in Paraguay. The highlight of this church visit, however, was when a small child demanded that her grandfather take her on stage to examine my (Jessica) bass. She was fascinated by my pink strings and decided then and there she wanted to play and instrument and be a "rock star"! I don't know about being a rock star, but I do know that little girl will never forget those pink strings. Her life is forever changed by the knowledge that she too can be onstage and play an instrument. Over the years, I've noticed "the great divide" within worship teams. It's women who mostly sing, and men who play the instruments. One of the goals of Mission 403 will be to show girls that they can participate in any aspect of worship that they so desire. I hope the little girl at Lexington pursues music and adds another desperately needed female musician to the world. Women can be fabulous singers, but they can be excellent musicians too. Come on girls! We can play too!

Grace Chapel-Cochran, GA

[Grace Chapel Church of God of Prophecy](#) in Cochran, GA is where I (Jessica) grew up, so stopping by this church was very much a homecoming for me. We visited on August 23rd, and I got to see people I haven't seen in years. It was very nostalgic for me being back at Grace Chapel. As I was onstage I kept imagining myself as a young girl and how I would sit in that spot on that one pew. I walked back to my old Sunday school room and saw myself 15 years ago being taught a bible lesson by my teacher. In each room I smiled and thought about fond memories from my childhood. I firmly believe that Grace Chapel and the environment of that church has a lot to do with who I am today. I expressed my desire to become a missionary at the very tender age of 7. Instead of telling me that an endeavor such as that was impossible, my church encouraged and allowed me to explore my calling in a healthy way. They taught me to listen to the spirit of God and how to discern His will for my life. I am grateful for the love and support they've shown me my entire life. The whole church immediately got behind our ministry by purchasing our T-shirts and pledging their monthly support. They are a great group of people and we are happy they are partnering with us on this new adventure!



Princeton COGOP- Princeton, NC

"God bless whoever made this dirt cake!" was all that needed to be said to have the people of the [Princeton Church of God of Prophecy](#) in giggles as we enjoyed a fantastic

pot-luck lunch. On August 30th, Mission 403 visited this very loving country church and to our delight we were able to bring some very talented young people- PJ Dublin, Isaiah Mack, & Taquiceya Johnson- with us to help in the worship services. These three are very much city kids, but they instantly fell in love with Princeton Church and all the people who attended there. Everyone there was very welcoming. We were not greeted by handshakes, but embraced by warm hugs and kisses on the cheek.

Princeton has long been connected to Mission 403 even before it began. Pastor Eugene Hartley was with Stephen on his very first mission trip to Paraguay from Ward Avenue COGOP in 2003. On that trip Stephen had to fix a broken power line because someone had accidentally felled a tree in the wrong direction. I guess even the most experienced of workers sometimes have blunders. In 2006, along with



Jessica Schaefer playing bass at Princeton COGOP.

his daughter Lorenda, Pastor Hartley met Jessica in Peru before she'd even heard of Paraguay! It's funny the road that life sometimes takes you down. You never know how the people you seem to meet by chance can end up having such a significant impact on your life. Mission 403 is blessed to have Pastor Eugene Hartley, Lorenda, and all the members of Princeton COGOP behind them in support of its ministry. They are kind and sweet people, and we had a lovely time of worship and fellowship at their church.

Garland COGOP- Garland, NC

Pastor Jimmy Hall invited Mission 403 to his church upon the urging of the Lord when he first heard of the ministry at the NC State Church of God of Prophecy Convention held in early August. He scheduled Stephen & me to minister at his church, [Garland COGOP](#), for the evening service on August 30th. He asked several churches in his area to attend the service and fully expected the power and spirit of God to show up. The Lord did not disappoint. People worshipped Christ with raised hands and open hearts and the Lord was ever present throughout the entire service. The congregation at Garland COGOP was different from previous church visits made by Mission 403 in that they had never before heard of the work in Paraguay. However, it never felt as if we were strangers in Garland. In fact, from the moment we pulled into the parking lot, our little group added another member to the band-Cooper, Pastor Hall's grandson.

I don't think I've ever met a little boy who so wanted to help. Cooper, who's only six years old, wanted to do everything with our group. He carried in musical equipment (the lighter things), asked if we needed anything like a cute little adult, and when we were all set up and ready to practice our music, he even picked up a tambourine and played with us! He immediately became best friends with Isaiah and PJ and left his family in the dust to sit with them during the entire service. It was very evident that Cooper has a servant's heart, and I think we all can expect great things from him as he grows older.

In the end I think that even though we, Mission 403, went to Garland to minister, it was we who were ministered to. Pastor Hall especially



Stephen & Jessica playing at Garland COGOP with the help of friends PJ Dublin, Isaiah Mack, & Taquiceya Johnson.

ministered to me by offering his counsel and most sincere promise of support and encouragement. I feel that Mission 403 will have a close and enduring relationship with this church in the future. I can even see Cooper, with his servant's heart, going on a mission trip someday to Paraguay when he's older. He and all the people at Garland Church of God of Prophecy are certainly most welcome in our house and to participate in the ministry of Mission 403 whenever they would like. The positive responses from these people, with whom we have no prior connection, confirms to us once again that God is behind Mission 403 and our lives as missionaries. We are thankful for them and we look forward to more visits 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. Once on the webpage, scroll down and 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

P.O. Box 2970

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




Like us on
Facebook