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CHURCH POSITIONS

PASTOR

Huntsville Park Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, is seeking a full-time pastor with an emphasis on a missions-minded ministry to the members of HPBC and the surrounding community. Candidates must have the qualifications given in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and a college or seminary degree in a field of ministerial or theological studies. Interested candidates should send resumés and correspondence to: hpbsearchteam@gmail.com.

PASTOR

Sweet Home Baptist Church in Guntersville, Alabama, is in search of a pastor. Interested candidates may send a resumé to: sweethomesearchcommittee@gmail.com.

PASTOR

Union Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Resumés will be received through Sept. 30 by mail at: Pastor Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, 5251 Grand Bay Wilmer Road S, Grand Bay, AL 36541 or by email at: admin@ubcgrandbay.org.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR

Concord Highland Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational pastor. Please send resumé to: CHBC2672@bellsouth.net.

MUSIC MINISTER

Pine Grove Baptist Church, Heflin, Alabama, is a small congregation prayerfully seeking a part-time music minister. Please email resumé to: pinegroveheflinal@gmail.com.

YOUTH AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

Sardis Baptist Church, Boaz, Alabama, is now accepting resumés for a full-time youth and recreation minister. Please send resumés to: Sardis Baptist Church, 1501 Church Street, Boaz, AL 35956 or to Mike Goforth at megoforth@yahoo.com. We are a growing, missions-minded church who is very active in sharing the gospel at home and abroad. Contact Mike Goforth at 256-506-2875 with any questions.

OTHER POSITIONS

PIANIST

First Baptist Church Union Grove is seeking to fill the staff position of pianist. Interested parties may send resumés to:

First Baptist Church Union Grove, P.O. Box 125, Union Grove, AL 35175.

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Photo by Karen O. Allen/The Alabama Baptist

Worshippers gather in a German church for a Sunday morning Celebration Orchestra concert.

Music and missions find common ground in Global Missions Project

By Karen O. Allen
The Alabama Baptist

In the past two decades, more than 8,000 Christian musicians have traveled with Global Missions Project to some 40 countries, blending their musical talent with their love for missions.

GMP is a nonprofit Christian music ministry that provides opportunities for church instrumentalists and vocalists to share the good news of Christ using their skills and talents alongside fellow musicians in other countries.

Composer, arranger and orchestrator Camp Kirkland, music director for GMP, said the ministry started as a spinoff from conferences designed for church instrumentalists.

"Up until that time, nothing had ever been offered for church instrumentalists," he said.

Using their talents

Kirkland and a fellow musician began to discuss whether or not church instrumentalists would be interested in using their talents through a missions endeavor.

They distributed survey cards and received more than 800 positive responses. GMP was born soon after.

The first project was in June 2003 in Poland with an orchestra; the second came a month later with a jazz band in Finland.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic halted travel for a while, GMP is planning trips once again, and there are lots of options.

Some U.S. musicians travel as part of Celebration Orchestra, joining with musicians from the host country to form a unique ensemble of strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion that performs traditional sacred and anthem-style music.

Others go as part of Metro Big Band, a smaller group of jazz instrumentalists and a vocalist.

"Jazz standards from the '40s, as well as swing versions of 'Amazing Grace' and 'Joshua's Battling Bones' have audiences dancing in the streets from

Volgograd to Bethlehem," said Kathy Milburn, a 10-time GMP participant.

"Even though the teams are very different in instrumentation and experience, it is exciting to see how united in mission every team is and

how relationships develop so fast during the week we're together,"

said Richard Kingsmore, a

GMP board member and arranger/orchestrator.

Participation is easy and cost-effective, and no audition is required. Musicians and accompanying nonmusicians are welcome. Registrants receive music about a month before departure and rehearsals begin the first day in the host country.

Each project includes excursions to learn about the host country's culture, but the main focus is missions. Participants return changed and challenged.

"It's a wonderful experience for any musician!" said participant Roselyn Nicewarner.

Email info@globalmissionsproject.com for more information.

Breaking barriers

Birmingham musicians share gospel, experience German culture during recent trip

By Karen O. Allen
The Alabama Baptist

Global Missions Project, a nonprofit ministry designed to take Christian musicians on missions trips, does little to advertise, relying instead upon word-of-mouth to do the job — and it does. For nearly 20 years, musicians have been traveling the world with GMP to present the gospel through music.

Recently, 52 musicians from 30 churches convened in Fulda, Germany, from as far north as New Hampshire, as far west as Texas and as far south as Florida.

Though GMP is an interdenominational ministry, many on the trip were Baptists, including nine musicians from Alabama — eight from Dawson Memorial Baptist Church and one from Meadow Brook Baptist Church, both in Birmingham.

Thirty-two Americans, 17 Germans and three Ukrainians made up the Germany Celebration Orchestra, all with the same purpose.

“The people who travel with Global Missions Project have two things in common: musical talent and a passion for serving God,” said Kathy Milburn, a drummer from Georgia.

Jumpstarting missions

When Dan Mullis, associate music and worship minister at Dawson, was looking to jumpstart missions activities following the COVID-19 pandemic, GMP came to mind. He went on his first trip in 2004 and has since been numerous times — six to Cuba, and one each to Ireland, Greece and an Asian refugee camp in North Carolina.

Mullis, his wife, Carrie, and six others from Dawson took advantage of a church funding incentive to go to Germany. Laura Brasseale joined her husband, Sammy, as the only nonorchestra participant, but found her niche as the “merch girl,” selling GMP CDs.

Camp Kirkland, director of GMP and a prolific composer and



The Dawson team poses with a German brother and sister (far left, front and back rows) who joined the orchestra. From Dawson are, front row: Hannah Creel, Laura Brasseale, Mary Elizabeth Curl, Robin Harrison. Back row (l to r): Katherine Williams, Dan Mullis, Carrie Mullis, Alyssa Thomas, Sammy Brasseale.

orchestrator, joined the Celebration Orchestra in Germany as a trombone player, while friend Richard Kingsmore, another arranger and orchestrator, served as music director.

“The Germany projects have been very special to me because of the relationships that have developed ... with our dear friends from Germany,” Kingsmore said.

Eugen Sidelnikow, Johannes Schröder and Kingsmore planned the trip for three years. It was supposed to happen in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic.

The orchestra performed seven concerts throughout Germany, with attendance reaching more than 500 for a single concert. Orchestral arrangements, many written by Kingsmore and Kirkland, presented the gospel musically and scripturally using a theme of “peace.”

Having an influence

Mullis was surprised to learn of his influence on the theme development following a conversation he and Kingsmore had years

earlier when he said his church had successfully used the gospel outline modeled from “The Story” (theStoryfilm.com) for a major presentation.

God at work

“God lines the dominoes up and makes them fall perfectly,” Mullis said.

One attendee raved about the harmonies. Another said he saw “a few persons who cried the whole concert.” One woman recently diagnosed with cancer hoped to hear a repeat of one of the songs she had heard in 2019 when GMP performed.

“I’ve been weak all week, but on Saturday I got strength,” she said. “It was an answered prayer.”

She heard “You Are My Hiding Place” sung by Kingsmore’s wife, Gina, and left the concert comforted.

GMP participants also were impacted.

Flutist Susan Kohari from Tennessee said, “What I remember most is the worship experience. I felt God’s presence everywhere.

One of my favorite parts of this trip was hearing the worship songs being sung in German.”

While in the country, GMP participants got a glimpse into Germany’s culture.

A blessing

“I always enjoy seeing and learning about other areas of the world, so the sightseeing was an added blessing,” noted Alyssa Thomas from Alabama.

A tour of J.S. Bach’s birthplace, plus a demonstration of authentic keyboards Bach played, a walking tour where Martin Luther spent his youth, Beethoven’s home, a museum detailing Russian-German history and a stroll through a historic village were among the stops.

GMP connects with people worldwide through music to help build personal and lasting relationships. (See story, page 12.)

Dale and Isanie Surratt took that a step further. They met and got married after Dale visited Cuba with GMP. Now they both travel with the group.

Trumpet player Bob Pawling said GMP was a “source of redemption” for him after a difficult divorce, as he enjoys using his time and talent to minister to others.

Fletch Wiley, who also plays trumpet, and Dale Biser, a bass player, were first-timers. Wiley was impressed by the servant hearts of the musicians and the expressions of faith he witnessed. Biser was nervous about the trip but his mother, an oboist, convinced him to join her.

Group effort

“The grace of our conductor and help of fellow orchestra members helped me get through it,” Biser said.

Both hope to participate in another GMP trip.

Thomas summed it up for many participants: “I didn’t really know what to expect on my first GMP trip ... but now that I am back from Germany, I can’t count the ways I was blessed!”

For more information, visit globalmissionsproject.com or find Global Missions Project on Facebook.