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Ministry Through Music

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell all of His wondrous works! — Psalm 105:2, ESV

“I love music,” says Maria Sherwood, a sophomore at Andrews University. “I love the opportunities God gives me to give music to others. It’s very rewarding.” In May, Maria will go to Guyana to do just that. She plans to reach people through music during a two-week mission trip to the country. In the meantime, she stays involved in music ministries at Andrews.



Maria Sherwood

Maria has been singing since she was five years old. When she enrolled at Andrews, in 2010, she quickly became involved in worships as a singer and guitarist. She has led many song services on campus and even co-wrote the theme song for the 2011 Week of Spiritual Emphasis. Her music ministry has taken her off-campus to various churches in Michigan. Now, God is calling her to Guyana to share her talents.

Maria and her father, Len Sherwood, participate in the Adventist World Aviation’s Wings for Humanity project — aiming to improve the quality of life of the people living in Guyana’s jungles. Len, an aircraft mechanic, annually inspects planes headed to these remote places. Inspired by the great needs of the people, he decided to record a CD and give all proceeds to the mission trip.

When Maria learned of her dad’s idea, she begged to help. The two recorded a gospel CD in Nashville in 2010. Because of this, Maria says, “My dad has been able to earn money and directly fund what he’s doing. It’s been a leap of faith for our family, and I love being a part of it.”

The Sherwoods will spend two weeks in Guyana this May. Maria will help teach vacation Bible school and babysit for mission families. There will be opportunities for some to receive medical attention. She is most excited, however, about the outdoor concert in which she will perform.

“I’ve been on mission trips before, but I don’t know what it feels like to give my music to someone who has never heard it. I really want to help these people!” she says. “I’m looking forward to God using me to inspire someone in a different way.”

When she returns from Guyana, Maria will continue her mission work as a staff member at Camp Au Sable. She enjoys using her talents for God and reminding others to do the same.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is studying physical therapy at Andrews University.

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