

FaithBIT



Music: A Gift to be Shared

Reflection by **Chloe Thompson**

Music has had a huge impact on my life; I'm involved with Holy Commotion here at church, I'm involved with the orchestra at my school, and I love to sing and play my guitar or ukulele just for fun. God has given me the gift of music to help guide me through the hard times.

Gretchen Hansen and I brought our guitars along on the high school mission trip to Logan, West Virginia in July. We intended to play our guitars just for our peers, however, we also played for two groups of people at two nursing homes in Logan, and that's where I saw God.

While visiting a nursing home on a Tuesday afternoon we found out that one of the residents had a guitar and would like to join us in playing some songs. We sat down with him and later found out that he was part of a band that would travel all over the southern United States when he was younger. He then played songs with us like Can't Help Falling in Love, by Elvis Presley, and copious Beatle's songs. He then finished off by playing Gretchen and I one of hundreds of songs that he had written. I was almost moved to tears. You could just tell that God gave him his incredible gift and you could see how happy it made him to use it once again.



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He's one of the most incredible musicians I have ever met, and he reminded me so much of my grandpa. After leaving the nursing home I remember stepping out to the parking lot and immediately calling my Dad and telling him about this man who looked exactly and acted exactly like his dad. My grandpa is one of the biggest musical influences in my life. He has perfect pitch and according to him, he can play every instrument, except the spoons, which I don't totally believe because he has a great sense of rhythm. He's in a family band that would play in Lake Park, Minnesota with all his brothers which is a small town of only 800 people. I remember as a child watching him play guitar in the shop and thinking whoa, I want to do that. I want to be just like him which led me to play guitar. He's always been very supportive of my ability to play and even though he doesn't play much anymore, he is still such a great influence on that part of my life.

I'm eternally grateful to Immanuel for giving me this opportunity and I highly recommend a mission trip for anyone who would consider participating. It is something you will never forget and something that will impact you forever, and you just might see God!