

## How Do I Use My Music To Serve God

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soon-to-be-unemployed music teacher. His eyes grew round and he exchanged a glance with my parents; it seemed providence was at work. He mentioned the Board of World Missions and the international schools of Music they intended to build to spread God's glory throughout the world.

To say that light bulbs went off in my head is an understatement...it was as though God himself spoke to me and told me "Here's what you are supposed to be doing!" I finally understood that music didn't just express God to me- it had the potential to express God to everyone! I wanted to know more. I jumped into the planning for a Youth in Missions summit held this past Fall, where we talked

about how to make this dream a reality in the world around us. I returned home to Tennessee and was excited and ready to pursue whatever God would send my way.

In the months following the Summit, I started a new job in the Christian music industry, where I sell worship music to churches around the world, including many of our own Moravian brethren in Alaska and the Midwest. I talk to big churches; I talk to tiny churches. I talk to the Liberal and Conservative, and I talk to music ministers that run the gamut from University Professors to the lady who just figured she'd try to get a group together for worship. I talk to



different people every day, and every one I talk to reminds me that although I may not be in Tibet or Costa Rica, I'm still serving on a mission and helping spread the word of God just a little bit further.

I listen to those to whom I speak daily, pray with them when they're ill, celebrate with them when they are excited, and help them bring the Word of God to life in their churches all around the world.

So, how do I use my music to serve God? The answer is simple: However He needs me to serve.

*Submitted by Morgan Smith, Nashville, Tennessee*

## Costa Rica Youth Retreat *continued from Page 1*

questions back and forth sometimes slowed because of the need for translations. The conference topics included sessions on the heart of youth ministry, the "typical" teen, qualities of a youth leader and centering prayer. Sessions were always bracketed by enthusiastic singing in both English and Spanish. We enjoyed meals together, all of which included some form of rice and beans – there was no shortage of great food during the weekend!

While there are some cultural differences between American young people (and their leaders) and those in Costa Rica, the issues of living life and forming faith are much the same. They have the same questions about faith, worship and the church; the same struggles about their

relationships with peers, parents and other adults; and the same desire to understand better this life they have as young Moravian Christians. What do Costa Rican youth need? They need the same thing American youth need – adults that love and care for them, a church that accepts and includes them, worship that speaks to them. They need adults willing to listen to them and engage them in matters of life and faith in non-judgmental ways. They need growing relationships with their Savior nurtured by their churches.

We had a great experience in Costa Rica and met many great people. We hope to be able to go back someday.

*Submitted by Rev. Chris Giesler and Rev. Brad Bennett*

## Mixtec Churches

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news of the Kingdom of God to fellow teachers. And Gabriel; the same among carpenters and family in Ometepec.

I'll be back for Philip's birthday (Feb 03), be around for a week, and then off for a week trip to visit my father. He's got cancer, with who knows how long, so I'm taking advantage of the time now. Obviously that's something for prayer.

*Submitted by Robert Thiessen*

