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Communications

November 4, 2015

Fundraising Show to Feature the Rory Tyler Band on Nov. 18

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Through a variety of awareness activities, Gardner-Webb University regularly spotlights the issue of human trafficking and offers support to its victims. The next opportunity to help people impacted by trafficking comes Nov. 18 as GWU hosts a fundraising concert in Dover Theatre.

The performance, sponsored by the University's Release Club, will feature the Rory Tyler Band and it will help raise money to support an organization that works to fight human trade. Based in Chicago, Ill., the six-member band is known for its acoustic rock style and is headlined by Rory Tyler, who is familiar with the GWU community from his time working with the Crossroads Worldwide ministry.

"Rory previously lived in our community and now has a Dave Matthews-style band," shared Micah Martin, GWU director of the Office of Student Leadership Development and Community Engagement. "He is a young theologian, a graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois and a marketing professional, in addition to being a music artist. His band is doing a Southern tour, and this will be the only stop in North Carolina."

The GWU concert begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for GWU students and \$10 for others and will be available at the door on the night of the show. For more information about the visiting musicians, go to rorytyerband.com.

Gardner-Webb has hosted a number of programs in the past year to raise awareness of human trafficking. Events included a benefit concert featuring "American Idol" finalist Majesty Rose and a guest speech by history professor Dr. Ben Wright, who addressed past and present slavery issues. Each year, the University also offers an awareness week to educate the campus and community about the topic of human trade.

"This concert was the perfect opportunity for us to fully invest in a new partnership we are forming with Challenging Heights, an anti-trafficking organization based in Ghana," GWU student and Release president Mary Toohey offered. "We are using a grant from the Free Project to fund the show. In addition to the concert, we are excited for the coming semester as we plan to hold a lot of smaller fundraisers and events to grab people's attention and raise awareness of human trafficking."

Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704-406-4253 or email servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu with your request.

Release is an active club at Gardner-Webb University whose goal is to educate, inform, and spread awareness to students, faculty members, and the community about the global issue involving human trafficking.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).