



Williamsburg County School District

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Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MUSIC TEACHER'S TALENTS SHOWCASED IN EUROPE

Williamsburg County School District Teacher and Director of Bands, Dr. James Patterson, recently showcased his talents overseas during the holiday season. Dr. Patterson, who is a teacher at Kingstree High School, spent part of his holiday in Italy for a Gospel Music Tour with his group, the Dr. James Patterson Gospel Singers, along with the Charleston Gospel Choir, led by Tony Washington. Having traveled internationally for six years, Dr. Patterson shared that "it truly was an experience of a lifetime, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share it."

From the moment they arrived in Europe, the energy was electric. Their landing in Milan, Italy, was met with warm hospitality from Giancarlo Trenti of Slang Music, whose passion for gospel music and dedication to excellence made the experience seamless. Gabriele Dellepiane, their road manager, provided steady guidance throughout the tour, ensuring they were always prepared and on schedule. Their accommodations varied, with each hotel offering comfort and a touch of Italian charm. From breakfast buffets featuring fresh pastries and espresso to delightful meals of authentic pasta and seafood, the culinary experiences were as rich as the cultural immersion.

The groups performed in historic venues with breathtaking architecture, creating surreal moments. Each concert was a deeply spiritual experience, as audiences connected with their music and the gospel message. Dr. Patterson was particularly moved by how the universality of gospel music transcended language barriers, uniting people from diverse backgrounds. In 2019, he had the honor of performing for Pope Francis at the Concerto di Natale in Vatican City. Special thanks go to Pastor Tony Washington and Apostle Gary Bellingier for their exceptional leadership, as well as to the entire team of singers and musicians whose talent and dedication made every performance unforgettable.

Dr. Patterson grew up in the small rural town of Orangeburg, SC, and has been singing since he was very young. He has followed a musical path that has led him to where he is today. Earning his first music degree from South Carolina State University and later obtaining a Doctorate in Sacred Music has provided him with the knowledge and connections to release several songs that have reached the Top 10 on the Billboard Gospel Radio Music Charts from his album, *The Book of James*. He has had the privilege of sharing the stage with artists such as Donnie McClurkin, Mary Mary, Kirk Franklin, John P. Kee, Jonathan Nelson, Dottie Peoples, Snoop Dogg, Kim Burrell, The Clark Sisters, and many others. Additionally, he served as a chorus teacher at C.E. Murray High School for BET Sunday Best winner Joshua Rogers, who became the first male winner of the show. Dr. Patterson loves teaching because it allows him to inspire future musicians to achieve their dreams. This European tour emerged from years of dedication to gospel music and the incredible collaboration with Slang Music. Giancarlo Trenti's vision and Tony Washington's efforts to bring his music to Europe paved the way for this tour. To all he met along the journey—the fans, promoters, and fellow artists—he wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you for making this experience so meaningful.

Reflecting on this journey fills him with gratitude, and he looks forward to what lies ahead in this ongoing celebration of gospel music. He also plans to release new music this year and continue promoting his Visual Podcast, “Let's Talk About It with James.” Music is his passion, and he is thrilled to have shown his students at Kingstree High School and throughout the Williamsburg County School District that they can achieve whatever they dream. With over 15 years of teaching experience and nearly 40 years of life spent performing, he considers it the most rewarding journey of all!