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Serving Camden, NJ www.jubileeringers.com (856) 796-0153 Prayer Letter, February 2015



For I know the purpose that I designed concerning you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you what you hope for in the end. Then shall you call upon me, and you shall go and pray to me, and I will answer you.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

## Cultivating Young Leaders Through The Discipline Of Music Training

## The Message on the Wall

Just imagine, you are sitting down in a room, beautifully decorated with candles and flowers, enjoying a nice dinner party with your friends and family. You are laughing and having a good time. Then, suddenly a hand comes out and starts writing a message on the wall. The resulting hysteria would be horrific - people screaming, some fainting and most making a quick exit. This is what happened to Belshazzar king of Babylon, while he was feasting, drinking and having a good time with his captains and friends. He was boasting in himself and despising the things that pertained to the Lord. He failed to worship the God who established him and gave him life; rather he praised the powerless gods of gold, silver, brass and stone. He saw how rejecting the Lord drove his father crazy, causing him to live like a wild beast and eat grass. Yet, Belshazzar did not heed the message given by the Lord; instead he repeated the behavior of his father. Suddenly, with no warning, he saw a hand writing on the wall and it shook him to the core. The message foretold how his kingdom would come to an end. He was told that his actions were weighed and found wanting. He would soon be destroyed and was not ready to meet his maker. When he started the day celebrating himself, he was oblivious to the fact that his kingdom would be taken away and he would die that night.

Any child who lives in Camden most likely knows someone who has left this life before reaching the age of eighteen. Although this reality is common for most people, children who live in high crime areas are most vulnerable and are more often exposed to sudden tragedy. Unfortunately, many children are caught in the lifestyle that has been emulated through generations. They have not learned lessons from the experiences of those surrounding them. Their lifestyle is fortified by the messages found in the music and media that the entertainment industry feeds them. It solicits the "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die" mentality. When they witness an unexpected tragedy, the message of false hope for the deceased, "R.I.P." is written on the walls of vacant houses and on car windows. Mourning is drowned by a celebration of drinking and merriment. The behavior displayed by many children is a result of exposure to such life circumstances that

cause unrest, lack of peace and the subliminal reality that their end could come at any time. They are afraid. They have seen the writing on the wall.

At Jubilee Music Enrichment we endeavor to prepare children to succeed in life, but most importantly to be successful in obtaining eternal life. We are commissioned to give them the most important message they could ever hear, get ready to meet Jesus. This is the message of hope and can remove fear.

Recently, while the Jubilee Ringers were busy ringing their bells something moved on the wall. Fortunately, it was not a hand so there were no screams, no one fainted and no one headed for the door. Someone accidentally moved a picture hanging on the wall so it began to swing from the hook. As I moved the picture one child said, "That is a nice picture." I knew there was a message on the wall. I asked if they knew what it portrayed. The picture was an artistic rendering of the five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins. Five were prepared to meet Jesus and five were not. We took advantage of the opportunity and the conversation began. Please pray that our children will be moved to follow the message on the wall.



## **Prayer Requests**

- Continue to pray that the Lord would intervene as we proceed through the process of obtaining our building. By now we had hoped to announce settlement, but things have stood in our path that have prevented us from moving forward. We now anticipate that we will settle around the beginning of April. We realize that this is a spiritual battle. Satan has no desire to see the things pertaining to Christ succeed. He knows we are fighting for the salvation of our children and will try to hinder this by any means possible. We know that Jesus is more powerful and will accomplish that which he has designed for his work. Please pray that the Lord gives wisdom to the sellers and to us. Please pray that our usage is approved by the city's zoning department and that all the inspections go well.
- Please pray for the healing of Board member Spring Minter, who had surgery on her knee. Also pray for her
  daughter who has been unable to attend the programs since her mother is unable to drive during her period
  of recuperation.
- Jubilee Music Enrichment welcomes its new volunteer Susan Fletcher. She is assisting during our weekday programs. She has a background in social work. She loves youth and most importantly, she loves sharing Christ. She has a wonderful testimony and is a great asset to us. Please keep her in your prayers.
- We praise the Lord for answered prayer. We are most thankful for the women's fellowship of Bethel Baptist Church, Cherry Hill who, provided the funds to purchase much needed computers, a flat panel television and adjustable chairs for our program needs.
- We are thankful for a grant received from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State
  through Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission of Camden County College, the designated arts
  agency of Camden County. This will help fund our Youth Leading Youth project. Experienced youth will
  learn leadership through teaching beginning students. Please pray that the Lord will provide the matching
  funds required for the grant.









