

Jubilee Music Enrichment

A NJ Nonprofit Corporation
501 (c) 3 Tax Exempt Organization



P O Box 1705
Merchantville, NJ 08109

A Domestic Inner-city Mission
Serving Camden, NJ
(856) 796-0153
Prayer Letter, Fall 2017



If my people, which are called by my name,
shall **humble** themselves, and **pray**,
and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin,
and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14*

Cultivating Young Leaders
Through The Discipline Of Music Training

Who Would Like To Pray?

At the end of each session we gather in our prayer circle where everyone has the opportunity to share any prayer request they may have. Then the question is asked, “who would like to pray?” One day while asking this question, I was interrupted by a child pointing her finger at me and saying in a declarative manner, “I want YOU to pray for me.” That was a piercing moment. I was immediately convicted of the awesome responsibility we have in ministry to not only pray for our children, but to pray with power. Our prayers have to be more than repetitious, perfunctory actions if we are to see the salvation of our children and revival in our community.

Prayer is the most powerful resource of a ministry, not only for its needs, but for salvation of souls - the primary purpose. The Lord requires us to be good stewards of the things that he has given. However, we can have a Christian ministry that runs well but is lacking in power to transform lives. We must never let business and administration overwhelm us to the point where we lose the vision and passion for the salvation for souls.

There are many questions we must ask ourselves. What happens when the children leave? What happens when the concerts are over? Do we pat ourselves on the back, content that we shared the Gospel with them or gave them a Bible verse to memorize? Do we just thank the Lord for a good day, a nice outing or a great concert? Do we count the numbers and thank the Lord for filling the seats? All of these are good things but, are we only content with such accomplishments? Is this where the work of the ministry stops, or do we continually take our children before “the throne of grace” when they are not in the safety of our doors? Do we develop relationships with our children, getting to know their likes and dislikes, their struggles, the things that trouble them? Do we really feel (not just understand) the challenges they face in their homes, community and school? Do we plead for their protection in the midnight hours (it’s needed)? Do we pray that the Lord would lay conviction on their loved ones and save whole families? Do we bear their burdens before the Lord? Do we wrestle before the Lord on their behalf? Or are their requests forgotten after we leave the prayer circle? How we answer these questions will determine whether or not there is POWER in our ministry.

What makes our prayers powerful? We can learn a lot from examining the life of a young teen, Daniel. One thing we can observe is that Daniel separated himself from things that were not pleasing to the Lord. He chose not to defile himself with the king’s meat and wine. He gained the reputation of having an excellent spirit. Ungodly men could find no fault in him. Likewise our hearts must be clean before the Lord. We should not be polluted by the love of this world and the things that are in it. We cannot be conformed to the world. We cannot take pleasure or indulge in the same things that hold our children captive and think that

we will draw power from the Lord. We must exhibit an excellent spirit before our children. The Apostle Paul wrote that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lust and live righteously, sober and godly in this present world. The songs of King David say, "if I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." (Psalms 66:18) We cannot play with the world if we want to pray with power.

Evil men placed obstacles before Daniel when they witnessed the powerful results of his prayers. However Daniel understood the real battle was against "spiritual wickedness in high places." Daniel's burden for his people was so great that he was convicted to frequently set aside three times every day to pray. He would let nothing deter him, not even the reality that he would be thrown into a den of vicious lions gnawing to tear his flesh from his bones. He knew the power of his prayers were greater than the lion's jaws.

The Bible warns that we have an adversary, Satan, who like a roaring lion seeks to devour us. Satan wants to hinder prayer because he knows it is a weapon that will result in his defeat. Satan places mundane obstacles (and he knows they do not have to be nearly as severe as death by lions) in our way that would easily distract us from praying. What are we willing to give up and how much time are we willing to sacrifice to pray so our children can be delivered from the lion's jaws. If the pleasures of life, no matter how innocent they seem, consume our time and become more important than prayer, then we are defeated - no prayer, no power.

A great lesson we can learn from Daniel is that he approached the Lord with humility. He clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes, a symbol of debasement, mourning and repentance. He refused to boast in his righteousness. He did not consider himself to be better than his people. He confessed his sins first and then used the word "we" as he confessed the sins of his people. Many times we have the tendency to pray like the Pharisee who started his prayer boasting that he was not like "those people" adulterers, murderers, extortioners, robbers, and those esteemed as the lowly among us. Daniel was not immune from the suffering of his people. He too was affected as they were being desolated and held in captivity. He bore a great burden feeling their affliction and seeing their stubbornness in refusing to pray, turn from their sins and understand the truth. He remembered how the prophets foretold the great evil that would come upon his people when they rebelled against the Lord. When his people refused to pray, he wearied himself praying for them. Daniel, through his humility and prayers, developed a special relationship with the Lord. The Lord exalted him, placing him in a position to serve Him and gave him skill and understanding to fulfill His purpose with great power.

We must honor the position that the Lord has given to us. We must, like Daniel, converse in humility before the Lord. We should desire skill, understanding and power in ministry. We must confess our sins and those of our people. We must identify with and understand the reason for our afflictions and fervently bear the burdens of our children before the Lord. If we want our land to be healed and our children lifted from sin then we must humble ourselves and persistently pray.

At Jubilee Music we want our children to experience the power of prayer. We want to teach our children how to pray, thus we must lead by example, praying for them like Daniel prayed for his people. They may not see us when we humble ourselves before the Lord but they will feel the power of our prayers affecting their lives.

Now, the question must change from, "who would like to pray" to "who will pray?" As the question is being asked a finger still points at me - from the hand of God - and convicts me saying, "I want YOU to pray."

Please Pray

- We are setting aside time every Tuesday at 12:30 to pray for our children, at our center located at 1184 Yorkship Sq, Camden. This is a time when we can more specifically share the needs of our children. We extend an invitation for you to pray with us. We need prayer warriors. Ring the bell on the side door (Kearsarge Rd).
- We still need volunteers especially those who can teach music. They don't have to be maestro. The ability to play a hymn, loving and living for the Lord and a love of energetic children qualifies.
- Pray for Barbara Ingalls, (Sis. Bobby) a faithful volunteer who is challenged with health issues. Pray for her healing and strength.
- Pray for Ayinde Merrill. This gifted young man is great with our youth. He volunteered for our summer enrichment program and volunteers as a drum instructor and teaching leadership. He is attending Rutgers University. Pray that the Lord works mightily in his life and provides for all his needs.
- We are partnering with the Cherry Hill Mall to present a Holiday Handbell Festival on Saturday, November 11 from 11:00 am—4:00 pm. Pray that this event reaches our audience with the true message of Christmas. Pray that everything proceeds smoothly. Pray that the Jubilee Ringers perform well. Many will be ringing for the first time.
- Please pray for me, Rachel Merrill, as I attend to the various responsibilities of the ministry. Pray the Lord would grant skill and understanding. There is a saying that I hear a lot of my elders say when they conclude a testimony in church, "pray my strength in the Lord." I surly need this prayer but would like to add to it, "pray my strength in prayer."



Jubilee Ringers and their parents sharing lunch

Please visit at www.facebook.com/jubileemusicenrichment and at www.jubileeringers.com (After some technical issues, our website is back up)