

# Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood



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## *Message from Mr. Miles*

Camp Letts was off the chain! We had great weather, great activities, and a bunch of fun. This one day camping trip taught all of the Kings to depend on each other, to try things they had never done before, and to believe that they could accomplish them. Everyone encouraged each other so that no one gave up, whether it was climbing on the high ropes or riding on the banana boat. Life's lessons were learned in July and it is up to each and every one of you to take those experiences and translate them to your home and school life.

All of you, because you are in this program should be modeling positive behavior at all times. You encouraged each other on the camping trip so encourage one another in school, at home, and in your neighborhoods. If you do not have anything positive to say, say nothing. Many of the activities at Camp Letts could not have been done without a group effort. No man is an island, no man stands alone, each man's joy brings joy to me, each man's grief is my own. We need one another, this I will defend, each man as my brother, each man as my friend.

Our attitude should be if one fails, we all fail. I do not have to run a mentoring program but I want for all of you to do well and be successful. That is why we try so hard to empower you. But, you must want it. You must have the desire to work hard, not get suspended, listen to your elders even when they get on your nerves, realize that the adults have been your age, you have not been ours. Do you realize that we were

together from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.? That is a long time but, no one got hurt, and everyone had a good time. I watched everyone during the cookout and all I saw were mouths moving. We had plenty of food, drinks and dessert. Some of you acted like little sheep out on the water. You cannot panic in the water. All of us must always respect the water. Many people have drowned because they did not take the water seriously and played and played and played. I was impressed with how you helped one another when one fell off of the banana boat. I also noticed how all of you used teamwork in the rowing of the canoes. If you had not worked together, you never would have made it to the other side. I need for all of you to work together in the classroom, and all the other places that you find yourselves in. We get so much more accomplished when we are not fussing or calling names.

Pray for the 5 year old and all the others who are being senselessly shot and killed. If you are going to join a gang, make sure the gang is doing only positive things. I am not coming to visit you in jail. Appreciate your freedom. Choose the right friends. If you are getting into a car, make sure you know what is in the car. Do not do anything without thinking. All of you are smart and know right from wrong. Come in the house at a decent time! There is nothing but trouble in the streets.

**I am requesting reports about the trip to Newark, New Jersey at the August meeting.**

*Only in America...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.*

There are community fairs coming up and we always need persons to be willing to go and give out information on behalf of the program, tell others about the program, and have them call me for further information. If you want to volunteer for a community fair, let me or Ms. Powell know.

Stay away from guns, gangs, drugs, and making poor choices. **All of you have so much potential but you must believe it.**

#### *Upcoming Events*

Our next meeting will be on August 22nd at 8:30 a.m. at Coppin in the Tawes Building. Be on time. The mailing for August will be on the 11th at 6 p.m. Anyone that is interested can meet at our meeting place in the Tawes Building (2nd Flr) at 6:00 p.m. If any parent/guardian needs to meet with Mr. Miles with their young man, call him directly at (410) 547-9200 X3002 to set up an appointment. Come out and help us stuff and seal envelopes. We are usually done in 90 minutes.

#### *FYI*

The next community meeting will be on September 22nd at Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217. I need all of you to come out and share your concerns about juvenile justice and reforming the juvenile system in Maryland.

**Dues – Pay your dues if you have not.**

**It helps us do what we want to do when everyone pays their dues.** If you cannot pay it all at once, pay a little at a time but pay something.

**Fundraiser –** The date is **September 16, 2009** from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Reginald Lewis Museum located at President and Pratt Streets. Parking will be right across the street at the PMI garage for \$6.00. Regular price is \$14.00 but we are getting a discount. Tickets are \$60 dollars and if every parent could sell 5 tickets, that would really help the

program. We need your support!

If there is anyone in the program who has a concern or a problem, please call me and let's talk about it. I do not want anyone walking around with problems or something that is bugging them and they just keep it inside. Never hold things in, let them go so that you can move on with your life. If you do not want to talk to me, talk to someone. You must get things off your chest. Never do or say anything out of Anger. Please remember that.

In conclusion, this is a great program. Things are being put in place to bless and empower. If you are not here, you cannot be blessed or empowered. We want every King to come out each month, no excuses. If we are taking a trip and you want to go but do not have the money, let me know and I will get a donation so that you can go. We all must do a better job at communicating. If you are not sure about something, ask someone. Call me or Ms. Powell. Call somebody! Learn to speak up for yourself. See you in August!

If you are receiving this newsletter and **you wish to be removed from the mailing list** or there have been any changes to your address or telephone number, please contact Ms. Powell at (410) 485-7656.

Thank you to all the Kings who continue to come. There would be no program without you. Thank you to the parents, guardians, caseworkers, and group homes who believe in this work. I and my staff could not do this work without your support.

#### **A Goal of Sexual and Reproductive Health for Males**

**ABSTAIN FROM SEX; YOU ARE NOT READY!**

*“One never knows what each day is going to bring. The important thing is to be open and ready for it.” - Henry Moore*