

# Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood



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*Message from Mr. Miles*

Wow! Can you believe that half of 2009 is gone? Please do not waste time because time is winding up. Many of us feel we have a long time on this earth and we really do not. Make the most of every day because none of us know when we will be leaving this place. We have had a great year so far and I hope all of you will continue to come to the meetings and support all that we are trying to put in place for you. I love all of you. We are planning this big trip for the end of the month, are you ready?

Prior to the big trip, we are going to have a big breakfast at New Shiloh Baptist Church on June 20th from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. This is simply a fellowship to eat a good meal and chill. There is nothing else involved. After the breakfast, they are going to give us a check to help us pay off our trip. The church is located at 2100 North Monroe Street at the corner of Monroe and Clifton Streets. In reference to the trip, you must be at Coppin (North Ave. side) on June 26th at 2:30 pm. We will get loaded up and on the bus for departure. You can bring movies that everybody can watch. Do not bring any X rated movies or movies with a bunch of profanity. Bring shorts and your program t-shirt. Make sure if you take medicine, you bring it. You will need hygiene items to brush your teeth and deodorant for your under-arms. Once you check in your room, you will be able to take a shower and relax. Bring 2 changes of underwear, swim trunks, socks, and most of all a good attitude.

There will be no fighting, no name calling, and no picking on one another. I will need for the older brothers to be role models for the younger brothers. Bring comfortable walking shoes. On Friday when we arrive, after you get your room assignment, you will go to your room and put your bags down. We will then order dinner and then you can go swimming and once the pool closes at 10 p.m., you will go to your room and relax. None of the Kings will be running the halls, playing on the phone, speaking with other guests, or being loud. We will not be the only ones in the hotel and we will respect others just as we will want them to respect us. If I have to check any of the Kings, you will not like it so be on your best behavior. I will not tolerate any disrespect! You will respect me and the other adults that will be serving as chaperones. That is non-negotiable. The goal here is to learn and have a good time.

Once we get up on Saturday morning, we will eat breakfast and get on the bus by 9:30 a.m. to travel up to Princeton University where we will receive a tour, have lunch, go to a museum, and then come back to Newark and meet with another group. After that we will have dinner, go back to the hotel for swimming and be in our rooms by 10 p.m. We will get a good night's rest and get up Sunday, have breakfast and prepare to return home. We should get back to Baltimore between 2 and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. If you do not have a program t-shirt, wear a plain black t-shirt. I really want you to have on the program t-shirt. We will have some snacks on the bus but, make sure you

*Four Things  
You Can't  
Recover  
The stone  
after the throw.  
The word  
after it's said.  
The occasion  
after it's missed.  
The time  
after it's gone.*

*Well  
done  
beats  
well  
said!*

eat breakfast because we will not be stopping on the way up. If you have not paid your \$75 yet, you can do so on the 26th of June. If you signed up and do not have the money, call me and let me know.

May's meeting was a powerhouse. Dr. Arthur Burnett from John's Hopkins was with us, Jerry Braden from the Baltimore County Public Defender's office was with us, Steve Mitchell from the State's Attorney's office shared, and Brother Duane Betts stopped by. Brother Betts just graduated from University of Maryland College Park and wrote a book in which the Kings are going to write an essay about and the winners will receive cash prizes. The parents will serve as judges in November.

I want to thank the St. Veronica's Youth Steel Band for coming to serenade us in April. They did a fantastic job and our own Jaisyn Jackson is a member. I also want to thank Ms. Kearney Lambert for providing lunch in May for the program. We really appreciated it. Please keep Mr. Kip Hall in your prayers because he recently had surgery and is at home resting.

**Upcoming Events**

Our next meeting is June 26th at 2:30 p.m. **Be on time!** This is the weekend trip. In July, we will be going to Camp Lett's. Bring swim trunks, towels, and anything else you might need for a sunny day. We will need to meet at 7:30 a.m. at Coppin. We will return between 5:30 and 6 p.m. The charge will be \$15 to cover the bus.

**FYI**

Our mailing for July will be on the 7th from 6-8 p.m. Anyone that is interested can meet at our meeting place in the Tawes Building (2nd Floor) 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.

**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.

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 June!

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.

*I have been alive after  
every tough day.*