

Christian Life Skills' Praise and Petitions!

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December 2011

Third Annual Intergenerational Prayer Conference Blesses Many Lives!

We praise God for the wonderful experiences of children, youth and families who attended our Third Annual Intergenerational Prayer Conference this fall! The purpose of the prayer conference is to encourage all ages to pray together, alone, at all times, for every dimension of their lives, and for every circumstance.

The Bible tells us to “pray without ceasing.” (I Thessalonians 5:17) As our world becomes a more difficult place for children and youth to know and live for Christ, a prayerful lifestyle becomes most important. A day devoted to prayerful activities can assist everyone in living into the fullness of all the blessings God desires to give us. Our conscious desire to include Him in all aspects of our living can change us and everything around us that we bathe in prayer.

To start the day, a prayerfilled scavenger hunt included many stories of answered prayer. After the scavenger hunt, mealtime prayers, nutritional meals and selected workshops filled the morning and remainder of the day. “Online with God” helped youth locate websites to empower them spiritually and keep them out of trouble. “Managing Money God’s Way” helped older youth and adults think more seriously about the best ways to handle their resources according to the Bible and what God says we should do.

Youth created puppets and at the end of the day presented an outstanding, exciting puppet show telling of situations where prayer made a big positive

difference in difficult situations. Basketball, recreation and outdoor playground time, drama, story-time, cooking and serving—community service, arts & crafts, Christian rap and music, were some of the workshops offered.

A team of volunteers donated time, talents, resources and transportation assistance to make the day a worthwhile one for all. A number of children attended with grandparents who knew the power of prayer and desired this experience for their grandchildren. A special guest for the day, Ms. Rachel Dumas, blessed the attendees with her wonderful voice and an inspirational Yolanda Adams selection. The final prayer of the day was for those who expressed a determination to give their hearts and lives to Christ and live by His Word. This was a day of prayerfulness well spent by all who attended.

Next year’s conference is already on the 2012 calendar for October 22nd. When you set up your 2012 calendar, add this Christian Life Skills event to your schedule. We would welcome your presence! Please pray for this event!

Heroes in the Hood & the True Spirit of Christmas

On December 3, Christian Life Skills continued its Saturday ministry at the Lincoln Park Community Center. The theme for the day was: “Heroes in the Hood & the True Spirit of Christmas.” Activities consisted of a “Christmas symbol relay race,” crafts and community service with artistic Christmas wall hangings being created to give as gifts to senior citizens. Along with the Bible story of Christmas, another true story

from present times was discussed to show how God is able to help us work hard and overcome difficulties. A host of volunteers including: Pauline McClure, Youth Pastors—Bruce and Yvonne Schifino, Linda & Warren Sullivan, Roberta Woodfork, Pat Porter, James Allen, Pam Campbell-Stevens, and young people from the Hill and Homewood Community Intensive Supervisory Program. This volunteer team assisted with set-up, cleanup, food preparation, and implementation of workshops for the attendees. As always, Ms. Joyce Davis, Executive Director of the Lincoln Park Community Center, and Ms. Rosemary Davis assisted us in making the day a success. The next events at the Lincoln Park Community Center are scheduled for third Saturdays in February, March and April of 2012. For more information, you may call 412-889-4065. Please pray for these events that teach godly life skills.

Union Baptist Church of Swissvale on the Verge of Its Third Christian Life Skills Rite of Passage Ceremony!

The very gifted and dedicated work of Ms. LaVerne Stotts, Coordinator for Christian Life Skills at Union Baptist Church of Swissvale is preparing to take her third group of youth through the Christian Life Skills Rite of Passage Ceremony. Once they complete the Christian Life Skills curriculum, in the late spring of 2012, they will move through the Rite of Passage process, a wonderful celebration.

What they have learned, what they have gained and how they have applied scripture to their daily lives are the skills they will demonstrate. Also, their parents and mentors must affirm that they are truly living into the biblically based

teachings they have been learning. “Actions speak louder than words” and their parents know best if they have acquired and are applying the principles based in the Bible studies woven into the life skills curriculum.

Results from the first two groups who completed Christian Life Skills under the leadership of Ms. Stotts indicate that the youth entered and continued in college; obtained stable jobs, and have remained free from parenting outside of marriage. The volunteer team led by Ms. Stotts have been consistent in the face of many challenges that might have caused others to become discouraged. The youth have also been consistent in their attendance, a clear indication of the value of what they are receiving.

Please pray for the volunteers and youth at this location, and others, who are working together to promote Christian values and a Christian life style in the midst of popular culture that has abandoned biblical values and principles.

New Board Members for CLS!

Four new board members: Youth Pastors Bruce & Yvonne Schifino; Ms. Monica Williams; and Ms. Pamela Campbell-Stevens were added to the Board of Directors of Christian Life Skills. Pray for the Board as we seek God’s direction for major events planned for the summer of 2013. We will be contacting all of our prayer partner friends of the ministry for your much needed prayerful support over the next several months as we follow an inspiration, affirmed by the Board at our most recent meeting. We are excited about what God is doing! Please keep this labor of love in behalf of families and youth in your prayers! More information will be available soon!!!