



CANAAN

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sherman J. Fort

Servant of Jesus Christ/Pastor, CMBC

January 8, 2007

Proverbs 29:18-19 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

(Interpretation: The revelation of God's truth and the obedience to that truth brings about God's blessings in your life.)

Greetings and Salutations to all parents of CMBC's teenage youth:

It is with Jesus' joy that I greet you and share some exciting news about the vision of our Youth ministry for 2007. We ended 2006 with our first annual Youth trip which included 29 youth and 9 adult chaperones representing Canaan at the California State National Baptist Youth Convention in Riverside, California. Thanks to the many members who sponsored the youth, we had a glorious time and benefited from this experience. As we spring into 2007, we are committed to ensuring that our young people participate in an out of state convention each year. Plans for 2007's trip are already in progress. It is critical to the development of our Children and Youth ministries to meet other young people their age that are in love with our Lord and Savior, Jesus The Christ.

In addition to our annual 2007 trip, we have begun our 40 week study of The Purpose Driven Life by Pastor Rick Warren. The goal of this study is to help our youth discover God's purpose for their lives. Also, beginning February 6, our youth will begin a 7 week study of Financial Peace for Teens by Dave Ramsey. Now is the time to teach our young people how to manage money God's way. This 7 week study will be followed up with 6 weeks of 60 minute seminars from some of Canaan's members who are Business Owners and Financial Managers. Several topics that will be discussed is stewardship, saving, investing, credit management and checkbook management.

Now, I would like to share a heartfelt concern with you regarding our young people. Our youth are living in a time where immorality has reached an all-time high. No generation has ever before experienced the level of exposure that our young people are facing. On the first Sunday in January 2007, I conducted a survey with our teens and young adults from the ages of 13-25. Here are the 29 issues that our youth listed as problems that they are directly and indirectly dealing with daily: Parents divorced, Dad gone, Family/Friends in Jail, Anger, Momma/Daughter Drama, Children forced to be parents, Death, Depression, Self esteem, Peer pressure, Lesbianism/homosexuality, Jealousy/haters, Drugs, Blended families, Identity crisis, Sexually active, Anorexia/Bulimia, STD/AIDS, Molestation/Rape, Abuse (Verbal, Physical, Mental), Abandonment (peer group/family), Suicidal attempts, Nobody understands me, Aggression, Not wanting to be who you really are, Dating, Being fake and phony, Trying to blend in, Respect (both ways kids & parents). As I am shocked at the extensiveness of this list, I am sure that many of you may be as well. This list is clearly a cry for help. Therefore, I am asking the entire congregation to please pray God's protection upon our youth as we begin to deal with these subject matters. Our number one commitment as a Youth teaching staff is to illuminate clearly what the Word of God has to say about each of these subjects. I have found God's Word to be absolutely true in that when we know and obey the Truth, The Truth shall set us free.

Sincerely,

Rev. Darryl Jackson
Youth Minister

CC: Pastor Sherman J. Fort

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