

“Hope Revealed”

Invest, Influence, Impact and Inspire lives so they will rebuild and restore generations.

Words of Stille

News from Jeremiah Castille Foundation

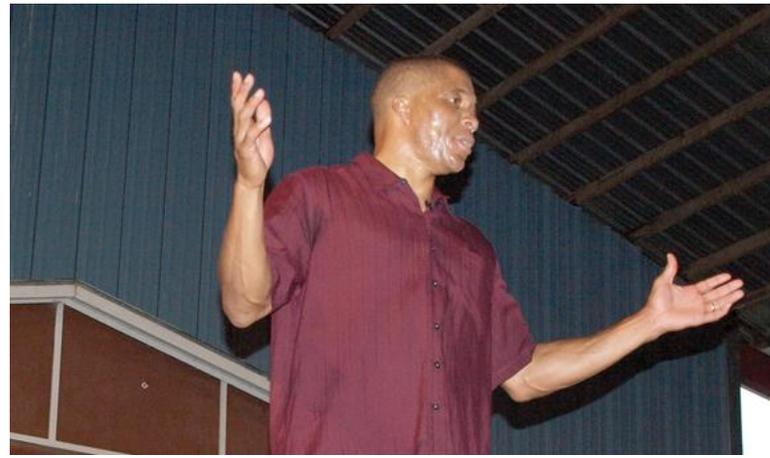
August 12, 2011

August 5th and 6th was a powerful weekend for Jeremiah Castille Foundation. We were blessed to attend two youth Back-to-School rallies, one in Greenville, Alabama and one in Winfield, Alabama. Over 1,000 youth of our state heard the powerful message, *“You Were Born to Make a Difference”*. Please enjoy the below article from *the Greenville Advocate* and the picture from the Winfield rally.



Winfield, Alabama Rally

Beginning as a quiet and solemn crowd, the youth in Winfield quickly became a group of excited and on fire for God teens. A youth that attended made his Facebook post that evening, **“You were born to make a difference”**. Many youth rededicated their lives and knelt with arms around each other. Amy Duncan, who attended the event stated, “It was a beautiful site. It was an amazing service and Jeremiah delivered the word with passion and excitement!”



Former Alabama and NFL standout Jeremiah Castille addresses the crowd at Friday night’s Back-to-School Bash at Hank Williams Park in Georgiana.

You can rise above enormous challenges and roadblocks, and become a champion in life. The two-inch scar on Jeremiah Castille’s arm, he says, is a reminder of that truth.

“My mother was drunk and one day she took a butcher knife and went after me and I still have the scar. She physically abused me and the rest of the kids. I know what it is to be poor, to have folks who drink and take drugs and end up in jail,” Castille, a former college and pro football standout, told the crowd of nearly 700 attending Friday night’s Back-to-School Bash at Hank Williams Park in Georgiana.

A member of Bear Bryant’s championship team during his college days at Alabama, Castille, who is now the Crimson Tide’s team chaplain, wanted his audience to know

difficult life circumstances and dysfunctional families do not have to prevent a young person from surviving and thriving in life.

“All champions have a little attitude — but in a good way,” Castille said. “Coach Bryant used to say ‘I can tell by the way you trot onto the field whether or not you are ready to play’ . . . if you can’t get fired up, then why are you putting that uniform on?”

Castille recounted how attendance as a middle school student at a church “just down the street” proved a life-altering experience.

“I was angry, bitter and mad at life and taking out my frustrations at school. Maybe some of you are just like I was. God knows right where you are at in your life,” Castille said.

“The greatest need all of us have is the love of God. Once you have an encounter with the Creator, you will never be the same. When he saved me, he was able to keep me.”

Castille went on to earn both scholastic and athletic scholarships to the University of Alabama where he became an All-American, later playing for both the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Denver Broncos. Two of his sons have played for Alabama as well as professional football, with a third starting at the U of A this fall.

“I was inspired. I was ready to do this thing. I was five feet, nine inches tall and 155 pounds. But it’s not the size of the dog in the fight; it’s the size of the fight in the dog. I said I’m going to work hard, and I got to play some as a freshman at Alabama . . . I had a dream. And everybody’s got to have a dream,” Castille said.

“Lives can be turned around by God. He has the power to heal. The first person he gave me love for was my mother . . . today she has been sober for 26 years. I have a strong

marriage, six great kids. All these things didn’t happen by accident. I believe God put me in the right places.”

Before Castille took the stage, the football players and cheerleaders from Greenville High, Greenville Middle School, Georgiana School and McKenzie School were recognized by their respective coaches.

Youth groups from Christian Life Ministries and McKenzie Baptist Church performed drama and stick ministry while Dale Brown and the group Foretold from Danielville Baptist Church in Honoraville shared songs of praise and worship with the crowd.

“This was another awesome event,” said Butler County Ministerial Association President Allen Stephenson, who emceed for the evening. “We saw prayers answered. We recorded 98 decisions made for Christ or for rededication, and probably another 150 who came up front and prayed during the altar call.”

This was the eighth annual Back to School Bash, a non-denominational event organized by the county’s Christian youth ministries, Stephenson said.

“It is truly a community and county event, and we give thanks to a lot of businesses and churches who provided us with financial support.”

Article taken from The Greenville Advocate - <http://www.greenvilleadvocate.com>

URL to article:

<http://www.greenvilleadvocate.com/2011/08/10/castille-shares-message-of-faith/>

STILLE MOMENTS

Quiet Time with God
By Jeremiah Castille

You Can Be Happy

Today I received news that a young man that attends our weekly bible study has a friend whose father committed suicide this morning. What a tragedy! Every time I hear news about a suicide, I ask myself, "Why aren't people happy?" What is happiness? Webster's Dictionary defines happiness as "a state of well-being and contentment." Christians should be the happiest people in the world because our state in life is that we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. We are no longer in the state of condemnation (Hallelujah)! God's Word tells us to be happy in Psalm 144:15, Proverbs 29:18 and Proverbs 16:20. God's word says, "And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he."

If you are a believer in Jesus, then God's Word says not only can you be happy, but you should be happy. I believe being happy is as simple as making a decision to be happy. Every day that we get up we go throughout the day making decisions. It is something we do all the time, and ultimately, those decisions make us. So it is as simple as a decision for a child of God to be happy. I know you are thinking it cannot be that simple; but, yes child of God, it is that simple. The definition of happiness holds the key to our understanding of how to be happy, and it is in one word (state). Remember child of God what your state is. You have been redeemed. Praise the Lord. Do not worry, be happy.

In Christ,



Events

- ❖ August 14, 2011
10:30 A.M. Service
Pleasant Ridge Baptist
Church, Hueytown,
Alabama
- ❖ August 20, 2011
4:00 P.M.
Circle of Champions
Word Alive Church
Oxford, Alabama
- ❖ August 21, 2011
6:00 P.M.
Woodbridge Baptist
Church, Mobile,
Alabama

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