

To: Jeremiah Castille Foundation

From: Edric L. Williams

My name is Edric Williams, and I am a young man that has been personally mentored by Jeremiah and Jean Castille since July of 2001. I met the Castille family at a birthday party for my friend, Artavious Bogan, who was living with them at the time. My life has been forever changed because of that meeting. When I first met Jeremiah there was something about him that I didn't quite understand, but today I do. He is a true man of God with the anointing of God all over his life.

I was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and lived in Los Angeles, California, for a short period of time when I was younger. I moved back to Birmingham around 6 or 7 years of age, growing up in the inner city of Birmingham in a broken home. My father left when I was 7, leaving my mother to provide and care for my sister and me. She did what she could for as long as she could, but the influence from friends and the environment got to me. I began hanging around guys who were headed in the wrong direction, but there was always the strong touch of my mother as she tried to protect me. In spite of her influence, I experimented with drugs, alcohol and fornication at an early age as an escape from the pain I felt from being unloved. My mom worked 2 and sometimes 3 jobs to take care of us, leaving no one at home after school and on the weekends. I spent a lot of time with my friends, who soon began to replace my family.

Anger consumed me, but I did not know why. I now realize anger was my way of expressing the hurt over my father leaving and my mom never being there and yelling and cursing when she was. Sports, drinking, girls, and smoking were my security. Growing up, I always wanted a big brother that would look out for me or a man who truly cared about me, but all I found was a boyfriend of my mother's who cheated on her and yelled at my sister and me. I was ready to end my life at one point.

Fortunately, God's love rained on me when Romeo Penn, also mentored by Jeremiah and Jean Castille, shared Jesus Christ with me. At that time, I had an aunt that was like a second mother to me die, I had bad grades in college and I couldn't play basketball, which was everything to me. July 8, 2000, I received Jesus Christ in my life and have been forever changed. Romeo invited me to attend Bible study at the Castille's home, which was also the night of the birthday party for my friend. I was so amazed and didn't want to leave. I began spending 3 to 4 nights a week in the Castille's home.

I have never met a man like Jeremiah or a woman like Mrs. Jean. Who knew God had a spiritual father and mother for me to give me what I was lacking in my natural parents? Today, I walk with the Lord closer than I ever have. I hold a sales position at Birmingham Coke-Cola, work part time at the YMCA in Mountain Brook, own a health and wellness business and train young kids in basketball. I can honestly say that the Jeremiah Castille Foundation saved my life. I am currently in prayer for a wife and family and to go into full time ministry so I can pay forward what the Castille family has done for me. Jeremiah and Jean, for saving my life and teaching me how to dream, thank you and I love you. May God richly bless this foundation for the time, money, tears, prayers and Word of God shared with me. Hope was revealed through you sharing your life with me.

God Bless,
Edric Williams