

Rev. Run writes inspiration in 'Words of Wisdom'

By Victoria Elmore
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Rev. Run's (Joseph Simmons) purpose in life is to extend his wisdom to help people.

The ordained minister caught the public's eye in 1983 as leader of group Run-DMC and is now CEO of Run Athletics and Phatfarm Footwear. On MTV's most top-rated show, "Run's House," Run shares his wisdom with the world.

The quotes in the minister's



Simmons

book, "Words of Wisdom" begin as simple morning messages to people close to him.

"It started as prayers to family and friends, then they would send them to people they knew," Simmons said. He said the extension grew larger and more celebrities such as Kid Rock and Gabrielle Union amongst others began inquiring about his daily wisdom words.

After sending his insight to so many people, including radio broadcast, celebrities, viewers of his TV show, and close family members, they began encouraging Simmons to write a book. "I was inspired by popular demand. People started approaching me asking me about sharing my prayers," he said.

Simmons said he felt compelled to write a book of quotes that would lift people's spirits and give them hope. He sensed that folk were in need of positive optimism

"My job is to help others. We all have an assignment," he said, "And mine is to help people."

Many messages are enclosed in "Words of Wisdom" but there is one that stands out more than the others. The minister said it's one of reasons why he wrote the book. "The Bible says that wisdom is the key principle; that's a good reason for writing the book also. You want to have wisdom," he said.

Wisdom is essential in Simmons' life. He believes it is the path through life's trials. "Wisdom is the knowledge and understanding that God gives us to make navigate through life's situations," he said.

In "Words of Wisdom" Simmons speaks of the peace God gives him.

"I cast my cares on him and lay down at night, and I'm like whatever," he said. "It takes practice to understand

that God is in control." Simmons' daily affirmations have reached many people around the world through his TV show and two-way pager. "Words of Wisdom" will give him the opportunity to encourage even more people to discover their purpose in life. "Find your passion and you'll find your money. Do what you love and the money will follow," Simmons quotes his book.

Rescue Mission boosts lives

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"Women have unique issues. Ninety-five percent of them have experienced some type of abuse," Sosnik said.

He said the women go through assessments to determine whether they can make it in the real world. "They are evaluated for stability, cognitive skills, and basic reading to make sure they can read on a seventh grade level," Sosnik said.

Williams' life was heading down a dead end road in Charleston, where she lived in the worst conditions. "I

lived in a trailer that had no power and electricity," she said. "I was emotionally bankrupt. I thought there was no hope. I believed that God was vengeful and punished me for everything."

Williams stopped working and became consumed with drug use; that was until she moved to Charlotte and the Rescue Mission provided shelter.

"I had a housemother and there was a certain time that I had to be in. Every Thursday we had a meeting where we'd talk to counselors about our day," Williams said. "This

gave me a sense of responsibility."

Williams lived at the shelter for six months, then relocated to the YMCA. She later found work at the mission, where she helps inspire others. "Only God can bring you in as an addict, then employer. I went through Habitat for Humanity and got a house," Williams said. "Charlotte Rescue Mission gave me hope. It helped me realize that God is forgiving and that he loves me unconditionally."

A look at the Men's Shelter of the Charlotte Rescue Mission will run next week.

Activists arrested at Virginia college

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LYNCHBURG, Va.—More than 20 gay rights activists were arrested on trespassing charges Friday as they tried to step onto the campus of Liberty University, the school founded by the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

Many of the activists were part of Soulforce, a group on its first stop of a nationwide "Equality Ride" tour to promote gay rights at the nation's conservative Christian universities and military academies.

Invoking the memory of the civil rights movement, Soulforce member Jacob Reitan said: "We want to come to the school today to say, 'learn from history.'"

"We have a right to be here, because this school teaches that being gay is being sick and sinful," said Reitan, co-director of Equality Ride. "We have a right to question and to show how we are children of God."

Reitan and other Soulforce members said they did not intend to be arrested at the campus, but just hoped to talk to Liberty students.

Some 60 people, including 85 members of the Equality Ride bus tour, gathered for the late morning rally on a sidewalk outside the school's main entrance. A music group played guitars and sang 1960s peace songs.

Several Liberty students spoke to the Soulforce mem-

bers. But the group didn't always find support.

Comparing homosexuals to drug users and adulterers, Liberty senior Tray Faulkner said the university disapproves of any alternative lifestyle. "I know you guys don't think it's a sin," he said. "We do."

Campus police charged all of those arrested with trespassing, and two faced additional charges of inciting trespassing. They were restrained in plastic handcuffs before being taken to a local magistrate.

Falwell, the university's chancellor, had warned the group that it would not be

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