

Letter Published 11 February 2015 In My 3rd Book My Advice Of All Times

http://www.amazon.com/dp/0692374620/ref=cm_sw_r_tw_dp_CHH.ub0XJ6AZ8

Six-Year Update Letter to Sidney Bivins Jr.

“Keeping Your Legacy Alive”

Hello, Sidney. You remember me as your fall semester 2009 English classmate at the South Georgia State College entry level program located on the Valdosta State University campus. It’s been a long and busy six years since then, doing what you were unable to do in order to honor your legacy. I stated at the candlelight vigil held for you at SGSC the week your life was cut short by gun violence, and also at your home going service, “Sidney Bivins Jr, I will finish what you started and graduate from college.” And I kept this promise.

You see, Sidney, in November 2009 I had three African American male children: Joshua (16), Caleb (14), and Christian (2). God added Joel to our family in January 2011. What happened to you could happen to them. Every day since that day in November 2009, when I look at them, your life’s legacy is influential in empowering me to make sure I do for them what you can’t do for the son you left behind, also named Sidney. I also have an African American female child, my only girl, Joy, who was 8 in November 2009. She makes me remember your baby girl Ke’Mani Sidney Bivins, still in the womb at the time of your early departure from this life.

As you look down from above, I hope that you can see that I am living up to, living out, living for, and most of all living through your legacy. I hope you are proud and are cheering me on.

Sidney, America had a turbulent year in 2014 as far as gun violence goes, with a couple of cases drawing national attention (see my Do What They Can’t #2 table in this book). There were nationwide gun protests in 2014, and the protests continue into 2015, basically asking for our nation to do and be better in the area of gun violence. Many have been asking, “What’s next?” What happens when the protests are finished and the marches are complete? In response, I have offered our Do What They Can’t model. I say “our” because what I did from November 2009 to December 2013 was driven by your legacy, showing that good can come out of bad to positively influence the future.

I have been sharing our story across America by way of The U-Can! Man Empowerment Through Encouragement Shuttle (TUM-ETES) at www.johntheucanman.com. Starting in 2015, after graduating from college in 2013, I am ready to hop on board TUM-ETES and fly around the USA to share our story and challenge Americans to honor the fallen and remember lost loved ones by doing what they can’t.

Sidney, my amazing editor Mandie Gossage and I co-authored a book titled *Graduating With Honors: If I Can, U-Can*, published on January 2, 2014. On January 27, 2015, I purchased my third book, titled *My Advice of All Times*. Your baby girl’s grandmother, Ms. Hepburn, is my publisher. That’s amazing that God put the desire in my heart to write books because Sidney Bivins Jr. cannot do it.

This note is one that I hope your two children will read one day down the road and see the lives their dad impacted. I hope America takes note of our Do What They Can't model. I am making you a promise: that I will reach America with this solution to healing our country and recovering from gun violence. I promise to get Do What They Can't #2 to Barack Obama. It may take a while, but it is worth it to continue our model that millions and millions of Americans could benefit from. In the meantime, I will keep doing what you can't, Sidney Bivins Jr.

-Your English classmate

U-CAN!

John Wallace Isom Jr

The U-Can! Man

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College Graduate 7 Dec 2013, Valdosta State University

BA Sociology, Minor African American Studies

1st Book: Return To Honor: A Soldier Story

<http://www.blackgospelpromo.com/press627.htm>

2nd Book Graduating With Honors: If I-Can, U-Can!

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00HNY8SAU>

3rd Book My Advice Of All Times (First Edition)

http://www.amazon.com/dp/0692374620/ref=cm_sw_r_tw_dp_CHH.ub0XJ6AZ8

4th Book My Advice Of All Times (Second Edition)

To be published July 2015

Memberships & Affiliations

2007 Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce

2012 National Society of Leadership Success

2013 Who's Who Class Among College Students

2014 VSU Phi Kappa Phi. Honorary Society

Well done is better than well said? BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

