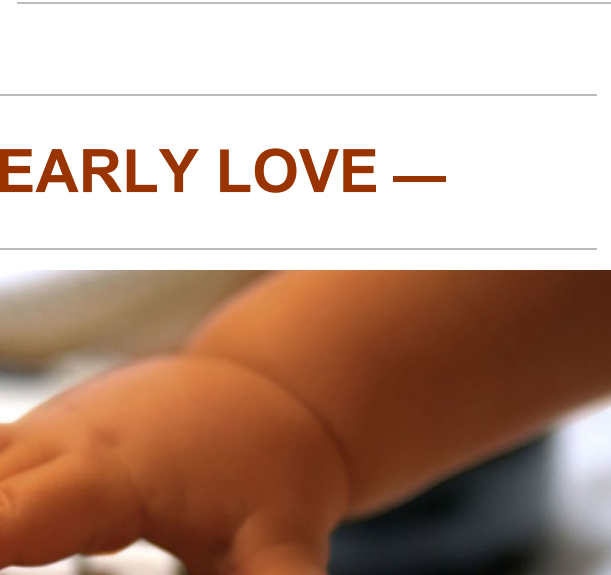


MUSIC BEHIND THE MESSAGE: 2021_03

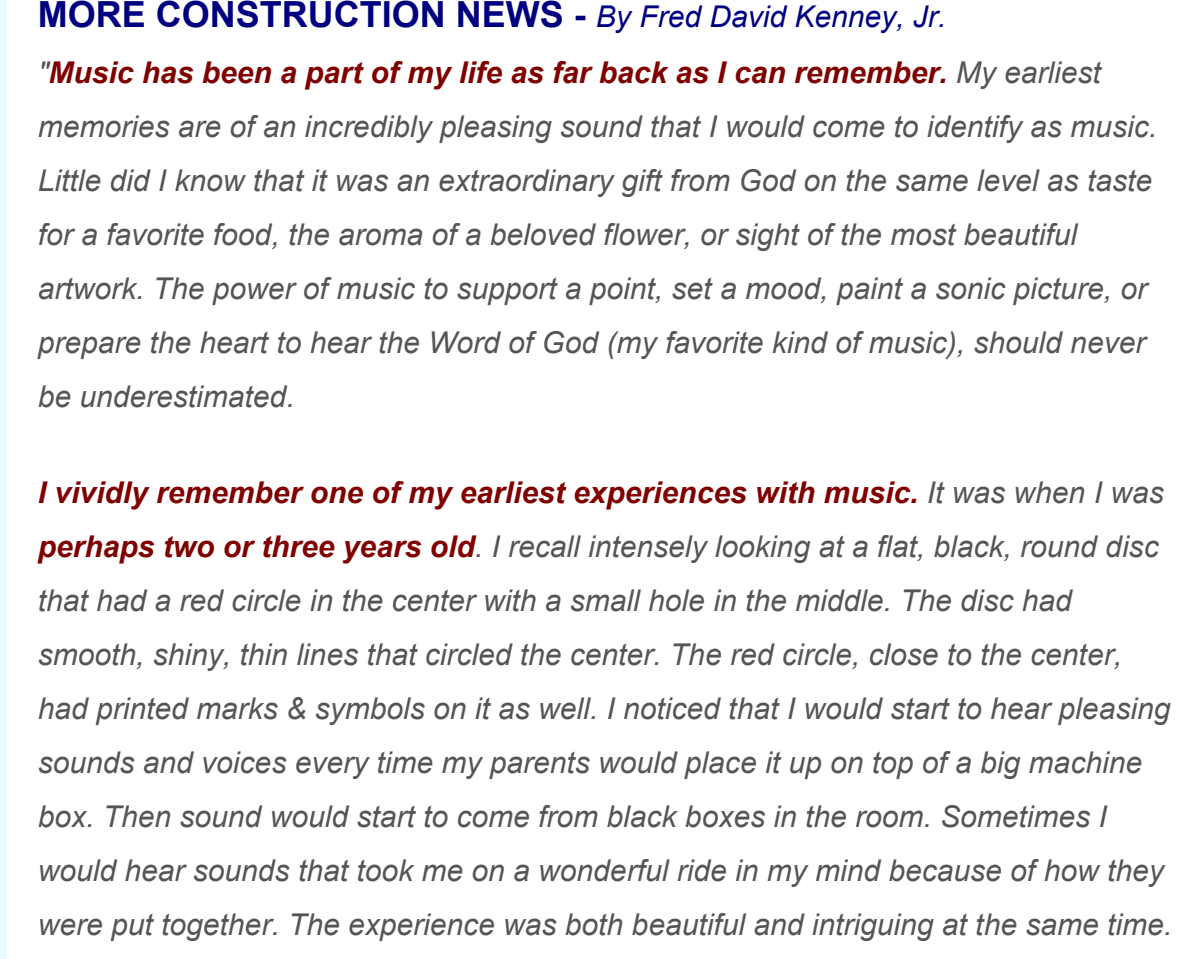
A SCORE TO SETTLE

This month, Fred Kenney, Jr. explores how his early love and appreciation for music ultimately helps accent and set the tone for each [Plays On Word](#) performance! We hope you enjoy learning more of the history and passion that drives this mission....

We appreciate your prayers and support... YOU play a big part in this journey!



— MUSIC, AN EARLY LOVE —

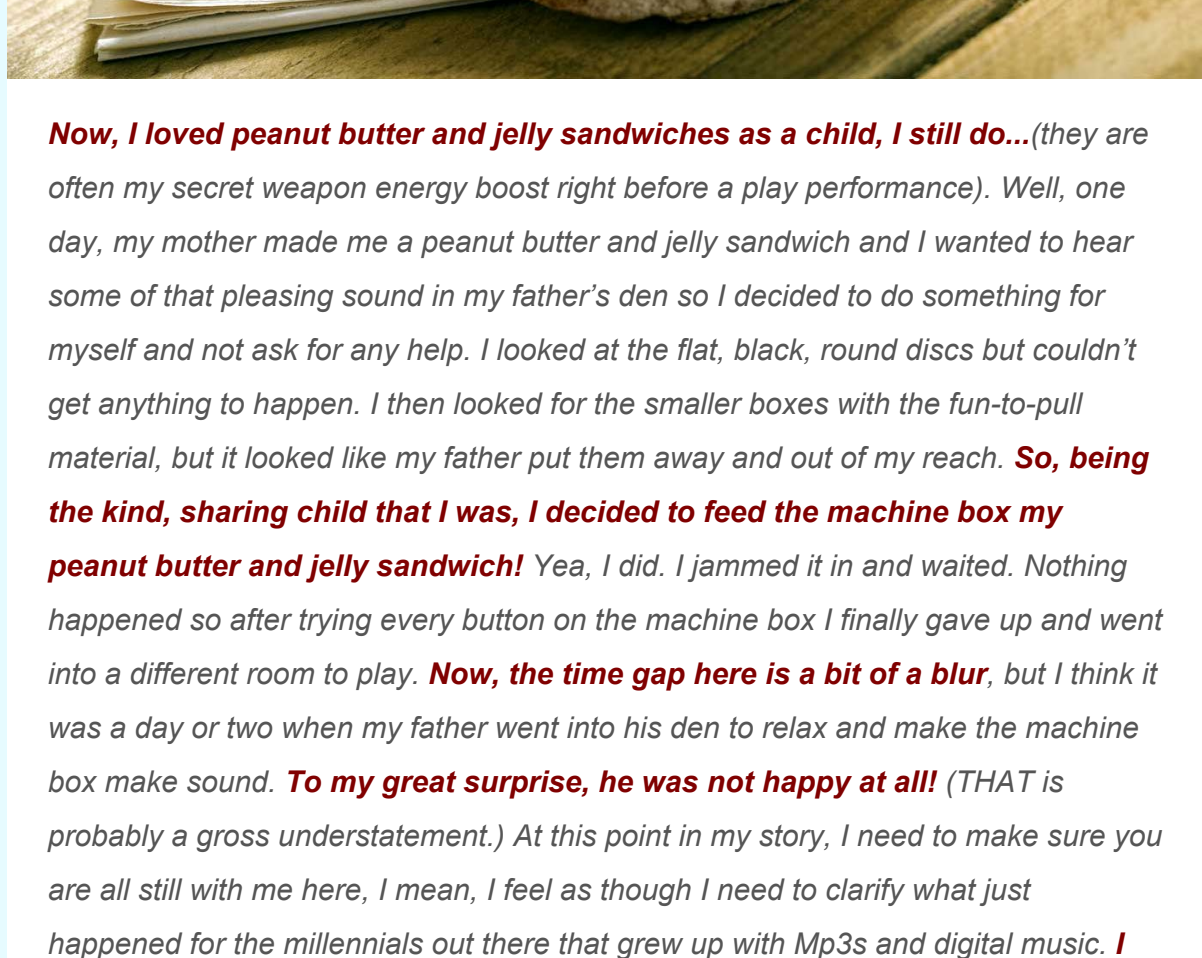


MORE CONSTRUCTION NEWS - By Fred David Kenney, Jr.

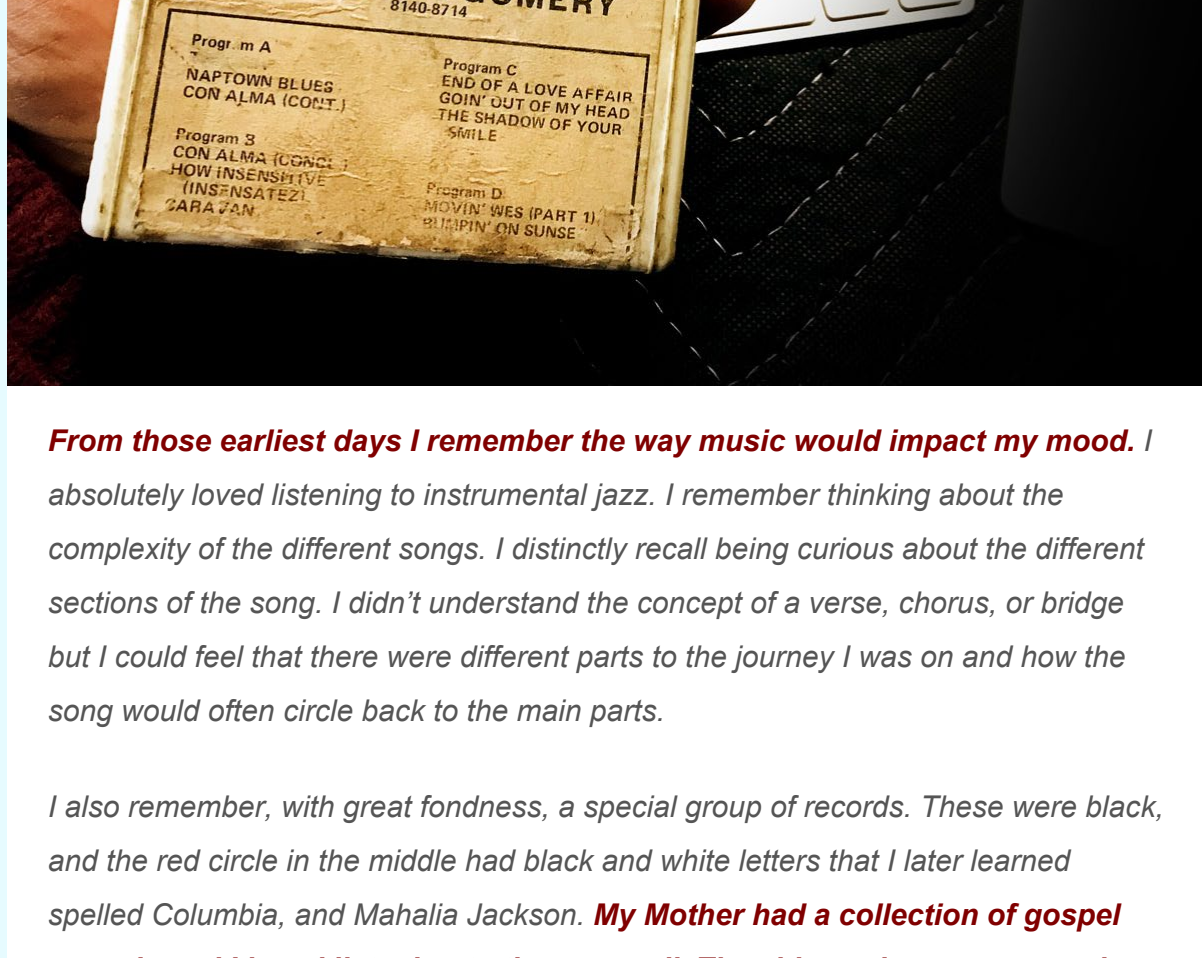
"Music has been a part of my life as far back as I can remember. My earliest memories are of an incredibly pleasing sound that I would come to identify as music. Little did I know that it was an extraordinary gift from God on the same level as taste for a favorite food, the aroma of a beloved flower, or sight of the most beautiful artwork. The power of music to support a point, set a mood, paint a sonic picture, or prepare the heart to hear the Word of God (my favorite kind of music), should never be underestimated.

I vividly remember one of my earliest experiences with music. It was when I was perhaps two or three years old. I recall intensely looking at a flat, black, round disc that had a red circle in the center with a small hole in the middle. The disc had smooth, shiny, thin lines that circled the center. The red circle, close to the center, had printed marks & symbols on it as well. I noticed that I would start to hear pleasing sounds and voices every time my parents would place it up on top of a big machine box. Then sound would start to come from black boxes in the room. Sometimes I would hear sounds that took me on a wonderful ride in my mind because of how they were put together. The experience was both beautiful and intriguing at the same time. I was not particularly interested in what it meant, who made it, or how they made it. I just knew that I liked hearing the sound that came from the black boxes in my father's den when I would go into that room with him.

I also remember an unfortunate incident from this period of my life that was a real eye-opener. In addition to the flat, black, round discs in my father's den, he also had a large number of smaller, thin, rectangular boxes that looked like something like a sandwich but was solid. On the top, flat part of this box was usually a picture of someone or something. Those same kinds of printed marks were also all over the top flat part, usually near the picture. On one side of this box was an opening with a brown/ black strip of something that was fun to pull out of the box. In fact, there was also a wheel that would spin under this brown/black strip of fun material. Now, I bet you thought I was going to tell you about how I pulled every inch of that material out of the box. No, well, I DID do that one time, but that isn't the real incident. You see, **my father would often take one of these smaller, thin, rectangular boxes and apparently feed the mouth of that same big machine box** on to which he put the flat, black, round discs. The same great sound would then come from the boxes in the room when he did this! **I think I understood what I needed to do! I needed to feed the big box!**



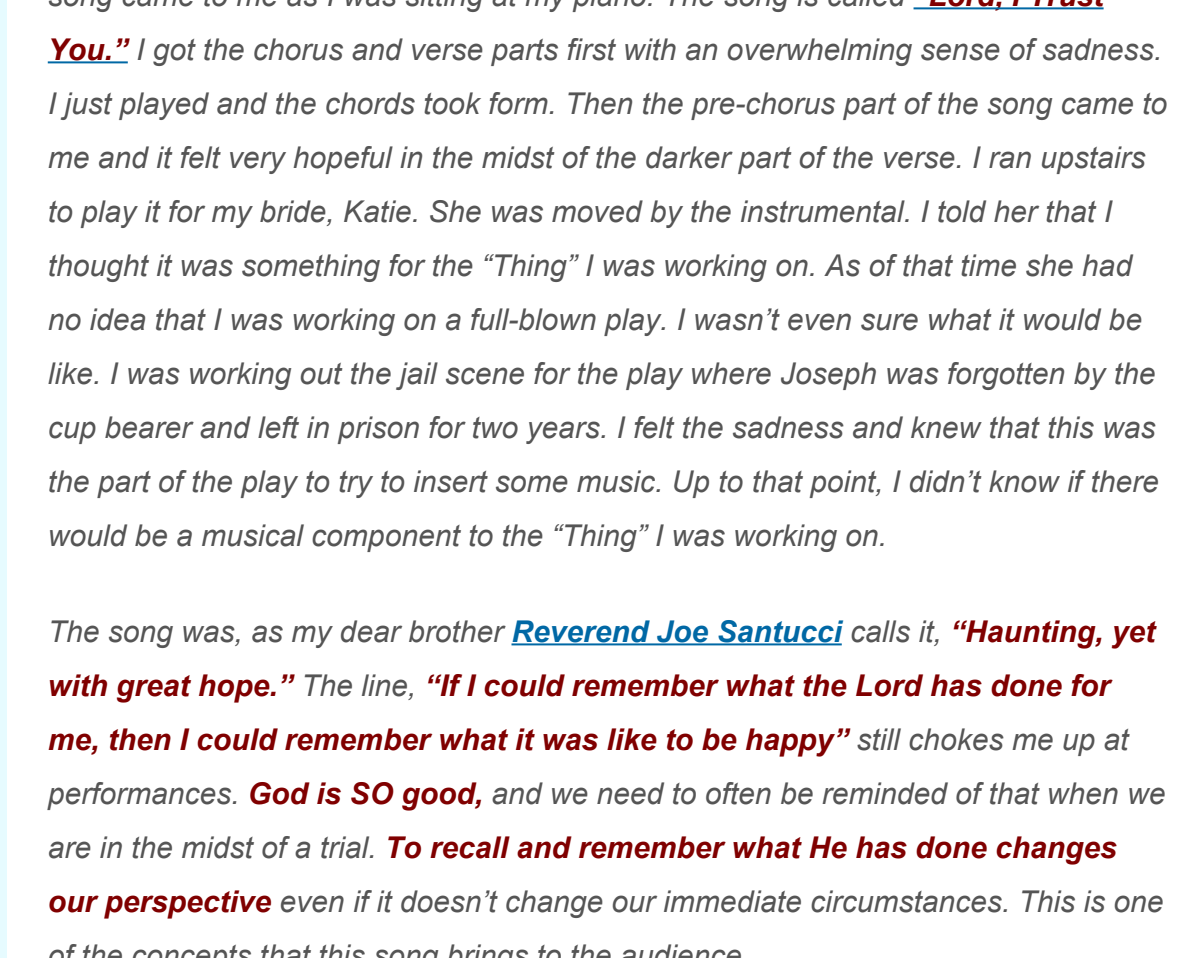
Now, I loved peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as a child, I still do...(they are often my secret weapon energy boost right before a play performance). Well, one day, my mother made me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and I wanted to hear some of that pleasing sound in my father's den so I decided to do something for myself and not ask for any help. I looked at the flat, black, round discs but couldn't get anything to happen. I then looked for the smaller boxes with the fun-to-pull material, but it looked like my father put them away and out of my reach. **So, being the kind, sharing child that I was, I decided to feed the machine box my peanut butter and jelly sandwich!** Yea, I did. I jammed it in and waited. Nothing happened so after trying every button on the machine box I finally gave up and went into a different room to play. **Now, the time gap here is a bit of a blur,** but I think it was a day or two when my father went into his den to relax and make the machine box make sound. **To my great surprise, he was not happy at all!** (THAT is probably a gross understatement.) At this point in my story, I need to make sure you are all still with me here, I mean, I feel as though I need to clarify what just happened for the millennials out there that grew up with Mp3s and digital music. **I put my peanut butter and jelly sandwich into my father's 8-track cassette player!** So, when he went to play his favorite Wes Montgomery or Miles Davis 8-track cassette all he heard was a muffled mush-mash of awful sound that smelled like strawberry jam! In my defense, I was only two or three years old. **It's a good think Pop could fix anything.** He repaired, or should I say cleaned the 8-track cassette player and I was soon back in my sonic wonderland.



From those earliest days I remember the way music would impact my mood. I absolutely loved listening to instrumental jazz. I remember thinking about the complexity of the different songs. I distinctly recall being curious about the different sections of the song. I didn't understand the concept of a verse, chorus, or bridge but I could feel that there were different parts to the journey I was on and how the song would often circle back to the main parts.

I also remember, with great fondness, a special group of records. These were black, and the red circle in the middle had black and white letters that I later learned spelled Columbia, and Mahalia Jackson. **My Mother had a collection of gospel records and I loved listening to them as well. They blessed my young soul.**

I would grow up and learn how to play, compose, record, and perform music. I played secular music for many years and then about 21 years ago I began writing and recording **Christian music.** **It just made sense that I would use whatever the Lord gave me for His work.**



Pastor Fred Kenney, Jr. (a.k.a. Teddy) in one of the very first performances of Genesis "JOE".

The very first Plays On Word production we did is called Genesis "JOE". The first song came to me as I was sitting at my piano. The song is called **"Lord, I Trust You."** I got the chorus and verse parts first with an overwhelming sense of sadness. I just played and the chords took form. Then the pre-chorus part of the song came to me and it felt very hopeful in the midst of the darker part of the verse. I ran upstairs to play it for my bride, Katie. She was moved by the instrumental. I told her that I thought it was something for the "Thing" I was working on. As of that time she had no idea that I was working on a full-blown play. I wasn't even sure what it would be like. I was working out the jail scene for the play where Joseph was forgotten by the cup bearer and left in prison for two years. I felt the sadness and knew that this was the part of the play to try to insert some music. Up to that point, I didn't know if there would be a musical component to the "Thing" I was working on.

The song was, as my dear brother **Reverend Joe Santucci** calls it, **"Haunting, yet with great hope."** The line, **"if I could remember what it was like to be happy"** still chokes me up at performances. **God is SO good,** and we need to often be reminded of that when we are in the midst of a trial. **To recall and remember what He has done changes our perspective** even if it doesn't change our immediate circumstances. This is one of the concepts that this song brings to the audience.

I remember performing this play and song at a very small church in NJ. I didn't have the band with me. It was just me and the piano. I really acted out the lines of the song from the piano. What I mean is, Joseph sang that song from his heart. Every eye in the place was watered with tears. Moving tears for Joseph's plight and moving tears of hope and joy in God!

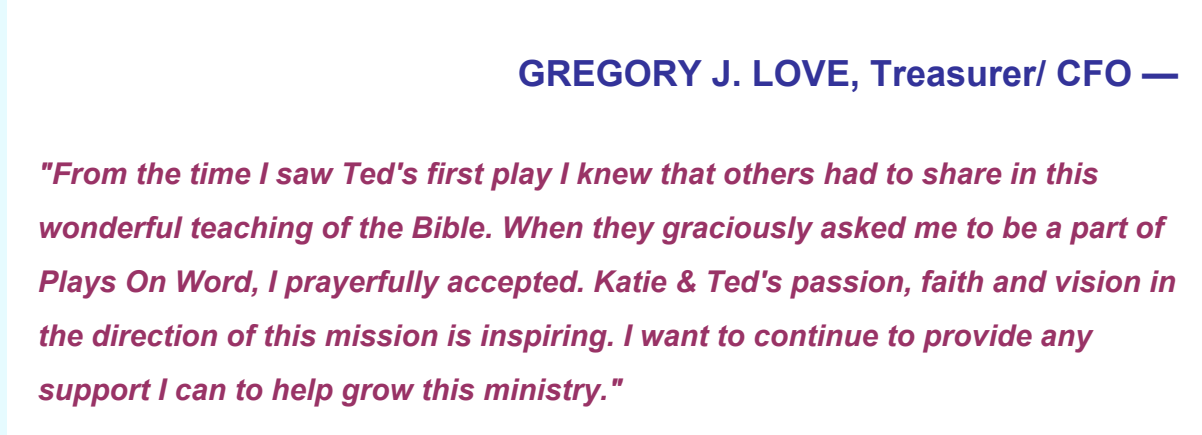
Much more could be said about the music in the play performances. I hope to do more behind the scenes posts soon. The songs in the plays are not just thrown in for filler or as an afterthought. **These songs each have a role to play in shaping the mood and assisting in the overall journey we all experience at a Plays On Word production.** Currently, I have the finale of the "Dan" play written and mostly recorded. Yea, I am kind of backwards now. The ending first? Hey, I'm just an employee here. I just do what I'm told.

It is a privilege to share my joy of this pleasing sound, that we call music, with you. Since I can remember, I have been drawn to this incredible gift from God. **It is my hope that the power of the music from the Plays On Word performances will help in taking you deeper into the Word of God!"**

~ FDKjr

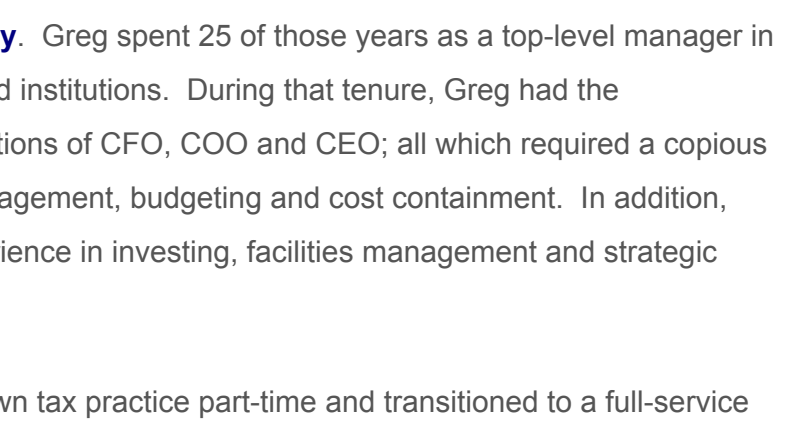
DREAM TEAM...

Throughout the months ahead, we'd love for you to meet the team of people... trustees... partners... that believe in our mission and help shape the direction of our stateside missionary!



MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES!

A trusted group of people we consider family that pray, counsel and walk this road with us...



GREGORY J. LOVE, Treasurer/ CFO —

"From the time I saw Ted's first play I knew that others had to share in this wonderful teaching of the Bible. When they graciously asked me to be a part of Plays On Word, I prayerfully accepted. Katie & Ted's passion, faith and vision in the direction of this mission is inspiring. I want to continue to provide any support I can to help grow this ministry."

Greg is a Villanova University graduate with 36 years of professional experience for the state of New Jersey. Greg spent 25 of those years as a top-level manager in state operated hospitals and institutions. During that tenure, Greg had the opportunity to hold the positions of CFO, COO and CEO; all which required a copious knowledge of financial management, budgeting and cost containment. In addition, Greg holds extensive experience in investing, facilities management and strategic planning development.

In 1980, Greg started his own tax practice part-time and transitioned to a full-service accounting and tax practice at **Mazur's Accounting** Service in 2015.

Greg has served as a member of several Boards including:

- Hope Community Church - Treasurer
- Promenade Condominium Association - Treasurer
- Borough of Manasquan Planning Board - Environmental Liaison
- Borough of Manasquan Environmental Commission - Chairman

A favorite Bible quote of Greg's is Matthew 4:19 (ESV) – And He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. When asked about Plays On Word Theater, Greg will tell you, "This ministry is and will continue to create disciples!" We are pleased to continue this work gleaming from Greg's expertise and wise counsel.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Our team at Plays On Word is committed to lifting up the Body of Christ — Please let us know how we can continue to pray for YOU and the ones you love.

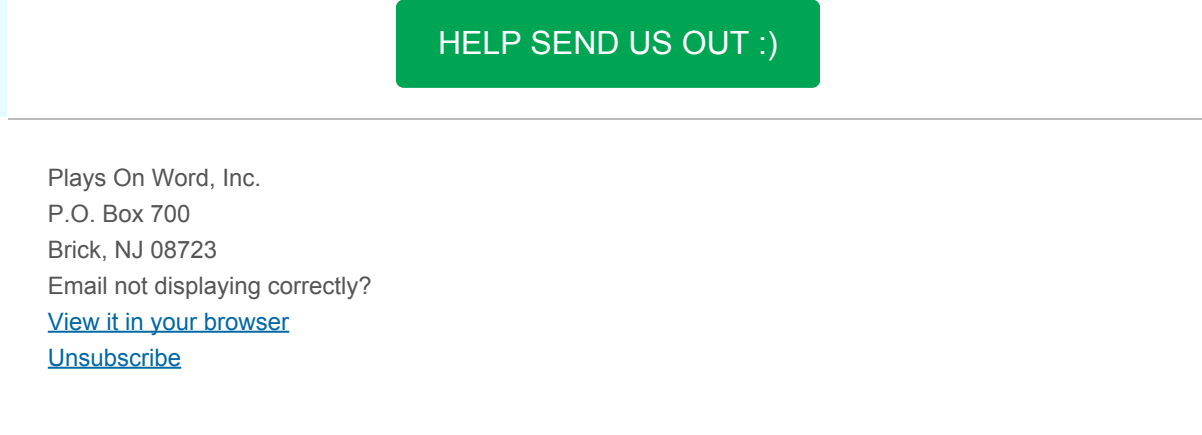


PRAYER REQUESTS

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