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Monthly Newsletter

## FATHERS WHERE ARE YOU!

Dear Chosen One: Greetings in the Name of our God and Father!

**“Listen my sons, [and daughters] to a father’s instructions; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.”** (Proverbs 4:1-2.)

For many years, Fox 5 television network station started its 10 o’clock News by asking this question: **“It’s 10 pm do you know where your children are?”** This question has baffled me for years. Today, I want to rephrase this question as we celebrate Father’s Day.

At 10 pm many children are not at home because we are living in an era where many fathers are absent from the homes and the lives of their children. Therefore, if the children are not at home, then whose responsibility, is it?

Every child has a biological father but sadly not all men are considered fathers. Too many children are growing up in single parent homes without any father to raise them morally and spiritually. I am not saying that some mothers are not doing a great job, but our sons and daughters need their fathers too. Parenting is a shared responsibility, not a single one.

Over the years our society, communities, and ethnic groups have become **FATHERLESS**. Some men are not taking responsibility for their actions. Plus, society has contributed greatly to absentee fathers by incarcerating them with lengthy prison sentences thereby preventing the opportunity for them to be fathers in their children’s lives.

The question is **NOT** who is to be blamed. It is how we can **FILL** the void in the lives of children who are growing up without their father. Presently, there are many fathers who are faithfully paying child’s support yet are not active in their children’s lives.

The Bible teaches children to honor their fathers and mothers so that their days will be long upon the land. This is a special promise from God. But how can a child honor his or her father when that father is not physically present in that child’s life or refuses to carry out his fatherly duties. Only men who are accountable and perform their fatherly duties should earn the title of **“Father.”**

Personally, I believe that the crisis of absentee fathers in our homes, society and communities is not being seriously addressed in Congress, in the churches, at community boards, and in schools. I believe there should be an educational program to train young boys how to become responsible fathers when they grow up. Why? Too many men are walking away and ignoring their fatherly duties. Yes, in the “old days” young girls were trained in home economics which was designed to teach them how to perform motherly duties and how to do household chores. But what about the boys?

Men, it is time to renew your mind and ways of thinking! Your Heavenly Father God has sent a Helper-The Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and to assist you to become the best father. However, you must take the first step by accepting His help and committing your life to Jesus. On the other hand, there are some good godly men around who are

# HAVE YOU EARNED THE TITLE “FATHER!”

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responsible fathers. Seek their advice. Don't let your pride get in the way of you becoming a better father.

This “**Fatherless Crisis**” could also be a generational curse passed down to this generation. Many men believe that they are failing in their fatherly duties because their own fathers failed them and never taught them how to be a father.

There is no perfect father! Today, children are **not** looking for perfection. Instead, they are looking for fathers they can look up to as role models and dads who will encourage, motivate, support and be active in their lives.

In the Bible, there were many godly men who struggled in their fatherly duties, yet God held them responsible for their children's upbringing. Ephesians 6:4 says, “**Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but raise them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**”

Men, I want to encourage you to “**Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.**” (Proverbs 16:3). It doesn't matter how difficult the task may be, even if your child is wayward, rebellious, stubborn, or rude, he/she still deserves to have a relationship with his/her father.

Over the years, God has taken care of many fatherless children because their earthly fathers have neglected to fulfill their duties. Even though some fathers are personally around or at home, they are so busy that they have neglected their children's welfare.

Today, many of our children's needs are not being met. Their voices are not being heard, their accomplishments are going unnoticed, their attitudes are not being corrected, and their spiritual upbringing is being neglected as well.

God's Word is faithful. King David says, in Psalm 68:5, that God promised to be “**A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows...**” Fathers, your children need your undivided attention, and they need to know that you are listening when they are speaking. Children also need to know that their

parents can identify with some of their struggles. Moreover, don't ignore their opinions or take their concerns for granted.

If you are a father who is struggling with your fatherly responsibility, and you want to change your behavior, there is hope. By answering these questions, you may be able to identify the problem and make the necessary changes to mend that broken relationship between father and child.

When was the last time you and your child had a son or daughter talk? When was the last time you complimented your child for something he/she has done? When was the last time you told your child that you love him/her? When was the last time you and your child had some quality time together? If you can honestly answer these questions, then you can start correcting your mistakes and become a better father to your child/children.

My original question was, “**Fathers Where Are You?**”? I have seen too many men who have failed in their fatherly duties, and many who have become statistics in the Penal System.

We the mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and caregivers of this male generation have decided to say **ENOUGH is ENOUGH!** We are reaching out to successful fathers, grandfathers, pastors, and male role models to help other men become responsible fathers to their children. We are recommending better educational guidelines to help equip and train our boy children how to be reliable fathers to *their* children when they grow up. We invoke the power of the Holy Spirit and ask Him to lead, guide, and direct this male generation.

We pray that our fatherless society, homes, communities, and country will once again be filled with godly, trustworthy, and responsible men who will become better fathers in the lives of their children. It is time for a change. Men, it is time to regain your title as “**FATHER**”. Yes! Put the past behind and focus on making that child proud to call you “Daddy”.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**