



June 2008

My Dad Is the Pastor

By: Joe Ortiz – Pastor of Evangelism and Outreach



The gospel is being proclaimed from the pulpit, but not much at home, why dad?

Billy Graham once said, "If your Christianity does not work at home, don't export it."

I personally believe that many Dads are so busy with issues in their relationship with their wife, children, work that it overshadows their duty to God to evangelize the lost.

As Dads one of the best ways to improve our evangelistic efforts in and outside the church, is to strengthen our evangelism efforts at home. Dad's are the Pastors of the *home*.

I believe most dads today need to be taught and encouraged by other dads who have walked in their shoes, how to be evangelistic with their children and outside the home as well. Experienced dads should look for younger dads to sharpen their outlook on fatherhood. Proverbs. 27:17 tells how...*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.* It's in the context of friendship. Simply be a friend.

To our children we should often initiate short devotional times with them until they are grown and leave home, then find a creative way to continue. Anytime, anyplace. I still do this with mine. Mostly on the phone mind you, but they still hear it and pray with me. I believe this is what we learn from (Deut. 6: 5-7) Verse 5 (The message) *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.* Verse 6 (The COMMAND) *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.* Verse 7 (The HOW) *Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* Hey I've got an idea how about wearing a bracelet about how good and faithful God is...or maybe even putting a plaque outside our front door or the mail box.....WHOA that's totally radical! *No not really* the next verse says,,, Verse 8 and 9 *"Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates".* I don't think I'll be writing them on my forehead anytime soon, but hey how about a t-shirt! YEAH I can do that.

Teach your children, dad, to not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. The best way I know to do that is "Just Do It", at home and in public! You are invited in June to a couple of entry level Evangelism Events. Check out the *EVANGELISM NOW* flyer in the weekly bulletins and bring your kids, it will be OK.

"A godly man promotes religion in his family; he sets up piety in his house as well as in his heart.... A godly man's house is a little church.... A good man makes known the oracles of God to those who are under his roof. He reads the Word and perfumes his house with prayer." - by Thomas Watson in "A Godly Man's Picture"

Father's Day

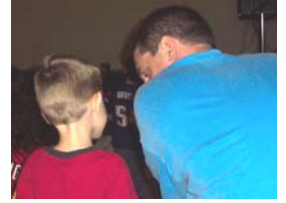
The first celebration of Father's Day is thought to have been in July 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia. Grace Golden Clayton suggested the special observance to her pastor after a deadly explosion in a nearby town that killed 361 men. Soon after, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, wanted to show her gratitude to her father, who'd cared for the family after his wife died. Dodd asked her pastor to choose a June Sunday to honor all fathers, and he selected June 19, 1910.

In 1924, President Coolidge suggested that Father's Day become a national holiday. In 1966, President Johnson designated the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day. Six years later, President Nixon instituted Father's Day as a national observance.

SETTING BOUNDARIES

From the June 2007 Issue of ParentLink Children's Edition

Whether in competitive sports, in school, or at church, children will be given boundaries all throughout their developmental years. Despite what it may seem boundaries actually create personal freedom and a framework for healthy relationships. Boundaries are an essential building block of growing up. Without them, children can never be sure when they are "out-of-bounds." When children are given a clear understanding of what is acceptable, they really have the freedom to shine.



Since children do not naturally formulate boundaries, parents must be intentional in helping their children establish their own. The best time to start setting boundaries is when children are between two and three. Boundaries should begin with simple instructions about safety and guidelines for proper behavior. As they begin to grow, they need to embrace the principles behind those rules, so that they can apply them to every area of life. This is important for two reasons. First, as life gets more complicated, it will become impossible to anticipate every situation and make up a rule for your child that applies. Secondly, the principle-based behavior cultivates an environment which allows your child to be comfortable enforcing their own personal boundaries. As always, set boundaries and enforce them in love, constantly keeping in mind the end result.

TIPS FOR SETTING BOUNDARIES...



Set your own boundaries and have consequences for crossing them. Consider choosing a desk drawer as off limits unless the child first receives permission to use the things in it. The contents may not be that valuable, but the lesson modeled will be invaluable.

Avoid controlling the child. The goal in parenting is to release the control of the child's actions to himself as he matures.

Give choices. Choices help children learn decision-making skills and are the foundation for boundary forming. An example of choices can be as simple as offering corn or green beans for dinner.

Set boundaries clearly, without anger, and with as few words as possible. The healthiest boundaries are proactive statements that are shared without feeling guilty. Express when your feelings are hurt by another's actions. You might say, "When you forget to say thank you to me for making your breakfast, it makes me feel unappreciated." This models emotional boundaries as well as physical ones.

Ask God:

1. To give you wisdom and discernment as you set parental guidelines and put boundaries in place.
2. To help you be consistent with the boundaries that you set.
3. To help you follow through with the rules that you put in place and the consequences for breaking those rules.
4. To give you and your child an open relationship so that you can discuss freely the rules and expectations you have in your home.
5. To help your child become content with the things that they have and the things that they are allowed to do.

A Father's Influence

Studies show that if the mother of a family attends worship, there's a 16 percent chance that the rest of the family will also attend. Yet when a father attends worship, there's a 93 percent chance that other family members will be present, too. Just think, Dad, of the clout you have. Hope to see you in church this weekend!

Daily Word

From Dr. Jack Graham

POWER
POINT



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
--Acts 1:8

The first-century Christians were bold in seeking to capture their city, country, and world for Jesus Christ. And that same boldness can be yours as you share the message of eternal life with others! The challenge is that the church today has become increasingly distracted from what God has called us to do--to share the message of salvation in Christ with the world. People desperately need the hope that is only found in Jesus... and it is our job to tell them!

If revival is going to come about in our world, then it needs to first begin in your heart and mine. We must become like the early Christians who had a boldness in the face of fierce resistance. Through that boldness, the gospel spread like wildfire... and it happened without technology, computers, or e-mail! How did they do that? Well, look at today's verse again. They did it through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Wouldn't you like to see a spiritual awakening in our nation and world? It can happen as you and I are empowered by the Spirit of God to boldly proclaim the gospel wherever God might place us.

And when we're emboldened with His power, we can make a difference in this generation for Jesus!

IF REVIVAL IS GOING TO COME ABOUT IN OUR WORLD, IT NEEDS TO FIRST BEGIN IN YOUR HEART AND MINE.



A small clear heart, a crystal, hangs in the window. It turns on a slender thread when moved by air currents. Noticeable only when one looks for the source of the rainbow colors which are scattered around the room in unlikely places.

Its effects are far reaching and unpredictable. There's a splash of color on the dining table, and on the staircase. The crystal, itself, occasionally glows a single color: red, or yellow, or green. It acts as a prism by refracting, or bending, the light ray from the sun into a spectrum, a band of colors.

It's like the Christian heart whose beauty comes from the Light, Jesus. This heart, having sin forgiven, is clean and clear; therefore it reflects the Light. By its daily movement, beauty and color are scattered in odd and various places. Its immeasurable value is caught and held by ones drawn by its beauty to the Son.

I cannot judge the heart; I can only look at the behavior of the heart. A smile; a word of encouragement; true hospitality; a helping hand; a turn the other cheek; treat others as you would like to be treated; a visit when needed; an acknowledgement of one's existence and an acceptance of one's value; friendship extended; prayer; and/or forgiveness when wrong or wronged are spectrum moments from heart to heart that demonstrate a "love for neighbor as for self" (Mark 12:31 KJV).

For the first story, you need an appreciation for the tremendous rivalry in the game of baseball among the young players, coaches, and fans.

The winning team advances to continue playing in the tournament. The losing team goes home. The score is tied. The game continues an extra inning until the tie is broken. In the bottom of the inning, a hit scores the winning run.

As we leave the park, I observe as one from the losing team, tracks down the one whose hit defeats his team.

He calls, "Daniel!"

Daniel turns and he briefly reaches to touch knuckle to knuckle. The twelve year old boy, doubtless disappointed, yet gracious and congratulatory, even in defeat.

In this second story, as told to me, it is difficult to determine just who receives the greater blessing in a thrilling turkey hunt.

Jason, a well respected and much loved business owner and manger of a successful truck bed lining company is an avid hunter

though a swimming accident in his teen years leaves him unable to lift a gun. He aims and shoots his weapon by blowing with his mouth.

Kerry, the National Champion Turkey Calling winner, and Pretty Boy, a wooden turkey decoy with a real turkey feather tail which Kerry controls with the assistance of a reel and line, carry Jason on a hunt.

Jason tells me, "About thirty minutes before daybreak we set up in a blind close to a turkey roost. Soon there are sounds of gobbling on the roost and a few hens start calling."

Those of you who are turkey hunters know the excitement and the turkey sounds that rise that early morning, as Pretty Boy struts and Kerry calls and Jason waits. The rest of you can imagine with me.

Concealed, Kerry with his reel and line and Jason with his gun keep their eyes on Pretty Boy. A tom turkey explodes from the woods and "spurs" Pretty Boy. The line from the reel entangles the feet of the turkey and Pretty Boy winds up on top of him. He finally frees himself and attacks Pretty Boy again. All this time, Kerry, anticipating the shot, is trying to untangle the line as he hears Jason blowing to adjust the angle of his weapon.

Boom! The shot echoes.

Tears, unbidden, spring from Terry's eyes. It is a tremendous blessing for him to see Jason drop the turkey.

Jason's trophy, a ten inch beard, reminds of friends who share a talent and an interest.

These stories remind us that men use their God given talents and interests to enrich life for others. A spectrum of light gladdens many and evokes rich memories in hearts.

The Christian heart, the crystal heart, just scatters the light it receives and the end result is splendid.

Enjoy the family's celebration of Father's Day. May the ones who follow in your footsteps catch many spectrum moments as you reflect the light of the Lord Jesus Christ. - *Carolyn Collins*

Thanks to Kerry, Jason, and Steve for this story. Thanks to Denise for setting up the blind for Jason.

(I'm told the tom turkey on occasion drums. He spreads his tail feathers until his wing tips drag the ground and makes a deep sound much like the bong of a drum. "TOOM" and he spits. One of God's many unique creations!)

Alliance News Headlines




Teens Feed the Poor

[Tue, 20 May 2008 14:21:56 -0600]

Nearly \$10,000 was raised to feed the poor by members of WIRED, a youth group led by Alliance missionary Leanna Giesige, who serves in Burkina Faso. "When I finished [counting the money], I was dumbfounded," says Giesige of the students' generosity. "Due to God opening His storehouses through these teens, we were able to give grain to 600 families, which include approximately 5,000 people."

Although all of the estimated 20 metric tons of corn was distributed, nearly 200 hungry Burkinabé people lingered, begging for food to be shared with them. "It was one of the most heart-wrenching scenes of desperation," says Giesige, who seized the teachable moment. "I told my group that we need to praise the Lord that he chose us to feed 600 families and use the memory [of those who did not receive] as a reminder of the great need and the reason we sacrificed and gave."

Approximately 45 teens participated in the food distribution project, which was facilitated by CAMA and ACCEDES (a development arm of the C&MA national church) the relief arms of the U.S. C&MA and Burkina Faso national church, respectively. 

Myanmar Cyclone Relief

[Thu, 8 May 2008 11:40:09 -0600]

CAMA, the Alliance relief arm, will be making contact with C&MA church leaders in Myanmar to help with recovery efforts after a tropical cyclone ravaged the country. The death toll from a tropical cyclone that ravaged Myanmar could exceed 100,000, according to a U.S. envoy.

The figure is almost five times the 22,000 fatalities estimated by the Myanmar government. A United Nations official reports that nearly 2,000 square miles are still under water. Lack of clean water, food, and medical supplies have prompted fear of communicable disease. Yangon, the main city, and surrounding rice-growing areas have been the hardest hit. The C&MA of Myanmar has a Bible school there as well as ministries in neighboring villages.

"A compassionate response during a disaster tangibly expresses Christ's love and opens doors for other ministries," said Phil Skellie, director for CAMA. "Our initial goal is to raise \$250,000 to assist with providing clean water and food, essential housing supplies (cooking utensils, basic furnishings) and materials for rebuilding homes."

Because of the generosity by the Christian and Missionary Alliance church, the total giving for Hurricane Katrina relief, as of 5/9/06, was **\$2,120,667**. If you would like to donate to CAMA for the Myanmar Cyclone Relief efforts, you can donate online with a secure page, following this link - <http://www.camaseservices.org/priority/myanmarRelief.php>. To donate by check, mail the check directly to CAMA designating your check to: Priority Project 4-47414-46 Myanmar Cyclone Relief, or by phone, call the toll free number below.

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