

Family Matters

Church of Christ • Bayfield, Colorado
www.bayfieldchurch.org

June 17, 2007

A Testimony to Heroic Fatherhood

Written by Dr. Bernard Franklin

Recently, I was scheduled to update the Jackson County Legislature regarding our fathering program through the county prosecutor's office. In the program, first-time offenders can defer prosecution by attending life-skills classes, and I teach the one on fathering. The legislature was evaluating the program, and wanted my brief presentation to include a few words from one of the program's participants.

I am often asked about our progress in teaching urban African American men to be more engaged fathers. I believe we are making progress. I see it on the faces of the men I work with, and I hear it from their wives or the mothers of their children. But how could I prove it?

As it turned out, I could never have arranged a presentation like this one. That morning, the man I had scheduled to go with me had a last-minute conflict, and I couldn't locate his back-up.

A participant named Greg happened to be in the room where our class meets. I was confident he'd had a good experience and had learned a lot, but he was rather reserved in class. He wasn't my first choice, but out of desperation I asked him to join me. You should have seen the smile on his face. You've got to love that smile, with a big space where he's missing his top two front teeth. He agreed to go with me and talk about the program. His wife was available to join us, too.

The meeting was late in starting, and once it started the chambers were filled with commotion, even when people were addressing the legislature. Finally they called for our presentation. Talking above the noise, I gave a brief overview of the program, then asked Greg to share what the program meant him.

—Continued on the Back

Daily Bible Reading

	New Testament	Old Testament
Sunday	Matthew 10:16-42	Proverbs 11
Monday	Matthew 11:1-24	Proverbs 12
Tuesday	Matthew 11:25-12:13	Proverbs 13
Wednesday	Matthew 12:14-37	Proverbs 14
Thursday	Matthew 12:38-50	Proverbs 15
Friday	Matthew 13:1-23	Proverbs 16
Saturday	Matthew 13:24-43	Proverbs 17

Prayer Concerns

If you have someone in the prayer concerns, please take one of the yellow cards and write an update on the back so we will know how each are progressing and if they still need on the list. Put in the collection plate.

CHURCH

- God's Gang. We had 41 kids last Monday.

NEW

- Quin Overy had surgery on his foot last night in Farmington. He had multiple fractures.

CANCER

- Mona Bergey, Mac's friend
- Leroy Beaver
- Cindy Haga's dad, Roy Barz
- Clarence's dad
- Dan McClure's daughter, Sam
- Gene's mother, Terecia
- Mike Hately's mother, Fern

OTHER ILLNESSES

- June Fair
- Jane Rodgers, Doris Rodgers
- Oscar Russell, Linda E.'s dad
- Charlie & Lorraine Taylor, Katherine Penning's parents
- Jim Beaver, Leon's dad
- Angela Westbrook-surgery, June 20
- Wayne's mother, Inabelle
- Martha Worlick
- Becky Moyers brother, Jeff Watson
- Mary Vernon McGinnis
- Linda E.'s sister, Chris-knee replacement
- Chris, Makesha's friend-doing better
- Delbert Martin
- Stan Williams
- H. and Leone Nelson doing well.
- Nadine Smith-kidney
- Tim Ragan, friend of Ron & Mac
- Jason & Kate White
- Linda Burton
- Kenneth McCoy
- Duane Odom's sister, Durice-kidney transplant

- Jeannie Schmidt's mother, Patty Riecke-lung disease
- Tyler Yager
- Justin Watt's-lung problem
- Harold Fair—many health problems
- Jodi's friend, Ashley
- Monty's grandmother, Nadine Ford
- Gladys' friend, Mary Ann Adams
- Brian Wells, Sandra's son (kidney transplant)
- Hannah's great granddaughter (kidney)
- Eugene Westbrook
- Traci Bartalo
- Ginger's granddaughter, Ginny
- Carolynne & MJ's cousin Hewey

VARIOUS NEEDS

- Friend of Makesha's—personal problems
- Melba McCoy
- Ronnie & Stephanie's twins & family
- Wayne Culbreth
- Brian, Alisha, and Jeremy
- Juanita
- Howard and Lucile

PREGNANCIES

- Jessica Pennington-August
- Kami Koenig-November
- Angelas' daughter, Rosalee Jones
- Shasta Pontine-December
- Alisha Reynolds-December

MILITARY

- Dylan (Iraq)
- Bob and Sue Deitz grandson, Andrew
- Joseph, Wayne's cousin (Iraq)
- Monty's nephew, Nathan Harris (Iraq)

-Continued from the Front

Greg walked up to the microphone and immediately started crying. He lost it big time. He said, "This fathering class has meant a lot to me. It has really helped me understand how important my role is as a father. I have learned how to be there for my children, how to support them, how to take care of them."

He was fighting back tears with every word, and by now the chambers had grown silent except for Greg's sniffing. "I have improved so much as a father that my kids gave me this card. Let me read it to you:

My Dad is My Hero

*The world has many heroes
Who have won a world of fame.
Heroes who have given their all
To win in life's great game.
But of all the famous heroes
That our changing world has had,
There's not a one I look up to
Or admire more than my dad.
To me, my dad's a hero,
Though he'd turn away from praise.
He's heroic in his quiet strength
And in his gentle, giving ways.
He may not make the headlines.
You won't see him on TV.
But I think my dad is everything
A hero ought to be.
He always keeps his promises.
On that I can depend.
He's loyal to me, no matter what,
And he'll always be my friend.
So when I think of heroes,
And the great things that they've done,
I feel the way that I've always felt-
My dad's the greatest one.*

"This is what my kids say about me now," Greg said, "but let me read to you what I wrote to my father." Greg's tears continued as he read about a man who wasn't there for him, who didn't include him in activities or make him feel special. Now people all over the room were wiping their tears away.

To our fathers, Happy Father's Day. You indeed play a key role in the well being of your children.



Chapin's Corner

E-Mail: guitar_dad1@msn.com

The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament says that the Hebrew word for father is used 1191 times. Most of these refer to a literal father. What interested me was some of the other ways the word is used. Job says he was a "father to the poor," as he took care of them. He was a deliverer. Eliakim would be a "father" to the people of Jerusalem as he took Shebna's place as a high official in Hezekiah's court. It was a title given to prophets, priests, and kings as they led and advised the people.

What is a father? He is a protector, leader, and advisor. Myles Munroe, preacher and author, suggests that within the Hebrew word for father is the idea of "source." That does go well with the picture painted in scripture of the role a father plays within a family. Source has the idea of "beginning," but it can also have the idea of "one that initiates." Husbands are to take on as role as "head" in the marriage relationship. Parents are to be the authority figures in the home (father and mother). As this picture comes together, a father has a strong initiating role to play in the family (not talking dictator here, but plug back in the leader, protector, advisor aspect of father.)

Do you get the picture that "father" is much more than just a guy who can procreate? Spreading seed does not make a father. But rather a father is one who sees to the needs of his family and indeed provides for their growing to maturity through training and admonition (see Ephesians 6:4). He takes the lead. May God bless our fathers.

-Love, Gene

CAMP SESSIONS

SESSION 1: July 8-13, Ages 9-11, Director: *Tyson Kalisz*, (970) 382-2779 • tysonkalisz@yahoo.com

SESSION 2: July 15-21, Ages 11-14, Director: *Jeff Foster*, (970) 565-3631 • jefffoster@fone.net

SESSION 3: July 22-28, Ages 14-18, Director: *Roy Worley*, (806) 720-8698 • roy.worley@lcu.edu

Campers are asked to provide a donation of \$60.00 to attend a summer session at Four Corners Encampment.

Activities



- God's Gang Monday. All staff please be at the building by 8:15 for a staff meeting & devo.
- The Serenity Group (Spiritual Recovery Fellowship) meets Monday evenings at 7:00.
- Wednesday Night Meals 6:00. This week is potluck.
- Cortez Ladies Retreat-Saturday, Sept. 15. More info to follow.
- Camp Sessions Are Coming!!! We have a few forms. You can print your own by going to <http://www.4cornerscamp.org/07CamperApp.pdf>

Church of Christ

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Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:00 A.M.
Worship 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday:

Ladies Bible Class . 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00 P.M.
Devotional 7:45 P.M.

Servants

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 4:5, NIV)

Elders

Harvey Cundiff, Ian Fair, and Mark Huffmyer

Deacons

Monty Cundiff, Mike Hatley, Dick Holway, Joe Layton, Bart Moyers, Ron Penning, Lance Taylor, and Frank Van Tassel

Ministers

Gene Chapin 884-9280
Doug Hooten 884-2549