

Dad, equip your children for the real world

Turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children. Luke 1:17 NASB

Research shows the results of the 'dad deficit'. Too many children today are growing up without a father's input. And as a result they end up making poor life, relationship and marriage choices. So how does a dad equip his children for life in the real world? 1) Know what they're up to. Get to know what makes them tick. Ask what subjects they enjoy in school, and which ones they're struggling with. Learn who their friends are; who they spend time with at break and after school. Try to listen and learn. Take them out occasionally for breakfast or a hamburger; they'll feel like royalty spending one-to-one time with Dad! 2) Teach them to stand tall. A tragedy of their young world is the increasing suicide rate because of playground bullying. Teach your kids to stand up for themselves. Teach them respect, and how to protect themselves by speaking up appropriately in class when they're unclear about the lesson, or to courageously say what they believe. Teach them assertiveness in confronting unfair treatment. Children who become 'punch bags' are set up to be victimised! 3) Give them an example. However accomplished your 'preaching' skills may be, unless you're 'walking the walk' your children only hear one thing: 'Blah, blah, blah.' You can tell them it's important to be healthy and active, but if you're a couch potato inhaling bags of crisps and watching endless football matches, they're not convinced. Set an example by getting fit, pursuing a healthy lifestyle, activities and interests, and watch them think how 'cool' it is to be like Dad! 4) Alert them to the dangers of having a sense of entitlement. Yes, they need parents who express unconditional love for them. But some of us think our children can do no wrong—even when they do! Consequently they grow up having unrealistic expectations and a distorted view of how life works. Everybody gets a scorecard in life, and it records both our wins and our losses. Let your children know that we all make mistakes. Failing to recognise that just makes them self-deceived and sets them up for heartache. Children learn from failure how to deal with disappointment; it prepares them for later life when things don't go their way. 5) Teach them the truth about death—yours and theirs. The Bible says, '...it is appointed unto men once to die...' (Hebrews 9:27 AKJV). Let them know that death is universally ordained and not a form of divine punishment. Tell them that life, however long, is a gift to be maximised, and heaven is a family reunion not to be missed. The death of a friend or loved one can be an opportunity to diminish their fears and equip them to handle loss, grief and recovery. 6) Show them why you married their mother. It's the most formative relationship in their early lives; one that will influence who they ultimately become, their choice of a partner, and their future happiness. When they see you loving their mother, treating her like a queen, and giving her consideration and honour, they'll admire, appreciate, and emulate their awesome dad!

Courtesy of UCB "Word for Today"



Hollybush Newsletter September - October 2015



Jim's Jottings

Welcome to these two new months of challenge and blessing, although we also need to remember the past weeks with awe, wonder and thanksgiving. What a mighty God we serve and thank you, Lord, for expressing your wonderful ways in a form inexplicable at times. Preceding camp a



friend from Lancashire phoned to say that "the forthcoming Family Camp would exceed anything we saw or heard in the 1980's", and new things did happen. Also the faith levels in the weekly prayer meetings increased. And thank you, Heavenly Father for anticipation revealed in action. First of all, the west balcony was almost full first night. After a few worship songs, a total silence descended on the whole assembly for about 20 minutes. Awesome!!! Then the ministry of Matthew Murray as he shared his miracle life-story. Saturday evening, part-way through the service, a thirteen year old lad dashed to the platform from the balcony, jumping up and down, saying "I'm healed. I've been healed" - two days previously he had been playing football and affected his Achilles tendon! - and then jumped off the stage onto that same leg!! These two "happenings" set a high expectancy level for the whole week.

In the fields, it's harvest-time 2015. Have you noticed that as soon as the fields are cleared of the corn that the farmer begins to stir the soil again? To root out weeds and prepare for another crop. A reminder for each of us to do likewise in our own lives, or the "weeds" will establish and multiply.

Jim

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Programme: September - October 2015

September

- 4th Steve Redman - York
- 11th Rob Parker & Team - Bridlington
- 18th David Hathaway - Dewsbury
- 25th Bill Wilson - Metro New York USA

October

- 2nd Terry Eckersley - Alfreton
- 9th Peter Cavanna - Mathersey Hall
- 16th Heritage Gospel Singers
- 23rd David Schofield & team - South Shields
- 30th Team from Horizons Harrogate

COME AND BE EXPECTANT!

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday Evening at 7.30pm - Come believing!

Craft and Chatter- Come and Join in!!

Wednesdays 1pm - 4pm. Recommences 9 September

Answered Prayer

I have prayed for *boldness*. The Lord has given me this. I now go to whoever the Lord leads me to and pray with them. I feel so loved and Blessed!

Thank you LORD for answered Prayer!!!

Prayer Requests

Please prayer for Mike & Joyce Stewart, Peter & Maureen Elliott, Stuart & Christine Dawling

China Update

Thank you to all who gave at Camp for Bibles for China. We were amazed to receive a cheque from Barrow Christian Fellowship for £600, they have been very faithful over a number of years in giving for Bibles. A further £450 in cash and cheques and £311.78 for cards sold from Margaret, making a total of £1361.78 and bringing us to a new total of £97286. Praise the Lord we are well on the way to £100,000!! We have since sent a further £1000 for Bibles to be printed in China.

We read recently the heart cry of a regional Christian Leader. "Over the years since I first heard the Gospel and became an evangelist I have often cried out to the Lord about our need for Bibles so the many new Christians can be strong and fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ. Tragically, many times when we have led people to the Lord and not been able to provide them with a Bible, some have given up the faith. We need thousands of Bibles for everyone in our churches to have their own copy. The Bibles you provide have been an answer to our prayers and we thank the Lord for you".

On their behalf and ours we want to thank you all. The Holy Spirit is still moving mightily in China and thousands are added to the Kingdom, but they each need a Bible.

Peter and June

A Smile

A smile is a light in the window of a face which shows that the heart is at home.

A smile is the lighting system of the face and the heating system of the heart.

All people smile in the same language.