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FROM THE EDITORS

Fatherhood is one of the most controversial topics today. To be a father or not to be a father has been the question. There is, of course, good reason for this controversy, given the alarmingly high rate of absentee fathers, largely in the African-American populace. Many young men are growing up without a father or positive male figure, which makes their lives increasingly hard, and as a result, makes them unprepared to be proper fathers themselves.

We need our fathers in our households – taking care of business, but not just financially. A father must be present in every way to make a real difference in the lives of his children.

In this issue, enjoy our Father's Day gallery and read personal accounts and testimonies on the men who father and children who are fathered.

Society will not say it, but we should: We need our Dads.

Happy Father's Day to You!!!

CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS



CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS













CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS













Courtesy of Maureen Williams





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Happy Birthday!			1 Vinell Ingram Natasha John	2 Karen Salley Mary Stephens	3 Viola Bagley June Hendricks Julie Lambert Desiya Pineiro Tanisha Twiggs	4 Delia Bynum Shirley Rhodes Yvette Wells
5 Mi-Asia Flowers Hattie Fowler Shaniqua Oliver	6 Briyannah Atkins Sarah Brinson Geraldine Scott	7 Nydia Southerland	8 Anthony Meltoir	9 Sheila Barksdale Millicent Moore Franklyn Phillip, Jr.	10 Sharon Gordon Kashanna Legette	11 Roger Dixon Sheila Fofana Melvin Lee Joel Pierre Louis
Kuwan Bell Monet Daniels Robert Davenport Aletha Jackson Krystal Pizarro	13 Natoya Worrell	Joan Hosti-Seceley Vivian Mason Norma Mayo	15 Mazel Davis Carol Jackson Jane Staley	16	17 Carol Lee Deanna Williams	18 Yvonne Austin Wanda Boone Fantasia Hall Ophelia Perry James Powell Eric Smith Jimmie L. Smith, Jr.
19 Daijah Odom Michelle White	20 Lawrence Bookard Monique Felder Dana Jordan Ben McCollum	21 Carol Griffith Earlene Sivels	22 Pleasant Porter	Russell Evans Faith Goff Tonisha Jones Winston Quashie	24 Hezekiah Austin	25 Mary Cooper Louise DeFreitas Secenthia Rountree
26 Adrienne Gardner Therese Joseph Bonnie Price Mitchell Reddick Lawrence Williams	27 Barbara Evans Carolyn Walton	28 Shirley Holliday Mary Hutchinson Mellissa A. Lopez	29	30 Jeremy Hills Bridget Hopkins Vernart Jenkins		*

WORD OF THE MONTH



(pa-truh-moh-nee) noun. inheritance

TIP OF THE MONTH

When grilling different meats (poultry, beef, pork, etc.), cook one meat at a time or make distinct separations on the rack to avoid cross contamination. Use different utensils to handle each meat.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.

*Proverbs 23:24 (NIV)



I may not be blood but, I have been selected by the Blood.

I have been chosen to make a positive difference in someone's life and I pray that I have done just that!

In both Christian and secular views, a godparent tends to be an individual chosen by the parents to take an interest in the child's upbringing and personal development, and to take care of the child should anything happen to the parents."

This is what I was told and learned, as I grew up with the greatest godparents in the world. I mean, that literally I do not think there were godparents like mine. They treated me like gold - taking me places, buying me the baddest suits one could wear to church in those days, teaching me life lessons, and going the extra mile to help my parents bring me up to be an awesome person. (I know most of you would agree, right? LOL!) And when it was necessary, they did not spare the rod!

We should salute and honor THE GODFATHER men that stand in the gap, sometimes alongside fathers, and sometimes alone. These men have taken time out to be there for a boy or girl to help shape them into productive teens and adults.

I have had so many young people that God has allowed me to mentor and share in their upbringing. I am called Godfather, dad, brother and uncle. My "god kids" and I, have walked through paths of green and dried grass, through ups and downs, and it has been such a blessing to have shared these times with them all.

Some of my favorite and funniest moments as a god Dad was when I did a trip to Central Park and one of the boys got out of hand, I found myself on top of the fence (granted I have a fear of heights) and asked myself 'how in the world did I get up here?' The next thing I knew, the boy's mother tells me that I am his godfather. He straightened right up after that encounter!

When my mother passed away and I was sobbing uncontrollably, a little girl came up to me and said "Brother, stop crying. I'll be your mother." And the rest was history.

Another occasion, I'm reminded one of my boys that he was a rebel <u>without</u> a cause. After that, we became close. He made me godfather to his first born.

We did so many trips here and there; sleepovers at my home, trips to the store just to get ice cream for a whole group of kids, sitting around sharing jokes and laughing about absolutely nothing kept me young at heart! Many times we would just get the church van and spend almost all night in the city, roller or ice skating, eating White Castle or Mickey D's, going to the movies, the museum, the zoo, you name it!

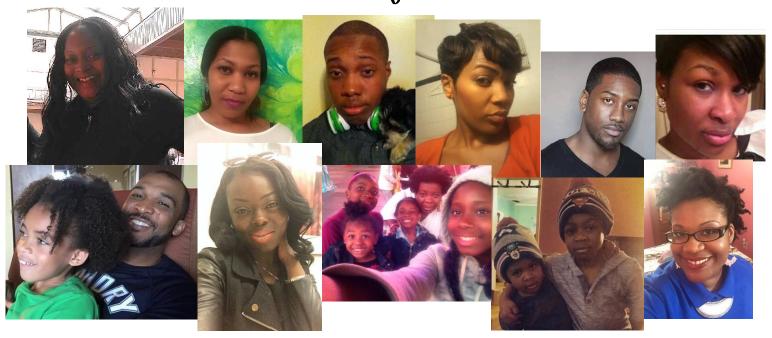
Parents would always say to me that as long as they were with you, I know they were alright......(I have to give much credit to Mary Sanders and the Late Deacon Dorothy Fisher who always chaperoned with me and were great mentors for our boys and girls).

As I look back on this assignment that God has allowed me to serve, I feel truly blessed that the fruits of my labor show in so many, as they often remind me how much of a difference I made in their lives. I also attended a lot of open school days and nights, for one godchild in particular. When they saw me coming, they would say 'Here comes the dad, he'll get to the bottom of it.' I was recently asked to share in Grandparents day for one of our church's families which I immensely enjoyed. At one point, a teacher came up to me and said, "Which grandchild is yours?" I proudly pointed over there! (Can you picture that? grandpa? lol) Now, I'm adopting that family's children also!

Can I encourage you, old or young, to take some time and share in a child's life? Express your love. Listen, encourage, discipline, and care for a young one. Be an example and a guiding light.

God has blessed me with so many young people to love and care for, and while I may not be biologically related, I am still a dad. I am THE GODFATHER.

A few of my God Kids



DAD'S GOT MY BACK

BY ELIZABETH DUPLESSY

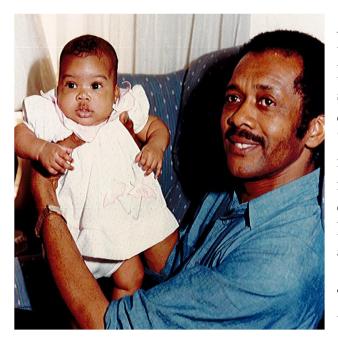
I am driving home from work one day and I see this tall man *carrying his little girl* on his shoulders. Most frequently, I may see dads and (moms on rare occasion), carrying their small children on their shoulders, but for some reason or another, this one stood out to me.

Maybe it was the way in which this dad carried his child. He had his right arm wrapped around her waist, supporting her back and his left arm just swinging in the air as he walked. He did not hold her arms, the way I see a lot of fathers doing it. Yet, she was secure and I can tell she felt that way. Albeit several meters in the air, the little girl seemed so confident, as if already a master equestrian. Never did she flinch or tightly grab her father's head out of fear.



Maybe this father and daughter duo stood out because they reminded me of me and my Dad. I was nostalgic when I thought about once being her age and my Dad would sit me on his shoulders or the first time he flung me in the air and I was scared......until he caught me. I knew then, at that moment, that Dad had my back.

I realize that being a father is a momentous obligation. It truly is difficult to be one of two very important people a child turns to, for his or her every need. I know it must be extremely hard to always keep yourself checked and balanced because a little one is looking, registering, and emulating your every move.



And while many may see fatherhood as obligatory, there is nothing better than making your child feel like it's not. The *simple moments* that my Dad and I share - laughing together about a silly commercial or when I say "bonjour, bonjour" and he tells me "oh, I see you are fluent in French now" -these moments are everything for me. They are perfect moments because they are real. My Dad has displayed love and care for me. He taught me that hard work always pays off and has supported me in all my dreams and endeavors.

The truth is that, fatherhood is not perfect, but when your *Dad's got your back*, well.....it kind of is!



FATHERHOOD RE-IMAGINED

BY WAYNE JORDAN

First, let me start out by saying, Thank you God for the opportunity to serve. As former editor of the Berean Broadcaster, I am extremely proud of how well Sister Elizabeth is doing with the newsletter. I hope and pray that she and her co-laborers continue to bring the news that is important to our church and community.

This is Father's Day season and as a father of eight, I would like to tell you what it means to me to be a Dad. Growing up, I could never imagine that I would have so many children but, God made it possible for me. I am proud of all of my children and how they have become God-fearing men and women. I believe it is important to maintain open communication with your children. In addition to calling, I communicate via e-mail or text every now and then. I try to make it my business to text all of my children to just say "I love you".

(They do not seem to answer the phone calls anyway⊕.) As a father, I feel it is my responsibility to give my children all that they need but, not necessarily all that they want. It is my job to teach them and show them how they should be treated and how to treat and respect others. I also want to set the bar high for any young man that might come along for my daughters and show my sons how to treat a woman, as well as, their children. I make it my business to get all of my children together at least once a year so that we can keep our family bonded, teaching the next generation the importance of family. My children may not always agree with one another but, there is a love between them that has been instilled and cannot be broken. I find great joy in knowing that no matter what, we are family and I am proud to be their dad.

ASK MY DAD

Harold Hills, Jr. is a father of four to Krystianni, Kyrie, Jeremy, and Jahleel. He has been raising kids for over twenty years, so he must know a thing or two about fatherhood. I conducted a one-on-one interview to get his insight.

BY JAHLEEL HILLS W/HIS FATHER, HAROLD

How many kids did you want growing up?

"I wanted a large family."

What was the scariest moment of being a father?

"As a father, you are responsible for a young individual's life. The way you raise this child will affect their entire future. Raising children gets easier only with time."

What's the hardest thing about being a father?

"Responsibility and being a backburner."

Do you think it's harder raising children in NYC?

Yes, because there are more people – but, then again, there are benefits too."

How important is it for a young man to have a father his household?

"Boys need their fathers to become young men."

How did your father prepare you for fatherhood?



From left; Jeremy, Krystianni, Harold, Kyrie, and Jahleel

"He showed me that being there for your kids is an important part of their lives."

Fathers play a huge role in our society. The biggest lesson my father taught me was that there is nothing I cannot do, it just takes hard work. Having a father means that there is someone for me to run to for advice and who already knows what it is like to grow up a young African American man. - Jahleel

RONALD J. BRIDGES

AGE:

58 years

OCCUPATION:

Deputy Director of Administration in Human Services

Licensed Psychotherapist



Hunter College, Masters in Social Work, 1988

New York Theological Seminary, Masters in Divinity, 2009

LOCATION:

Brooklyn, New York

FAVORITE MOMENT:

Praying and ministering to a mother and her teenage daughter (who was heading down the wrong path).

It is always a blessing to go outside the scope of my job, especially when God is brought into the lives of those in need of help.

RONALD'S ADVICE:

"Be true to who you are and do not limit your potential by thinking you cannot do something."





A DAY FOR DAD

It is soon time to dust off your sun hats and pull out those cool linens because SUMMER is nearly upon us. But before we dive into summer, let's enjoy the last days of Spring in the most amazing way possible – *CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS!!!*

Each year, we take time out to show special lot to our fathers and father-figures for all that they do for us.

Remember that grooming isn't just for us gals.....this Father's Day, give *DAD* something unexpected that he will love.

Expect the unexpected, Fellas!

Skin

Gift your Dad with great skin care products. *Marlowe* is a wonderful skin care line and can be found at Target. Not only does this product take care of all the skin's needs, it also is great because for every Marlowe item purchased, soap is distributed to people at risk for hygiene-related illnesses in partnership with Clean the World®.



Pedicures

Sandal Season is here! And yes, you too men, must have your toes on point! Take Dad on a trip to the *nail salon* and enjoy a nice and relaxing day.



Body

Massages: Guys get stressed too! It's as simple as that. Groupon has amazing deals on massages.

New Clothes: Perhaps, it's time for Dad to update his wardrobe. Start him off with new ties, as well as, pocket squares and socks. *The Tie Bar* has an amazing selection to choose from.



There are so many things to do this Father's Day to find new and creative ways to honor our Dads. You can pick one option or better yet, try them all!

ENJOY YOUR DADS, ENJOY THE DAY...
I WISH ALL DADS A VERY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

Until Next Time Berean Beauties,

K. Hills



Clues	Name the Father or Son
Father of Cain and Abel	
Father of Solomon	
Chosen Son of Abraham	
Father of Jesus	
Father of Joseph (Old Testement)	
Father of Shem/Ham/Japheth	
Father of Enos	
Son of Elkanah	
Son of Kish	
Father of David	
Father of disciples James and John	
Father of John the Baptist	
Father of Eleazar	
Son of Nun	
Son of Monoah	
Father of Rehoboam	
Father of Ishmael	
Father of Canaan	
Son of Boaz	
Son of Saul	

Cooking with Coleen

What you'll need:

Cooking spray

1 pound extra lean ground beef

½ cup uncooked quick-cooking oatmeal

1 medium carrot, shredded

1/4 finely chopped onion

1/4 cup egg substitute

1 tsp garlic powder

¼ tsp salt

1/4 tsp pepper

¼ cup barbecue sauce

1 1/2 tbsp light brown sugar

1 tbsp molasses

2 tsp apple cider vinegar

BARBECUE MINI MEAT LOAVES

Lightly spray the grill rack with cooking spray. Preheat grill on medium. In a large bowl, use your hands or a spoon to combine the beef, oatmeal, carrot, onion, egg, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Divide the mixture into 4 parts. Roll each into a ball, then shape into mini meat loaves.

Grill for 3 to 4 minutes on each side (12-16 minutes total).

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, whisk together the remaining ingredients.

Cook over medium – low heat for 4 to 5 minutes or until sugar is dissolved and the mixture is heated through. Whisk occasionally.

Spoon over the meat loaves.

Serves 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES!!! CLASS OF **2016**

!

Youth Season is around the corner.

Show up & Show out for our young people!

****July 2016****



Who is a Father? by Alicia Fabre

A father is someone who is loyal to his family
- a man who stands on his own two feet and
protects those he loves. He does not only
partake in the good times, fun and excitement,
but also creates it. A father is caring, kind,
and surrounds his family and friends with all
the love he has to give. Above all, a father is
someone who loves God and knows that only
with Him, anything is possible.

Happy Father's to all fathers. God Bless you!

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