



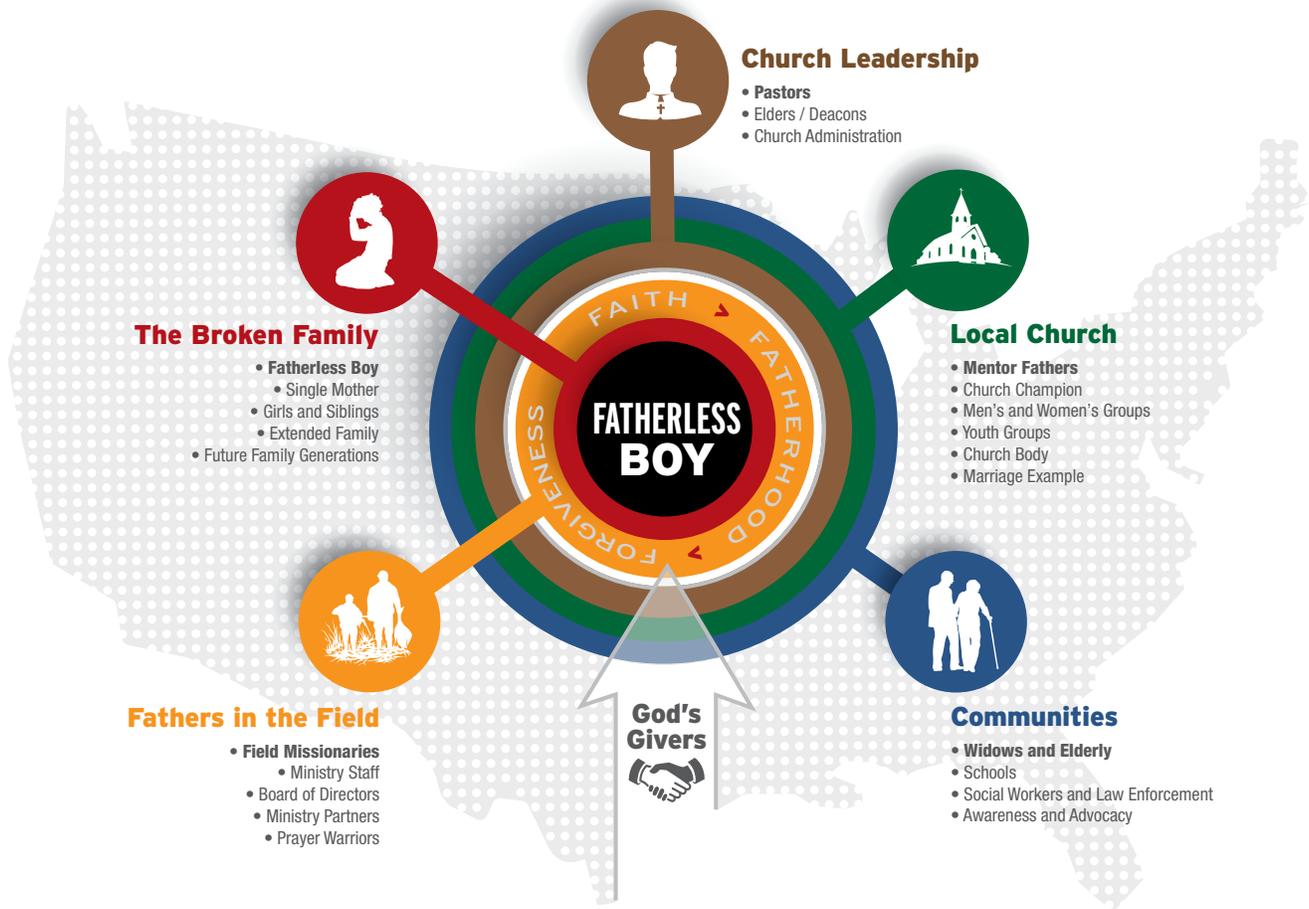
MENTOR FATHER'S HANDBOOK



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO THE HEART OF GOD, AND
Defending the cause of the fatherless...
Isaiah 1:17

The Great American Rescue Mission™

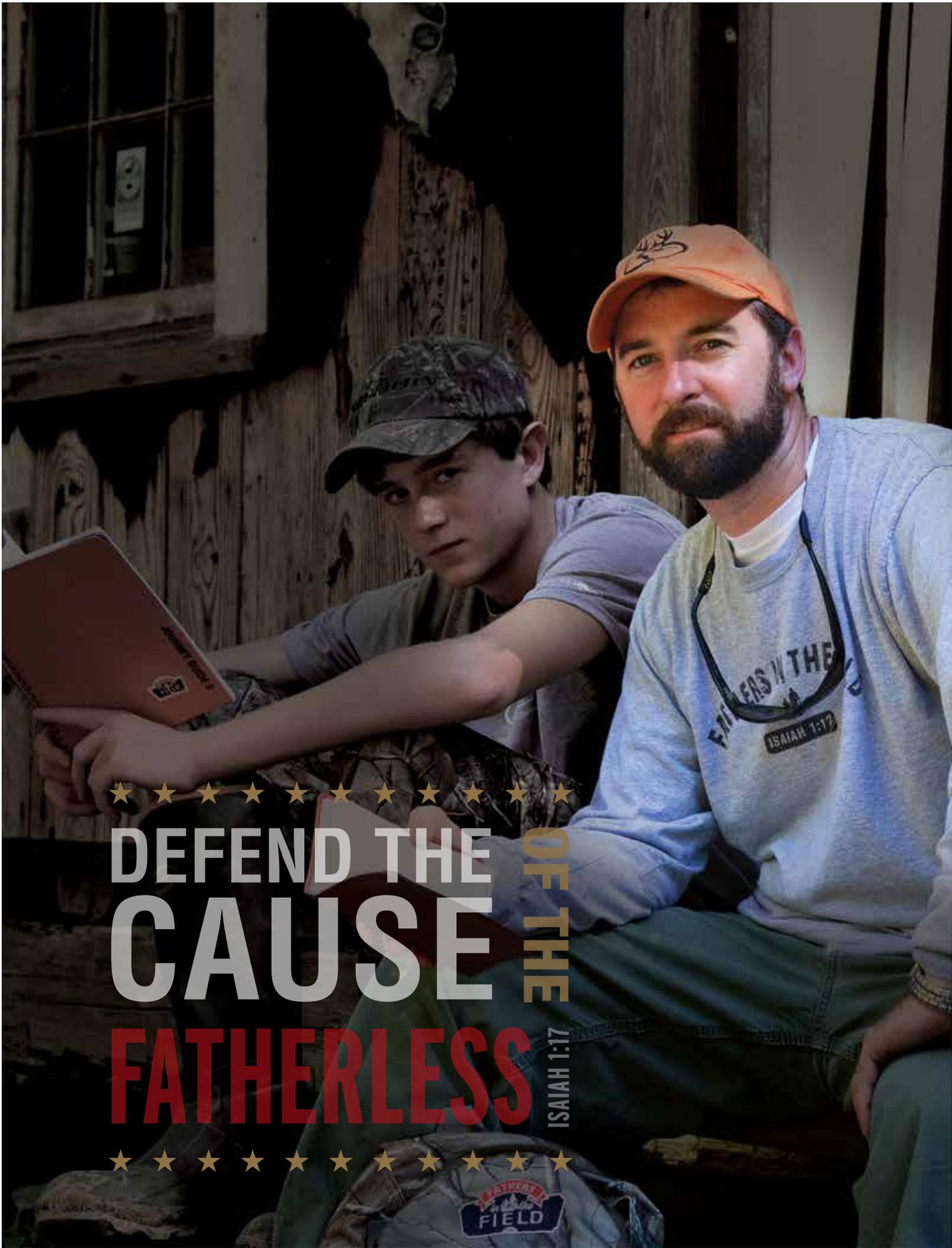
Fathers in the Field mobilizes the local church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in an interrelated ecosystem of stakeholders that impact one another and are united in coming alongside the fatherless boy.



Love in Action

“We can heal America’s broken heart, one fatherless boy at a time.”

John Smithbaker - Founding Servant



DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE

FATHERLESS



ISAIAH 1:17



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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU



On behalf of *Fathers in the Field* and the abandoned boys in your community, we would like to congratulate you for embarking on one of the most rewarding journeys of your life.

Throughout the Scripture God calls Himself the Champion of the fatherless and the widow and commands His people to be the same. The plight of the fatherless strikes at the very center of God's heart; these people have the greatest need for healing in our society and so God calls His people to protect and guide them.

Knowing this makes living in America an unbelievably sobering experience as fatherlessness is tearing at the fabric of our country. It is the #1 societal issue that is decimating the family in America. Satan is doing all he can to separate us from God and destroying the family is his primary tactic. **But be encouraged!** Together we can rise to the challenge and face the problems and brokenness in our own communities.

God knows what He is doing and shares with us how to combat Satan's schemes. We must only listen to His heart and follow the instructions He so clearly provides - over 100 times in the Bible! The issue is solvable and right before us – directly within the reach and responsibility of the local Christian church by intentionally and proactively **“Defending the cause of the Fatherless...” Isaiah 1:17.**

By listening to God's heart, faithfully following His mandate, and using His biblical model of rescue, we have built a successful and field-proven biblical ministry solution to forcefully push back against our broken culture. So today, you are choosing to imitate our Heavenly Father and stand shoulder to shoulder with those who refuse to allow Satan's schemes to go unchecked.



God loves involving us in His Kingdom work, allowing us to see and trust Him in the crusade for righteousness and defense of those closest to His heart: the fatherless.

Together with your Pastor(s), Elders, fellow Church Champions, Mentor Father(s) and congregation you will change the world for the kingdom of the King!

You will challenge and engage the men in your church – many of whom are either sitting idle or whose great hearts, faith, and experience aren't being effectively put to work by the church.

You will champion and challenge the local church to be the body of Christ. Like Christ, the local church is chartered to give, love, lead, and bind up the broken-hearted.

You will be a practical blessing to others who desperately need help, like fatherless boys, single mothers, widows, and the elderly.

And you will directly help communities by impacting the fountainhead of an epidemic problem that commands a lion's share of its resources and social services.

Fathers in the Field is providing you and your church with 1) a clear understanding of the crisis of fatherlessness 2) the training and tools needed to restore and revitalize the fatherless in your community 3) the means to be a unifying force bringing Glory to Jesus.

May our gracious Heavenly Father lead you, the Son guide you, and the Holy Spirit equip you for the challenges that lie ahead. It is our earnest prayer that God richly bless you and your congregation as you seek to imitate Him as Defenders of the fatherless.



INTRODUCTION TO THE MINISTRY



It all starts with an intentional commitment into the life of a
FATHERLESS BOY BY A GODLY MAN.

“The most critical need of the church at this moment is men, bold men, free men. The church must seek, in prayer and much humility, the coming again of men made of the stuff of which prophets and martyrs are made.”

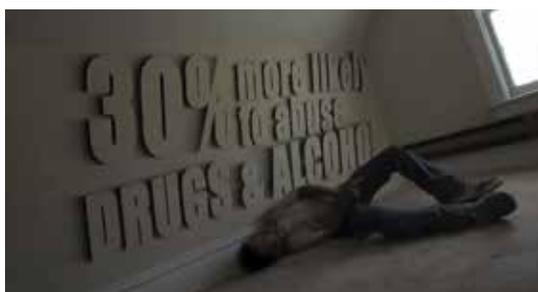
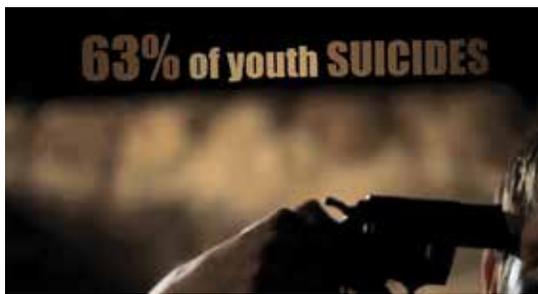
— A.W. Tozer

FATHERLESS AMERICA



“The family is God’s chosen institution. Before communities and before the country, the family defines how we can live in health, harmony and truth. Sadly, fatherlessness is tearing at the fabric of our families and our country. It is the **#1 societal issue** that is destroying the family in America. Satan knows what he is doing. By robbing a boy of his father, his hero and primary leader, Satan can steer the boy away from his Heavenly Father. In response, the Church needs to rise up and face this issue head-on.”

John Smithbaker - Founding Servant



The days of the mission field only being somewhere off in a distant land - are over. The days when we'd simply write checks and then, on the way to the post office, step over the carnage all around us - are over. **Together we can rise to the challenge** and face the problems and brokenness caused by fatherlessness in our own communities.

50% of America's children – over 25 million kids under 18 years of age – are growing up in homes without their fathers. They live in every community and within reach of every church. That means more than 12 million boys are growing up fatherless in our nation – many of them carrying deep, damaging wounds of abandonment that threatens them and society. This is more than just one of many social problems we face. It is an epidemic that is growing exponentially with each generation.

The Facts:

The destruction of the family leads its broken members to be destructive themselves.

- 72% of adolescent murders are committed by fatherless children.
- 85% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes.
- 67% of prison inmates come from fatherless homes.
- 85% of juveniles in reform institutions are fatherless.
- 30% are more likely to abuse drugs and/or alcohol.
- Twice as likely to drop out of school.
- 11 times more likely to exhibit violent behavior at school.
- Dramatically more likely to commit suicide.
- More likely to engage in early sexual activity.

These boys are angry, lost, wounded and emotionally crippled, making them more dangerous to themselves and others. They carry those wounds forward and fail to develop into the men that God designed them to be. **Generational fatherlessness is eroding the foundation of the family** - society's backbone. Thus fatherless boys become fatherless men who recreate these wounds in their children as the vast majority will abandon their own children.

INSECURE LONELINESS MALICE CONFUSION PERFECTION DESPAIR POVERTY

The emotional wounds that afflict fatherless boys can be devastating. From retarded maturation to sociopathy to suicide, these boys are suffering. Boys who have been abandoned by their father and lack a solid Christian male mentor can develop a seriously warped self-image and worldview. Even worse, the fatherless wound can cause soul-wrenching doubt to the love and salvation of the Heavenly Father and feeling of hopelessness.

The most common of these are:

ANGER

Emotional fury controls my life. I will never, ever forgive my father.

LONELINESS

I feel alone, even when others are around.

MALICE

Bad behavior is my way of getting attention; no one really understands my wound.

CONFUSION

I am tired and broken by all the different men, dads, and boyfriends in my life.

FEAR

I am irrationally afraid. My dad is not home to protect us.

PERFECTION

I'm constantly trying to earn my father's attention and approval.

POVERTY

My future is bleak because dad left the family and home behind.

PRISON

Incarceration may be my future because dad broke his promise and left the home.

INSECURE

I can't trust anymore because of too many lies and broken commitments.

DESPAIR

I've lost all hope in myself, my family, and that my dad is coming back for me.

When a father abandons his child, a boy naturally says, "I'll never forgive you!" Our society says, "Forget about him! You don't need a Dad!" But Jesus says, "Forgive him, so that your father in heaven may forgive your sins." (Mark 11:25)

The only way to heal the wounds of fatherlessness is through the radical, counter-cultural truth of forgiveness.

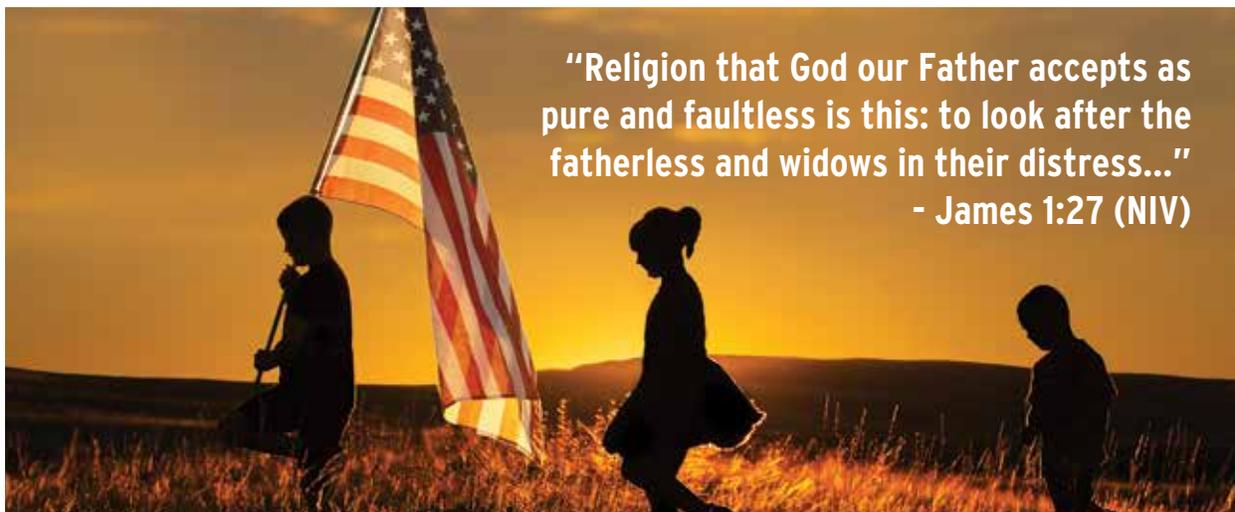
That means that each individual Church needs to have an intentional ministry that focuses on fatherless boys and helping them to heal. Not group events, yearly fishing on Father's Day, but a focused intentional ministry. This is not declaring other events as being bad, but they in themselves are not enough. A fatherless boy needs a man who is committed directly and solely to him, so he can say "My Mentor Father truly cares about me as a human being. He sees value in me!"

FATHERS IN THE FIELD

Defend The Cause Of The Fatherless... Isaiah 1:17



God calls Himself the champion of the fatherless and commands His people to do the same. This is a theme that occurs more than 100 times in Scripture and in many cases the refusal to obey resulted in destruction. Given this knowledge, our Heavenly Father will not tolerate inaction. We are called to help the fatherless, and now we can. *Fathers in the Field* is a non-profit, equipping ministry that trains and equips the local Church to “Call” and raise godly men to intentionally mentor the fatherless in their own community. It’s why the ministry was created.



**“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after the fatherless and widows in their distress...”
- James 1:27 (NIV)**

A Defender

What does it mean to be a Defender of the fatherless? Scripture paints a very clear picture.

As far back as Exodus, the people of God were commanded to defend the fatherless and the widow. These two are linked together because to be an orphan required only the loss of the father. The father’s role was to protect the children and teach them what was needed to be a productive member of the community. With the father gone the children and widow were left to the harshness of the world and so God provided for them through the extended family of the community. The people, especially the men, were to protect them from physical and spiritual harm. There were clear commands by God to feed them, protect their inheritance until they were of age to claim it, and to advocate for them in all disputes. God warned Israel that failure to protect, or worse, to exploit the fatherless would result in God being their enemy. The entire book of Isaiah is proof that when Israel exploited the fatherless God sent them into exile and held them accountable for their egregious treatment of the fatherless.

The New Testament echoes the Old Testament declaring that looking after the fatherless in their distress is a driving force in the love of God (James 1:27).

God defends the fatherless through His people, so to be Christian requires that we stand with and for the fatherless.

It is not a choice we get to decide to do, but a command that is integral to our becoming like Christ.

According to Scripture a Defender of the fatherless:

- Watches over them to ensure they are not taken advantage of in any capacity.
- They stand tall and seek to identify possible threats to the child before those threats come close enough to cause harm.
- The defender goes to court to ensure justice for the fatherless. They stand between the child and danger.
- They show them the love and grace of the Heavenly Father in word and deed.
- There must be a willingness to teach, train and prepare the fatherless child for adulthood and remain available until death takes either the defender or the fatherless person.
- They stand both intentionally one-on-one in the lives of the fatherless in their sphere of influence and work to protect all these children through the exercising of their rights as citizens.
- A true Christian will work tirelessly to defend the cause of those most in need, even at the cost of their own life.

FOUNDING SERVANT JOHN SMITHBAKER'S STORY



The first four decades of John's storyline reads like most men's. He fought hard in his quest for peace and contentment through success, financial gain and accomplishments. And, like many people today, he came from a broken home. There was a break in the cup. It didn't matter how hard and fast John tried to fill it up.

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13–14 (ESV)



He built a distinguished career as CEO of Brunton Group, a leading manufacturer of outdoor adventure products. During his 15-year tenure, John adeptly led the expansion of the Wyoming-based company, received accolades for bringing jobs back to Wyoming from overseas and garnered awards for his leadership and innovative product development.

As an avid outdoorsman working in the industry, it was a perfect intersect of John's passions and pursuits. Although he held the reins of an international conglomerate, he couldn't get a grip on his insatiable longing to reconcile the pain, rejection, and lack of approval from a father that deserted his family.

John endlessly struggled to make sense of his father choosing to leave the family when his mom was pregnant with him and his sister was three-years-old. The consequences of his father giving up his role as pastor, provider, and protector of the family wreaked havoc in John's boyhood and manhood. Outwardly, his success was envious, but inwardly, his struggles were not. He desperately wanted to leave the bitterness and anger behind and learn to forgive. It took until his 40th year.

That milestone year, John stopped chasing temporal things and embraced God's eternal truth about love and forgiveness for the first time. While driving a dark, dirt road near his home in Lander, WY in 2002, John cried out

to God. Over time and by God's grace, John began to heal from deep wounds inflicted by his father's absence. Exhaustion and frustration gave way to fulfillment and the assurance of God the Father's abiding love.

In 2005, John launched *Fathers in the Field* to share God's love with hurting boys dealing with the same abandonment issues he dealt with for so long. His goal is to help prevent the devastating cycle of earthly father abandonment before these boys become men by sharing their Heavenly Father's staying power, forgiveness, and faithfulness.



Seven years of balancing CEO and the growing demands of a National Ministry, God began to prompt John to lean into Him and submit to His calling. After some spiritual wrestling matches with God, John joyously surrendered knowing he was doing the right thing for all the right reasons. In the fall of 2012, John resigned from Brunton Outdoor to focus full-time on *Fathers in the Field's* outreach to some of the 12 million fatherless boys in the United States.

John's desire is to be a catalyst for the Kingdom by "defending the cause of the fatherless." He knows he cannot be compassionate from a distance. John's all in, ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work encouraging the church and men to make a stand for the fatherless in their community.

CO-FOUNDING SERVANT SCOTT MACNAUGHTON'S STORY



After being a pastor for 20 years, Scott MacNaughton finally had a conversion experience. Yes, he was a believer in the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ from an early age. Yes, Scott shared the love of Jesus Christ with his congregation. His focus was that he had so emphasized the “word” ministry of the Gospel that he felt he neglected the all-important “deed” ministry.



Nearly 30 years ago, Scott wrote his undergraduate thesis on a wilderness program's evangelistic outreach to fatherless boys. He knew 25 million children were going to bed without a father in the

home. Scott knew that 85% of juveniles in prison had been abandoned by their fathers. High School dropout, teen pregnancy, and suicide all correlate very highly with the incidences of being abandoned. Despite knowing all of this, he felt he and his church's ears were closed to the desperate cries to the abandoned boy. They were doing nothing to meet the "Number One" destructive social issue in our nation today.

God graciously changed all this when He brought John Smithbaker into Scott's life and his church. Shortly after becoming a Christian, God placed on John's heart the passion for rescuing abandoned boys and *Fathers in the Field* was born. *Fathers in the Field* has transformed Scott's ministry and enlivened his church. His church had become too inwardly focused, without a real plan to reach the lost in their community. The outdoor mentoring ministry has shown him that when a church is intentional in reaching the lost generation in their community that God will richly bless and open up opportunities for the Gospel that could not have been imagined. This ministry has engaged the men in their church in a powerful way through one-on-one mentoring; their women's ministry has come alongside the single moms and have made significant contributions into their lives; and, their diaconate has been reconnected with their biblical mandate to look after the widows and fatherless.

Scott has the distinct privilege of being the Co-founder and pastor of the founding church of *Fathers in the Field* and the champion for abandoned boys within his church. He has been able to assist in the development of the ministry and its national expansion. But, far and away, his greatest privilege has been the opportunity to mentor an abandoned boy and introduce him to the Heavenly Father and to His Son, Jesus Christ. One of the greatest joys in his Christian life was when his Field Buddy (the abandoned boy) committed his life to Jesus Christ at the end of their first year together and then getting to baptize him shortly afterwards.



Scott's passion was personal and he heard the call to introduce *Fathers in the Field* to individuals and churches. That is why he stepped down as the Senior Pastor of his church in 2008 to spearhead

expansion in other churches nationwide. As Christ's Church, we must not stand idly by and let Satan destroy the next generation of our boys. He is absolutely confident that, through *Fathers in the Field*, God will transform every church and individual who become obedient to God in "defending the cause of the fatherless" (Isaiah 1:17)

In January 2013, the founding church called Scott to return to be their pastor. Scott has heeded that call of God and continues to assist *Fathers in the Field* through writing, speaking engagements, and support cultivation. He also continues to personally mentor a Field Buddy. Scott will always be grateful to God for the opportunity to serve His church through the national expansion of *Fathers in the Field* and helping Churches and others respond to the cries of help and prayers of the fatherless boy.

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

The Trusted Advisor:

The Regional Missionary for *Fathers in the Field* brings a wealth of knowledge and training to the local church to fulfill the need to be a vocal and active Advocate in the lives of the fatherless and widow. These men begin by investing time convicting and inspiring the pastor to intentionally engage his community on the biblical mandate to defend the fatherless. After the Pastor commits to defending the fatherless, the Regional Missionary becomes a trusted advisor to the Pastor and his congregation. This support comes in the form of training and advising. *Fathers in the Field* Ministry will raise support, grant and underwrite the costs of



engaging the church, pastor, and men in this battle for the fatherless as part of our commitment to ensuring they are fully equipped to reach and help heal the fatherless in their community.

The Trusted Advisor will begin by training and coaching the Church Champions to become the



hands and feet of Jesus in their local community. We then unleash the local church's most powerful and underutilized asset, the godly men sitting in our churches, to reach and rescue fatherless boys. The Advisor will train and liberate Mentor Father's in the local church to use their faith, outdoor passion, and life know-how to speak into a hurting boy's life, lay a foundation of healing, and break the cycle of generational fatherlessness. They will also educate the church body about the father wound and its devastating consequences on our country, and inspire it to be a strong voice for the fatherless, fatherhood, and the broken family. The Trusted Advisor will be there every step of the way to counsel, train, and encourage your church as they obey the call of our Heavenly Father to be Champions of the Fatherless.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Publicly announce to your Church that you have started a new local outreach Ministry; introduce the Church Champions and outline of the Ministry and the desperate need of the single moms and abandoned boys. *Fathers in the Field* can provide videos, a PowerPoint presentation, brochures, etc. that you could show during your Sunday School hour and a shorter version for the worship service.



The Mission:

Our mission is to rekindle and establish the spirit of boys who have been abandoned by their fathers; mentoring them one-on-one in life skills through outdoor activities, and by sharing a Christian understanding of our Heavenly Father's love and sacrifice for His children.

The objective of this is to heal the deep, anger-filled soul wound that an abandoned boy suffers from and carries with him; thereby stopping the cycle of destruction and fatherlessness. Through advocacy and becoming a leading voice for the cause of the fatherless in America, *Fathers in the Field* will help ignite a revival of the local church as a cultural change agent in their communities.

This is accomplished through the use of the Biblically founded goals of Faith, Fatherhood and Forgiveness.



FAITH:

Share and demonstrate to boys that they have a Father in heaven who created, loves and cares for them, and will never forsake them. Joshua 1:5

FATHERHOOD:

Demonstrate fatherly love and commitment to repair broken spirits and prepare the foundation for future fatherhood. Deuteronomy 6:6-9



FORGIVENESS:

Share the need for boys to forgive the failings of their earthly fathers, as our Heavenly Father forgives His children in Christ. Mark 11:25

Combining Faith, Fatherhood, and Forgiveness with the kind of blood pumping, outdoor fun that no videogame can match, *Fathers in the Field* works through local churches across America.



The Local Church:

God has commanded Christians to imitate Him as the Champion of the fatherless. As the body of Christ, the Church is not only directly responsible to care for the fatherless in their communities, but it can also be the best-equipped resource for them. If we are honest with ourselves, the mission field is not only in distant lands but in our own backyard. Millions of fatherless children are in the reach of every church in America.

We believe in the local church. It can significantly impact the #1 societal issue by reaching the fatherless in its community. To do so, the church must be intentional and GO into the local mission field to connect with single mom households - the largest un-churched group in our country. We then

unleash the local church's most powerful and underutilized asset, the godly men sitting in our churches, to reach and rescue fatherless boys.

Mentor Fathers are spiritually mature men in local churches who are empowered and resourced to reach out to fatherless boys in their communities and introduce them to a Father who will never leave or forsake them – God Himself. By placing a Mentor Father in a one-on-one mentoring relationship, rather than group based events, we can facilitate life change. Changing the life trajectory - and potentially the eternal perspective of one fatherless boy - can influence hundreds, perhaps thousands of others in his direct family, contacts, and networks. This impact is multiplied exponentially with each future generation of family. Thus each local church needs to have an intentional, one-on-one mentoring ministry for fatherless boys.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Success as a Mentor Father is each time you meet with your Field Buddy, otherwise you set yourself up for failure and eventually quit. Success, as a Mentor Father is that you follow through with your commitment! not how your Field Buddy responds. You can only mentor someone that wants to be mentored how they respond, commit, and engage is on them and not based on your success. You are only called to plant seeds. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

HELPFUL HINTS

★ It is important to emphasize that the Service Project needs to be personal contact with an individual in need, such as a widow in the Church or community. Service projects are not to become civic service projects like cleaning up parks, roads, or other impersonal group projects. But a great opportunity for speaking into the life and heart of the Field Buddy. Ask the person you serve to look the boy in the eye and say: “Thank you so much, I could not have done this without you!” and don’t forget to take photos!

Every man and woman who is engaged in the *Fathers in the Field* ministry at their local church is an important stakeholder in the ecosystem of God’s powerful work with the fatherless. As each one becomes involved in the cause, their impact radiates to extended levels of influence within their family, community, and our country. This is the vision of *Fathers in the Field*. This is how helping thousands of fatherless boys, and someday soon tens of thousands of boys through their local churches, can truly become a platform for change that affects millions of families worldwide.

Fathers in the Field is a comprehensive ministry that provides all the instructions, tools and resources churches need to host this vital outreach to fatherless boys in their community. Regional Field Missionaries connect with local churches to provide methodology, materials, training, coaching, and encouragement to engage the church staff and congregation, as they reach out to fatherless boys.

This powerful ministry sparks a grassroots revival of church service to the community. The intentional investment of time with the fatherless boy opens the door to pre-discipling by building a bridge of trust that is developed when they keep their commitments to the wounded and skeptical fatherless boy.



FIELD BUDDIES:

Fatherless boys ages 7-17 can participate in *Fathers in the Field*.

MENTOR FATHERS:

Men from varied backgrounds and interests open themselves to be used by the Lord to fill a gap in a boy’s life that stunts emotional growth and prevents him from fully experiencing the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of God the Father.



SINGLE MOMS:

Fathers in the Field reaches fatherless boys through single mothers who want their sons to have a mature Christian male role model. All ministry expense is spared the single mother due to the generosity of God’s Givers.

WIDOWS AND ELDERLY:

Community service projects are an integral part of the *Fathers in the Field* ministry. Giving boys an opportunity to serve widows in the community creates a sense of value, self-worth, accomplishment, helpfulness, and true identity.





CHURCH BODY:

Church pastors become advocates for the fatherless and broken families, raising awareness and encouraging the church body to support them through prayer,

donations, godly witness, and modeling healthy Christian family life. Church Champions becomes the liaison between *Fathers in the Field* and the church, working with the Pastor

and men's groups to identify Mentor Fathers and make an anointed pairing with fatherless boys. Church Elders and Deacons identify widows and the elderly in the community whom boys can serve as volunteers. Women's groups engage single moms with support. Peers welcome and engage the fatherless boy in youth groups. The family of the fatherless boy and non-churched members of the community are often drawn to the church as result of the boy's attendance and participation.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Time is one of the critical gifts a Mentor Father gives his Field Buddy. Mentor Fathers, who have children in the home, are encouraged to explain to them that the time he puts into the Ministry is their way of contributing to God's Kingdom. And they are sharing their father's time with those in desperate need of a godly man and a way to teach them missions.



Relationship Goals

Mentor Father and Field Buddy meet four times a month, using the tools of the ministry to gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special outdoor Year-End Celebration Event. This multi-faceted experience develops a connection between the Mentor Father and Field Buddy that builds his self-esteem and confidence, instills hope, and helps overcome the hurt of abandonment by showing him he has value and is worthy of time, attention, and love. Through years of practical service in the field, this proven and effective outreach includes four primary activity endeavors:



JOURNEY TALKS:

A monthly hands-on activity, progressively preparing for their special Year-End Celebration Event, while incorporating a Life-Journey curriculum that guides boys into

authentic Christian manhood. Meaningful conversations explore God's love and the issue of forgiveness. These conversations often take place in the majestic setting of the great outdoors – God's classroom. Boys learn from their Mentor Fathers about the liberating love of the Heavenly Father and the healing that comes through the forgiveness of their fathers who abandoned them.

CHURCH FAMILY:

The Mentor Father commits to pick-up and brings his Field Buddy to Sunday school and/or church two out of four Sundays. Here the boys foster their church family relationships that provide caring, faith-nurturing affirmation and instruction of the Heavenly Father's wisdom and love.



SERVICE PROJECT:

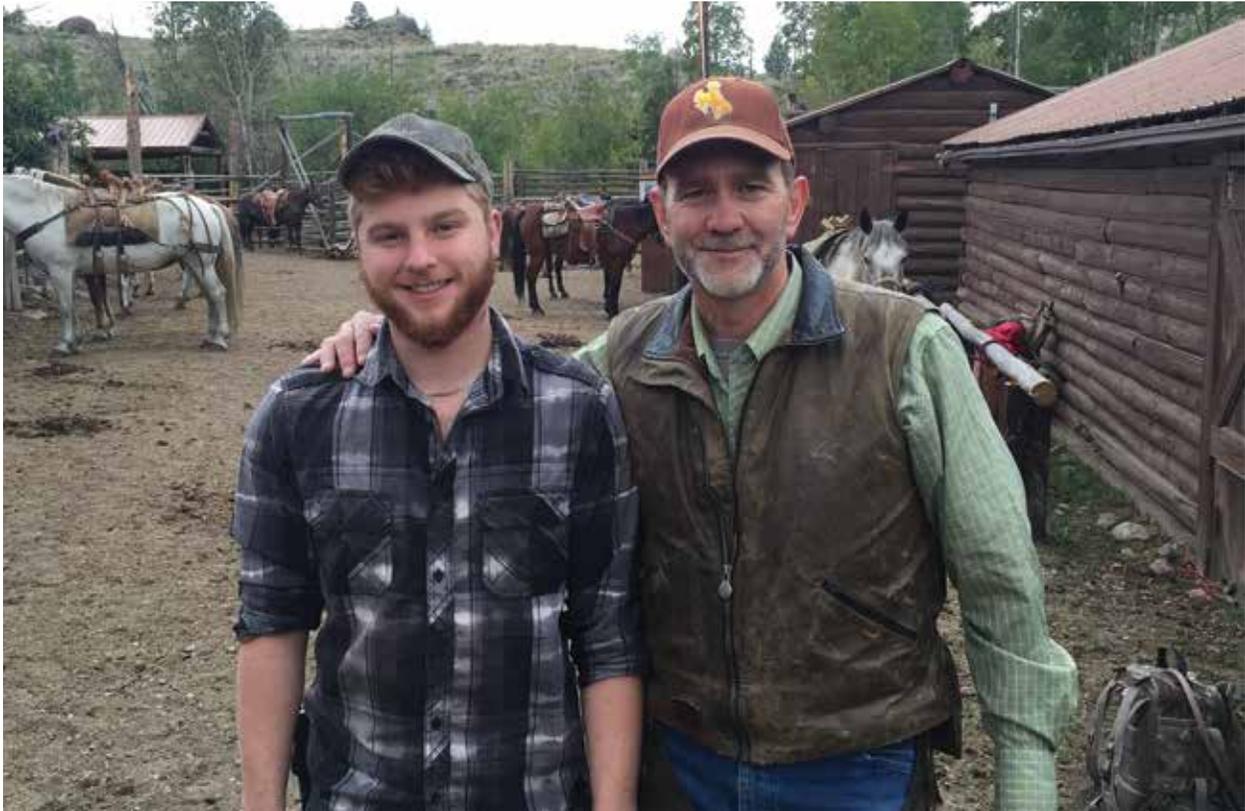
By helping others in need, such as widows and the elderly, the boy develops a serving attitude and learns that he has value, working each month and building his worth in the process.



YEAR-END CELEBRATION EVENT:

Boys and Mentor Fathers apply their new knowledge and skills in their own special, multi-day outdoor journey that celebrates their time together and their rite of passage toward authentic manhood. Deep bonding takes root during adventurous activities like camping, hiking, fishing, boating, hunting, backpacking, rock climbing, horse packing, mountain biking, canoeing, and kayaking – utilizing the outdoor passion of the Mentor Father.

MENTOR FATHER CALLING



As Christians, our primary calling is to be conformed to the Image of Christ, that we might look and act so much like Him that the world sees Him in us (Matthew 5:48; John 14:15; 1 John 2:6; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21). In order to do this, we must not only obey the commands of God, but truly love what God loves. The fatherless and the widow are the closest to God's heart as they are the most vulnerable in society and in need of the most protection. There are over 100 passages throughout Scripture dedicated to God's love for the fatherless and His command to His people to do the same: Deuteronomy 10:18; 26:12-13; 27:19; Psalm 68; Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27. In short, God demands that we champion these two groups, which is why they are both at the center of *Fathers in the Field* as a ministry.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ As the relationship develops between the Mentor Father and Field Buddy, the number of contacts per month may increase. The four are the minimum the Mentor Father commits to. Other get-togethers (i.e. lunch, movies, ballgames) can become more frequent and spontaneous as the relationship grows and strengthens.

Our obedience to these commands looks different for every believer as each of us is created and gifted by God in different ways. Your involvement as a Mentor Father with *Fathers in the Field* at your church will entail a variety of components that will require you to be able to communicate this difference. It is important to clearly make the distinction in your own mind between obeying God's commands and His unique calling on your life to be a Mentor Father, as it affects how you communicate your calling to other people.

You are answering the call to directly defend the fatherless by using the gifts and talents God has given you coupled with your hobbies. For some men this will be hunting or fishing, for others it could be woodworking, cycling or flying drones. The key to the success of Mentor Fathers is that they take their love of God and their hobbies and use both to help a fatherless boy

hear the Gospel and understand the love of His Heavenly Father.

As a Mentor Father, you stand uniquely as both a role model and a leader to your Field Buddy. For many fatherless boys, you will be the first adult male to invest in their life and the first to share the Gospel with them. Here is a chance to take all the Lord has taught you over your life and impart this unique wisdom to your Field Buddy. From you he will hear about the love of his Heavenly Father and then experience the truth of this love in your commitment. Honor God in all you do and your Field Buddy might just model after you too.

We will continue to pray for you and ask our Heavenly Father to bless your relationship with your Field Buddy. Thank you for being a hero to the fatherless!





IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINISTRY



It all starts with an intentional commitment into the life of a
FATHERLESS BOY BY A GODLY MAN.

“You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.”

— Exodus 22:22-24 (NKJV)

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES



Men are divinely wired to become the Pastors, Providers, and Protectors of their families. Tragically, as our culture continues to marginalize men's impact and redefine manhood itself, much of the church has fallen suit. Your church has chosen to put you on the front lines and push back against the culture. This is your opportunity to step into truly meaningful service where the impact is tangible and utilizes all of your unique strengths.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ The Mentor Fathers should be recognized as local missionaries and featured in the Church's Missions Committee's newsletter along with pictures on the Mission's Board.
- ★ Also, the Mentor Fathers should be publicly prayed for during worship service and commissioned. Mayhem, destruction, homosexuality, suicide, drug abuse, the list goes on, but the end result is the same, a life devoid of the love and healing found in Jesus Christ.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ To encourage the bond and commitment between you and your Field Buddy, it is strongly
- ★ recommended that he sit with you during the Church service. Please remember that it
- ★ is a Mentor Father's primary responsibility to pick the Field Buddy up for Church.

As a Mentor Father you are being commissioned by your church as a missionary to the fatherless in your community. Thank you for answering the call of the Heavenly Father and courageously standing in the gap for the fatherless.

Being a Mentor Father to a fatherless boy is a unique privilege and sacred assignment. The Lord will use your faith and experiences to fill a gap in a boy's life that stunts emotional growth and prevents him from fully experiencing the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of God the Father.



Why Mentoring is Important:

All men are led into manhood by someone. The Godly design is for our father to lead us, but sadly 1 out of 2 boys will grow up without their biological father in the home and 2 out of 3 will grow up with no man in their life. So who leads them into manhood? Criminals, gangs, extremists, their mom, peers, or themselves. These paths often include incarceration, death, mayhem, destruction, homosexuality, suicide, drug abuse, the list goes on, but the end result is the same, a life devoid of the love and healing found in Jesus Christ.

Sam Mehaffie, in his book *Every Man's a Mentor*, defines a mentor as "a man willing to serve; to share his life with a boy; to be a role model, an encourager, a listener." Additionally, a Godly Christian mentor helps to guide and direct a fatherless boy's life towards an understanding and knowledge of the love of his Heavenly Father. Presenting the Gospel in word and deed and investing your life creates a path towards healing the broken heart of a fatherless boy.

IT BUILDS CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

Christ-like character shows reverence and respect for God; a desire to set our own agendas and desires aside in order to love what God loves. This involves sacrifice, a willing desire to serve others and a desire to see others come to experience the love and forgiveness of the Father in Christ Jesus. As you model Christ in word and deed you will see these characteristics begin to form in your Field Buddy. This character also manifests itself in: fairness, decency, self-sacrifice, respect, loyalty, service, responsibility, integrity, unselfishness, honor, self-esteem and kindness.





INTRODUCES YOUR FIELD BUDDY TO JESUS

Making a model citizen who goes to hell accomplishes nothing. As a Christian Mentor Father, you get the amazing privilege of not only developing Christian character, but sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus. What a blessing for your Field Buddy to hear about God's love for him and about the new life in Christ that can be his. Over 3 years, your Field buddy will attend a minimum of 84 Church Services/Sunday Schools; represent Christ in service to others 36 times; and get to spend more than 36 hours talking with you about the love of His Heavenly Father, forgiveness and healing his broken heart.

HELP HEAL THE ABANDONMENT WOUND

Your Field Buddy has a deep wound, caused by his dad abandoning him or tragic loss through death. The two major components of this wound are the feeling of worthlessness and the sin of unforgiveness. When you serve widows and those in need, it helps a boy to see both his value and discover the joy of giving outside of himself. Your Field Buddy can look back

over your 3 years together and see the value he brought to the lives of 36 widows.

Over the course of your time together you will have time to help your Field Buddy hear about forgiveness in Christ and talk about how that relates to the unforgiveness he harbors towards his father. The unwillingness to forgive will run his entire life if left untreated. The Holy Spirit will work in his life through you to help him see the need to forgive his father, even if the forgiveness doesn't happen until many years from now. Just like his salvation is an act of God and not your job, so is his finding the ability to forgive. After he understands the forgiveness of God in Christ, he can learn to forgive.

TEACHES/TRAINS LIFE SKILLS

Over the course of your life you have developed life skills; mentoring is you imparting this knowledge to another person. Your Field Buddy will benefit from the years of wisdom and experience that God gifted you with over your lifetime. Take the time to teach him, remembering to ask questions and listen that he might find joy in learning too.

“Since it is so likely that children will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage.”

— C.S. Lewis

HELPFUL HINTS

★ If a Mentor Father still has children in the home it is strongly recommended that he meet one-on-one with his Field Buddy for the first several months in order to strengthen the bond between himself and his Field Buddy before interacting with his own family or children. Please remember, the Journey Talks are to be done in a one-on-one style, not group setting, to obtain the full attention of the Field Buddy. This discussion time can be accomplished in a public setting with others around. Follow your Church policy as specified.



The Do's and Don'ts:

A MENTOR IS:

- Willing to serve
- Sharing his life with his Field Buddy
- A role model
- An encourager
- Consistent & Constant
- Accountable
- A person of his word
- A good listener
- Always asking good questions – w/o emotion or expecting an answer
- Remembering that Time = relationship = trust and this takes time

A MENTOR IS NOT:

- His Field Buddy's best friend
- The boy's father
- A parent
- His Field Buddy's Disciplinarian
- A Go-Between the mom and boy

Relationship Goals:



FAITH:
Share and demonstrate to boys that they have a Father in heaven that created, loves and cares for them, and will never forsake them. Joshua 1:5



FORGIVENESS:
Share the need for boys to forgive the failings of their earthly fathers, as our Heavenly Father forgives His children in Christ. Mark 11:25

FATHERHOOD:
Demonstrate fatherly love and commitment to repair broken spirits and prepare the foundation for future fatherhood. Deuteronomy 6:6-9



FUN:
Take your passions/hobbies out into God's great classroom, the outdoors, to experience fun in a way that no videogame can match.



Honoring Commitment:

Fatherless boys experience broken commitments on a regular basis. For some it's a father who promises to pick them up, just to leave them waiting on the curb. For others, the string of boyfriends who promise the world, only to fail when they get mom into bed or grow tired of the relationship. These boys begin to believe that all men are liars and are only interested in taking advantage of them.

When you honor your commitment, it breaks down barriers between you and your Field Buddy. You are demonstrating reliability and proving that Christian men are truthful and trustworthy. As you honor your commitment and help him to honor his, you instill integrity



in a young man who has lost hope. It takes 6 months to a year for a fatherless boy to trust that you are there because you see worth and value in him. Honoring your commitment is a vital component to this trust.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Please do not make a commitment you cannot keep. If a Mentor Father makes a commitment, you need to make sure and keep it—the heart of a young boy is riding on that commitment. Let your yes be yes as Jesus says in His Word.



Role of Church Champion(s):

Your Church Champion(s) have a unique role in this ministry and the following is a basic understanding of what they do. Please be sure to communicate openly with them and encourage them as they serve the fatherless in your community in this role. Their role is to:

- Identify/recruit Mentor Fathers from the church body.
- Identify/screen Single Mothers and identify potential Field Buddies.
- Oversee/direct Signing Ceremonies.
- Organize monthly Service Projects for the Mentor Father/Field Buddy pairs.
- Plan and lead monthly Mentor Father Meetings to ensure the health of these men and assist them in leading their Field Buddy.
- Accountability and oversight of Mentor Fathers.

- Oversight of Single Moms and mediator between Single Moms and Mentor Fathers.
- Ensure the completion of the Year End Celebration Trip.
- Keep the ministry before the congregation.

Each Mentor Father will be assigned a Church Champion who checks in with you on a regular basis. This allows them to regularly make sure you are doing well both in relation to your Field Buddy and personally. The individual Church Champion can thus have a sense of any problems prior to their development to help keep you spiritually healthy. Expect them to:

- Be in all communications between you and the single mother/grandmother, via group text or email.
- Text/Call/Email regularly to check in (whichever one works best for both).
- Connect every week, more often if possible
- Encourage and pray for you regularly.

HELPFUL HINTS

At first, depending on the involvement of the congregation, service projects may be a challenge to find for the Church Champions. As a Mentor Father, please encourage the Church Champion to put a request for projects in the weekly Church bulletin. This is an important component in the Ministry, but requires the Church to search out these projects to give the Mentor Father and Field Buddy adequate time to plan for the project. Please do not skip this monthly commitment to your Field Buddy. The soul of the Field Buddy needs this valuable insight into the needs of others.

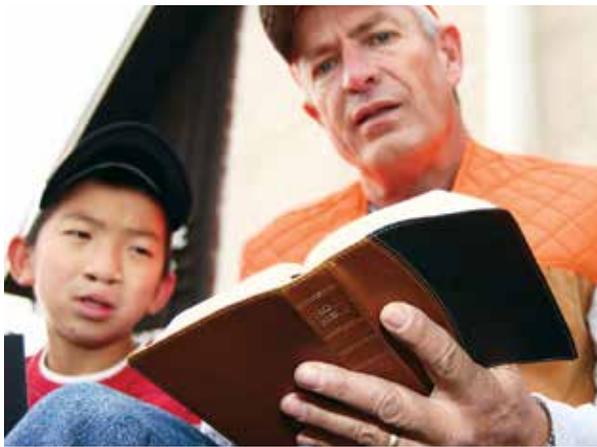
FOUR MONTHLY COMMITMENTS



Honoring your commitment finds its foundation in the four minimum contacts per month. Using the tools of the ministry will help you to gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special end of year celebration outdoor activity.

HELPFUL HINTS

Remember, as a Mentor Father, your focus is solely to the abandoned boy. However, the church must also find ways to minister to the whole family - the mom and other siblings. Be sure to personally welcome the mom and siblings by name. Perhaps, the women of the church could pick up the daughters(s) and take them some place special. Another idea is for them to give a gift certificate to the mom for Mother's Day to a manicure, dinner, etc. The single moms are very proud and it will take a proactive mindset to engage this hurting family. Be on the lookout for needs that others in your church might help meet to bring glory to Christ. Do NOT engage in benevolence to the family but to allow the Church to be that vehicle of help, so that the mentoring relationship is not hindered.



Church Family

You commit to pick up and bring your Field Buddy to Sunday school and church a minimum of two Sundays each month. This is designed to help foster a church family relationship for your Field Buddy that will provide positive faith-nurturing affirmation and instruction of the Heavenly Father’s wisdom and love.



Service Project

Once-per-month. By helping others in need, such as widows and the elderly, your Field Buddy will develop a serving attitude and learn that he has value, working each month and building his worth in the process. These will be provided for you by the Church Champions at your church. Be sure to take a photo of you, your Field Buddy, and the widow/elderly couple together before leaving.

Journey Talks

This is your monthly hands-on activity based on your passions/hobbies, which progressively prepares for your special Year-End Celebration event. It incorporates the Journey Guide curriculum which is designed to help you as you guide your Field Buddy into authentic Christian manhood. It is designed to facilitate meaningful conversations, explore God’s love and give room to discuss the issue of forgiveness.



Your Field Buddy will learn about the liberating love of the Heavenly Father and the healing that comes through the forgiveness of his father who has abandoned him.



Fun Activity

Coupled with your Journey Talks is the chance to go into God’s great classroom, the outdoors, and enjoy God’s creation through your hobbies. From fishing to flying drones and the hundreds of options in between, life is meant to be enjoyed. You will build lasting moments with your Field Buddy by helping him to learn new skills and overcome new challenges. A smile on the face of a fatherless boy is a priceless event and having fun will create more of these than you can count.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ It is important to emphasize that the service project is to be a personal contact with an individual in need, such as a widow in the Church or community. This project is not to become a civic service project like cleaning up parks or roads or other impersonal group projects. This is another great opportunity for speaking into the life and heart of the Field Buddy. Also, there may be times when a couple of teams of Mentor Fathers and Field Buddies from other Churches join together on larger projects that may be too big for just one team.

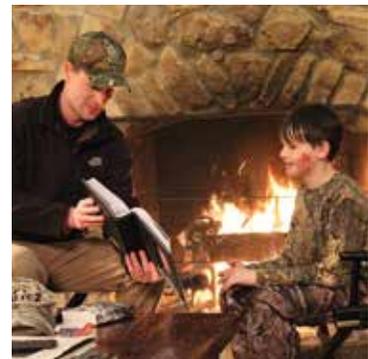
YEAR-END CELEBRATION EVENT



This trip is promised to your Field Buddy at the Signing Ceremony and is where your Field Buddy will apply the new knowledge and skills you will teach him throughout the year. In addition, this is where the Mentor Father graciously and with deep affirmation, presents publicly that year's Photo Album with memories and notes sharing their mentoring year spent together. This is a multi-day (3-day / 2-night minimum) outdoor journey that celebrates your time together and functions as a rite of passage toward authentic manhood. Deep bonding takes root during adventurous activities like camping, hiking, fishing, boating, hunting, backpacking, rock climbing, horse packing, mountain biking, canoeing, and kayaking – depending on your specific outdoor passions as the Mentor Father. Your trip must include another approved man by the oversight pastor and follow your church's safety guidelines. We encourage you to invite other Mentor Fathers and their Field Buddies to attend with you!

Please make time during the celebration trip to speak a blessing over your Field Buddy. This is a chance for you to tell the other men and boys at the event of the changes/growth you have seen in him over the year. You should also bless him by telling him what he is good at, where you see him excelling, thank him for following through on his commitment for the year and share your hopes for his future. SO POWERFUL!

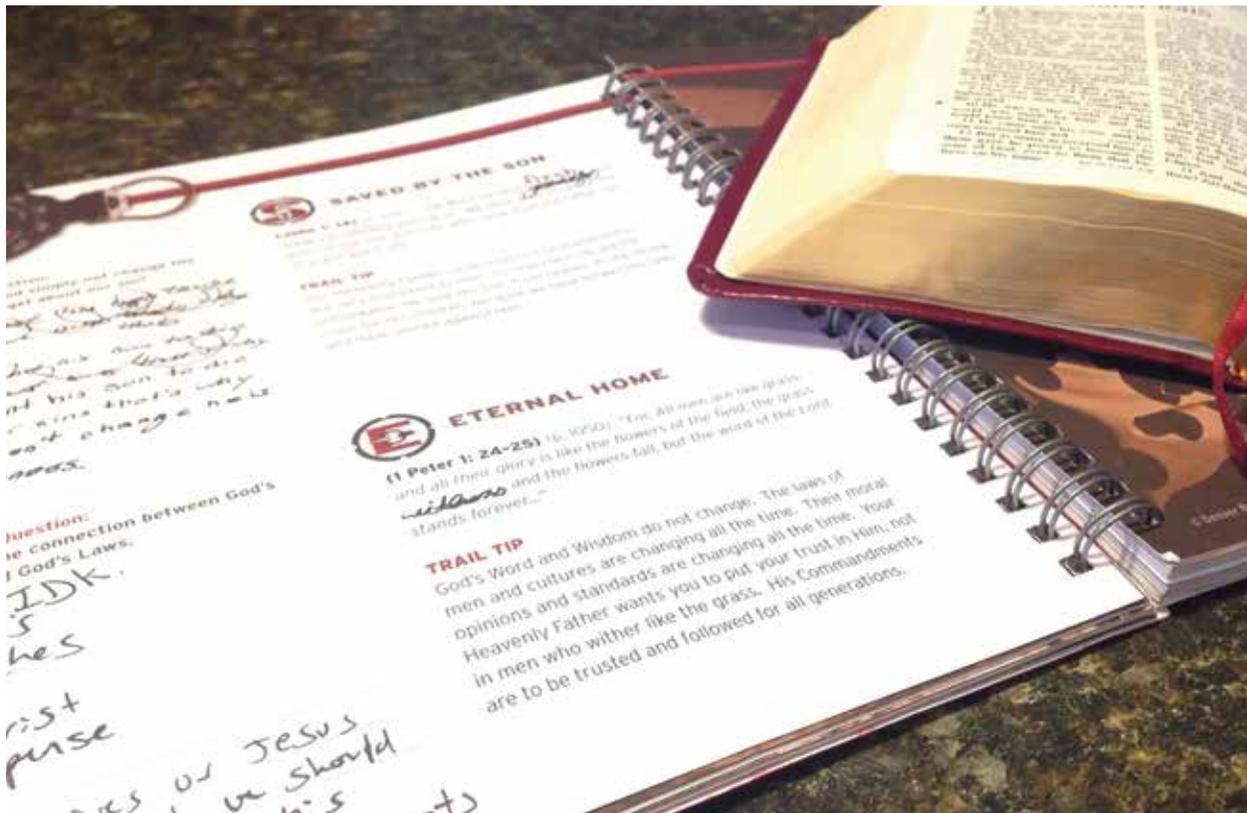
Present his completed photo album for that year and talk about some of the highlights in it. Perhaps, write him a letter in the album as an ongoing word of affirmation for years to come. Take the time to pray over your Field Buddy and ask some of the other men present to do the same. Have someone take pictures of this important occasion in the life of your Field Buddy; for many, this will be the first time anything like this has ever happened to them.



HELPFUL HINTS

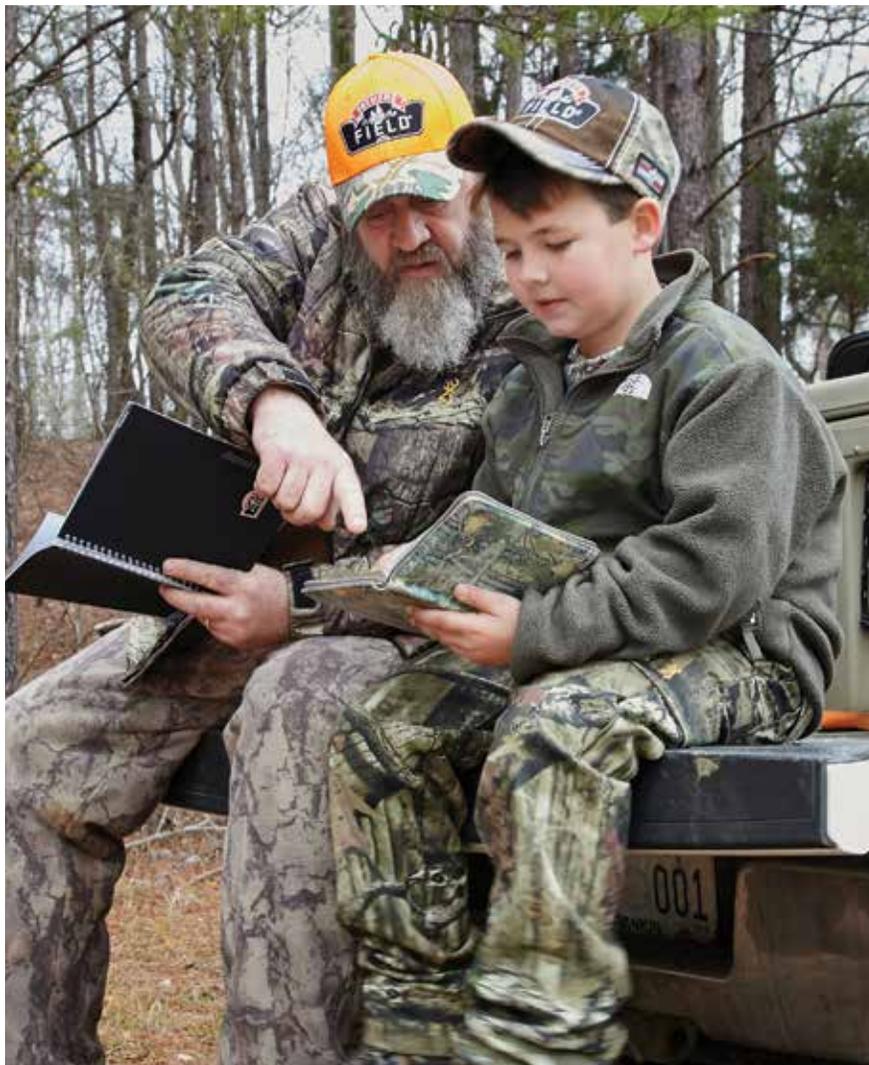
- ★ Please note that it is very important for the Mentor Father to have chosen the Year-End Celebration Event and the approximate time when it will occur before the Commitment Signing Ceremony with the Field Buddy and his mom/guardian. This will lock the boy into the Ministry, giving him something to look forward to and to work towards.

JOURNEY GUIDE



The Journey Guide is designed to help you learn how your Field Buddy thinks and to make sure he hears the Gospel in a clear manner. The guide is designed for boys from 7-17 so it will require you as the mentor to make this applicable for your individual Field Buddy and his story. Think of the guide as a primer. In the same way you would pour water into an old pump to wet the sucker and prime the pump to cause the siphoning and flow of water, so use this guide. See the following example:

Journey Guide Curriculum contents are Copyrighted. (c). John Smithbaker



JOURNEY GUIDE YEAR 1, QUESTION 1:

What did my Heavenly Father make?

Most boys, most men too, will answer: everything. This is correct, but misses the question being asked, which is: “Does my Field Buddy see himself as being made by God with purpose and intent? Does he understand that human beings are the most precious thing on the planet because they are made in God’s Image?”

The Journey Guides are a tool for you to help your Field Buddy see the love of his Heavenly Father, hear about forgiveness in Christ Jesus, and begin to discuss the hurt he feels by being abandoned by his earthly father or loss of him by death. In the end, like all tools, it is only as good as the one using it. If you have questions please ask your Church Champion(s) or your Pastor.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Year one, Y1 Life Journey Curriculum is based on the Lord’s Prayer. For many boys this is the first time hearing that there is a Father in heaven that loves them, and the first time to share God’s truth with an adult male. An example... Food for the Journey, corresponds to “our daily bread” in the Lord’s Prayer.

JOURNEY GIFTS



Journey Gifts can be given in any order each month after your Field Buddy has completed his Journey Guide commitments for the month. Journey Gifts serve to equip your Field Buddy for the end-of-year trip and need to be explained to him as a tool to help him at the celebration event and monthly activities. The *Fathers in the Field* Buck knife, is a gift for you the Mentor Father, in honoring your commitment to a fatherless boy. (DO NOT give the knife to your Field Buddy) Additionally, these gifts serve to help a fatherless boy learn the value of honoring his commitments. If he fails to honor one of his commitments from the Signing Ceremony, the gifts give you leverage to help him better understand the value of being a man of your word. See the following example:

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Best to only give the Journey Gift to the Field Buddy upon completion of his monthly Journey Talk. This builds responsibility and accountability into this young man. The order
- ★ in which you give the Journey Gifts is up to you and activities planned throughout the
- ★ course of the year; serving as a visual reminder of God's provision in his life through this mentoring relationship.



Mentor Father John has reminded Field Buddy Mike previously in the week for him to have his Month 3 Journey Guide completed before their Saturday fishing trip. Mike agrees to do so. Mentor Father John arrives to pick up Field Buddy Mike to go fishing and asks, “Do you have your Journey Guide completed for this month and with you? Mike looks down and quietly replies, “No.” Rather than letting the instance go and feeling frustrated, John asks Mike to have a seat so they can talk. “Mike, I want you to know that I am not angry because you didn’t honor your commitment with the Journey Guide this month. But I want you to understand that when you break your commitment, it affects the relationship with the other person. I have honored my commitments to you, correct?”

“Yes,” Mike replies, still looking down. “Mike, please look at me. I want to help you learn that as men when we say we will honor a commitment we need to follow through. We do this because as Christian men we need to imitate God and He never lies or fails to honor His word. Also because it speaks of our

character and people need to know we can always be counted on. So instead of us going fishing today and giving you your Journey Gift today; I am going to hold onto it until you finish this month’s section. Again, I am not angry and I know you can do this. Will you commit to doing it by next Saturday?”

“Yes and I am sorry for failing”

“Thank you and I forgive you.”

John smiles and says “I’m going to let your mom know what happened and why we aren’t going fishing today but when you choose to do the things you’ve committed to do then we can continue in this journey. Let me know when you have your Journey Guide completed so we can continue.”

While not every scenario will go this way, it paints the example for the using of gifts to help your Field Buddy learn the value of commitment.



PHOTO ALBUM



Each year will have a photo album that you get the pleasure of filling and presenting to your Field Buddy at the Year-End Celebration Event. Please make sure you fill the entire album, it will require you taking a minimum of 5 photos per month, and write in the spots allowed to help recount the photo's event. You also might consider leaving the last few sections open for pictures from the celebration event which can be added after the event to complete the year.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Try to wear *Fathers in the Field* hats or shirts.
- ★ Please remove sunglasses when being photographed.

The album shows a time when a Christian man set aside time to invest in the life of a fatherless boy. You are building and preserving memories

for your Field Buddy, please keep this as a priority since these may be the only images he ever receives of a godly man in his life.

Good Photos:



1. BE PREPARED

Remember the camera. If there is a chance you will be getting a shot at night, you will need a camera with a flash

but a flashlight or truck lights make suitable substitutes. The picture to the left is an excellent photo of Mentor Father Matt with Field Buddy Max's first deer. This would never have been possible without enough light.

Modern cell phones possess the ability to take great pictures, but there are some tricks to doing so.



2. TELL A STORY

Our photos should tell a story. Pictures of your Field Buddy by himself are great but they don't tell the whole story because YOU are missing, so

buy a selfie-stick. Additionally, wearing *Fathers in the Field* gear serves as context for the story. Your Field Buddy wasn't just out experiencing life but building a lifelong relationship with his Mentor Father! Mentor Father Bill and Field Buddy Ezra out crabbing on the Oregon coast make a great example.

Secondly, when serving a widow, try to get her in the picture with you two. It allows your

Field Buddy to recall the people he helped through the course of that entire year. What a great memory for you all! Take it a step further by printing the photo off, giving it to the widow and asking her to commit to pray for your journey together.



3. EYE LEVEL

Have the photographer make sure to get the lens of the camera at eye level. This is very important so it

doesn't appear as if the photographer is looming over you. This also helps center the subjects in the frame. This is all done by having the photographer on one knee or lowering the camera to help get the lens at eye level or below. It means everything in the final shot!



4. BACKGROUND AND SUBJECT

Set the stage. Paying attention to what is in the background can really make a lot of difference. Some of the best pictures of hero

moments are made by simply shifting a few feet. If there is a lake in the background or an amazing sunset, capture it. Some of the best photos are diminished due to simple things like people in the background or a street light, etc.

HELPFUL HINTS

Building memories with a male role model fills an important gap in the lives of abandoned boys. Very few abandoned boys have memories of doing something fun with a significant male. That is why we provide in the Welcome Package a Journey Photo Album so that the Mentor Father can take photos of their activities together throughout the year. He then prints them off and presents them to the Field Buddy as a reminder of the meaningful and fun times that they have had together. Set a goal of taking a photo each time, you are together.

Photo Sharing

Your Church Champion will create a group sharing folder for you. Like Google Photos, One Share, or another platform your church uses. This helps with accountability and lets both your church leadership and *Fathers in the Field* see the great ministry you are doing. Additionally, this helps to safeguard these precious memories in the event you lose or damage your camera/phone. Some of the instructions below are for Church Champions, please ask for their help in setting up.

Android Users for Google Photos

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Download and install the Google Photos app.

SHARE WITH OTHER PEOPLE

You can share with family, friends, and other people if they are in your contacts list or by adding their phone numbers or email address.

1. On your Android phone or tablet, open the Google Photos app. 
2. Sign in to your Google Account.
3. Select a photo, album, or movie.
4. Tap Share. 
5. Tap Type a name, phone number, or email or select people to share with. If you're part of a family on Google with at least 2 other people, select Family group to share with your family members.
6. You can add a message, then tap Send. To manage these messages, go to the activity log.

Note: If you share an album that automatically adds photos of face groups, anyone with the album link can see photos as they're added.

iPhone/Ipad for Google Photos

SHARE WITH OTHER PEOPLE

1. On your iPhone or iPad, open the Google Photos app. 

2. Create a new Google Account with a name (your church name and town- FitF). Don't use your existing account so it stays with the church. Sign in to your Google Account.
3. Create folders with each Mentor Father's name and share the folder with that Mentor Father, all the Church Champions and Regional Missionary
4. Select a photo, album, or movie to share.
5. Tap Share. 
6. Tap To and select people to share with. If you're part of a family on Google with at least 2 other people, select Family group to share with your family members.
7. You can add a message, then tap Send. To manage these messages, go to the activity log.

Note: If you share an album that automatically adds photos of face groups, anyone with the album link can see photos as they're added.

ONCE GOOGLE PHOTO IS SET UP

Make sure the Mentor Father(s), Church Champions, Pastor and Regional Missionary join the album!

To join a shared album, they only need to click on a link provided by the Church Champion.

MENTOR FATHER UPLOADING PHOTOS FROM THEIR MOBILE DEVICE

1. Download the Google Photos app from the App Store or Android Store.
2. Open the Google Photos app and sign in
3. Tap the menu icon on the top left. Select "Shared Albums" and the album to which the Church Champion set up for you (eg. FitF-CWC Kevin/Tanner).
4. Click the plus sign in the top menu and select the photos you wish to share.



MONTHLY MEETINGS



Mentor Father and Church Champion Meetings:

The purpose of the monthly meeting is to help encourage you as a Mentor Father by giving you a chance to share the struggles and victories of your mentoring time. The following topics are covered regularly and you are encouraged to make these meetings a priority and attend as often as possible.

Topics to Cover:

- Victories with your Field Buddy for the month.
- Any Challenges with your Field Buddy or Single Mom from the month.
- Review Service Projects.
- Check in on preparation for Year-End Celebration Event(s).
- Prayer Requests.
- How they are doing spiritually and with their family.
- Photos being taken and Journey Guide being completed.

SINGLE MOTHER FAMILY CONTACT



Communicating with/to the Single Mother/Grandmother:

All communication between the Mentor Father and Single Mother/Grandmother should be done in the ways listed on page 48. This will help ensure good communication throughout the committed time and into the future. Please explain this carefully to all parties involved as the Mentor Father and Field Buddy relationship is to be safeguarded.

HELPFUL HINTS

- ★ Wonderful contacts for identifying Single Moms and abandoned boys are coaches, family counselors and teachers, vacation Bible school organizers, Mercy Ministry services, etc. Be on the lookout yourself for needs, however, please do not contact the child's guardian yourself but give the information to your Church Champion.

HELPFUL HINTS

The Enrolled Church should check with their own insurance carrier to get their Waiver of Liability Letter. A sample Waiver Letter is provided to the Church Champions. Each Church should have liability insurance for all of their Church ministries, including the *Fathers in the Field* Ministry they are conducting. It is recommended to keep a copy of the Immunizations & Medical Consent Form with you in the event of an emergency and guardian cannot be reached.



Text

Group text only. Must include an appointed Church Champion at minimum and recommend you also include the Mentor Father's wife, or a

female Church Champion if the Mentor Father is not married, and/or Pastor.

EMAIL

Group email. Include a Church Champion at minimum but can also include the Mentor Father's wife and/or a Pastor

PHONE

Keep this to a minimum - Mentor Father should keep the Church Champion in the loop of all conversations and limit conversations to scheduling picking up the Field Buddy. You are not the mother's confidant or counselor nor your Field Buddy's chauffeur or disciplinarian.

FRONT PORCH

Mentor Father is not allowed in the house. If she has a need, the Mentor Father should convey that to the Church Champion. The church should have a plan with how to best help Single Mothers/Grandmothers and the help should be done under that plan.

THE MENTOR FATHER IS NOT A MEDIATOR BETWEEN HER AND HER SON

The single mom can share with the Mentor Father via group text to let the Mentor Father know what's going on in her son's life, but the Mentor Father is not going to be sharing

anything with the Single Mom that her son shares with him as trust for the Field Buddy with his Mentor Father is a priority. The Field Buddy can share whatever he wants with his mom. Essentially, the relationship is not a triangle and the Mentor Father is not the person a single mom can go to for discipline or addressing issues she is having with her son. The mentor is not the father!

If the Field Buddy shares, he is going to hurt himself, someone else, OR ABUSE IS SUSPECTED, then the Mentor Father has to report this as a mandated reporter by law. DO NOT LET YOUR FIELD BUDDY OUT OF YOUR SIGHT UNTIL REPORTED.

Monthly Calendar

Having a monthly calendar for both you and your Field Buddy helps to keep confusion down and he always knows the day and time to expect your arrival. This also allows his Mother/Grandmother to have him prepared and ready to be picked up. This is a simple tool that needs to be used to make you more successful. The visual reminder of this calendar on the refrigerator reinforces to an abandoned boy that a godly man sees value and worth in him. The first calendar is filled out and given to the Field Buddy at your Signing Ceremony. Subsequent months are filled out a month in advance and shared with your assigned Church Champion and Single Mother/Grandmother in group text. If changes need to be made, this is done before giving the printed copy to your Field buddy to put on his refrigerator.

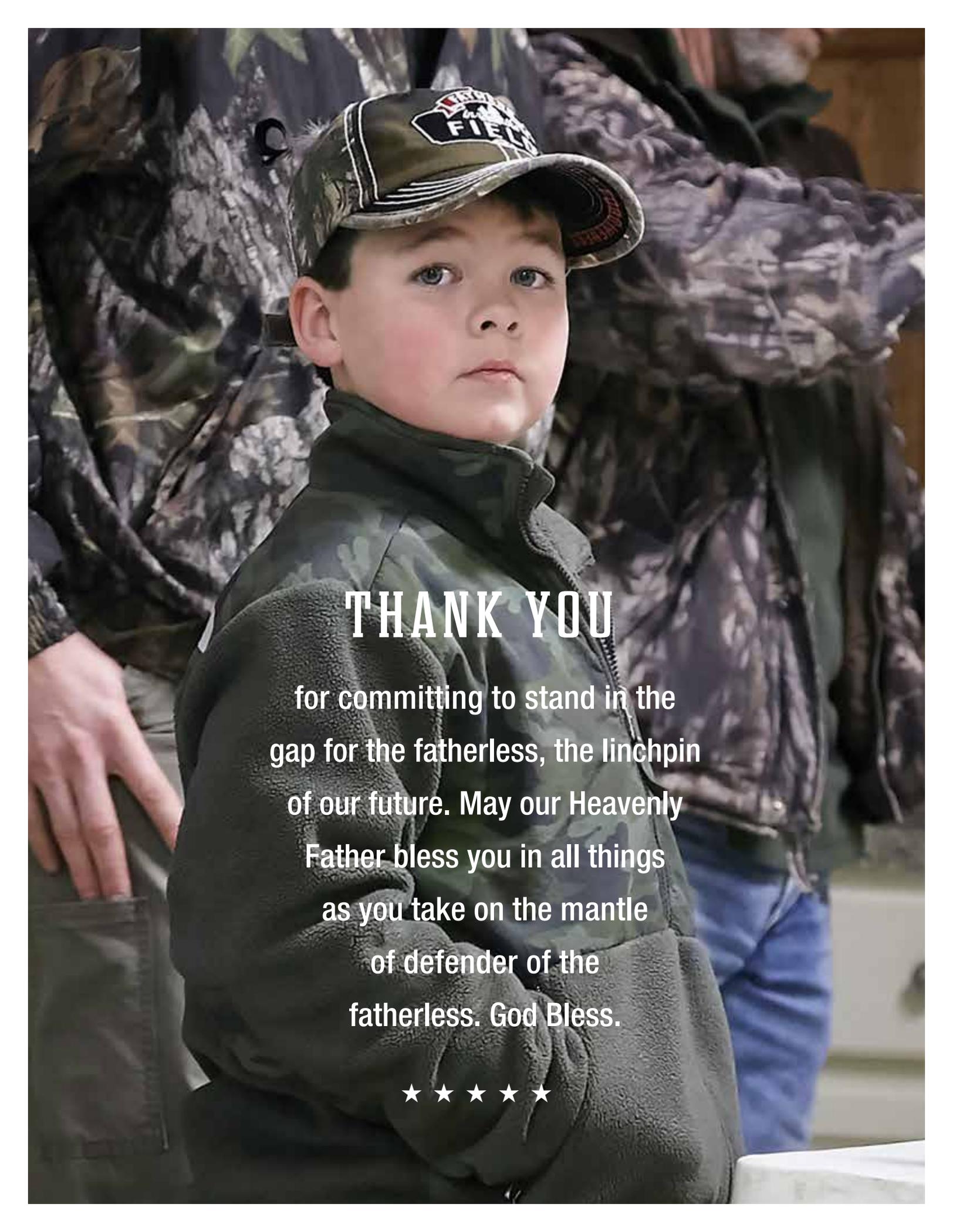
REPORTING ISSUES



Communicating with/to the Single Mother/Grandmother:

As stated on page 48, don't become the mediator between the Field Buddy and his mother/grandmother. However, if he expresses a desire to hurt himself or others (suicide, criminal activity, abuse, etc.) please contact your assigned Church Champion and oversight pastor immediately. They will help you contact the proper authorities for help as you are considered a mandated reporter by law.

In all situations in which you need support or assistance, please let your assigned Church Champion know as quickly as possible. Everything from missed dates on the calendar to single mom violating set boundaries to questions about your Field Buddy. This ministry of the church is vital to the battle for the souls of the fatherless; let them help you as much as possible.

A young boy with blue eyes, wearing a camouflage jacket and a cap with a "FIELD" logo, looks off to the side. The background shows other people in camouflage clothing.

THANK YOU

for committing to stand in the
gap for the fatherless, the linchpin
of our future. May our Heavenly
Father bless you in all things
as you take on the mantle
of defender of the
fatherless. God Bless.



WE ARE CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!



Thank you for answering the plea of the fatherless
and making a stand for those left behind.

We can win and reverse generational fatherlessness by mobilizing the local church
to be the hands and feet of Jesus and fulfill our Great Commission potential.

For additional Resources to understand this great battle for the soul
of the fatherless, our future Pastors, Providers and Protectors.

www.fathersinthefield.com/the-great-american-rescue-mission

COMMITMENT ADVENTURE JOURNEY



Signing Ceremony



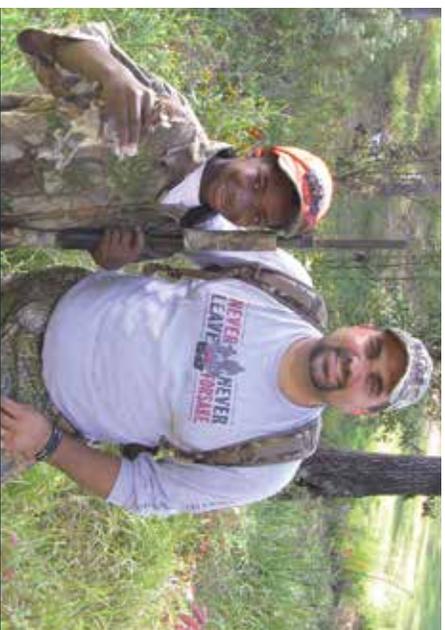
Church Service



Journey Curriculum



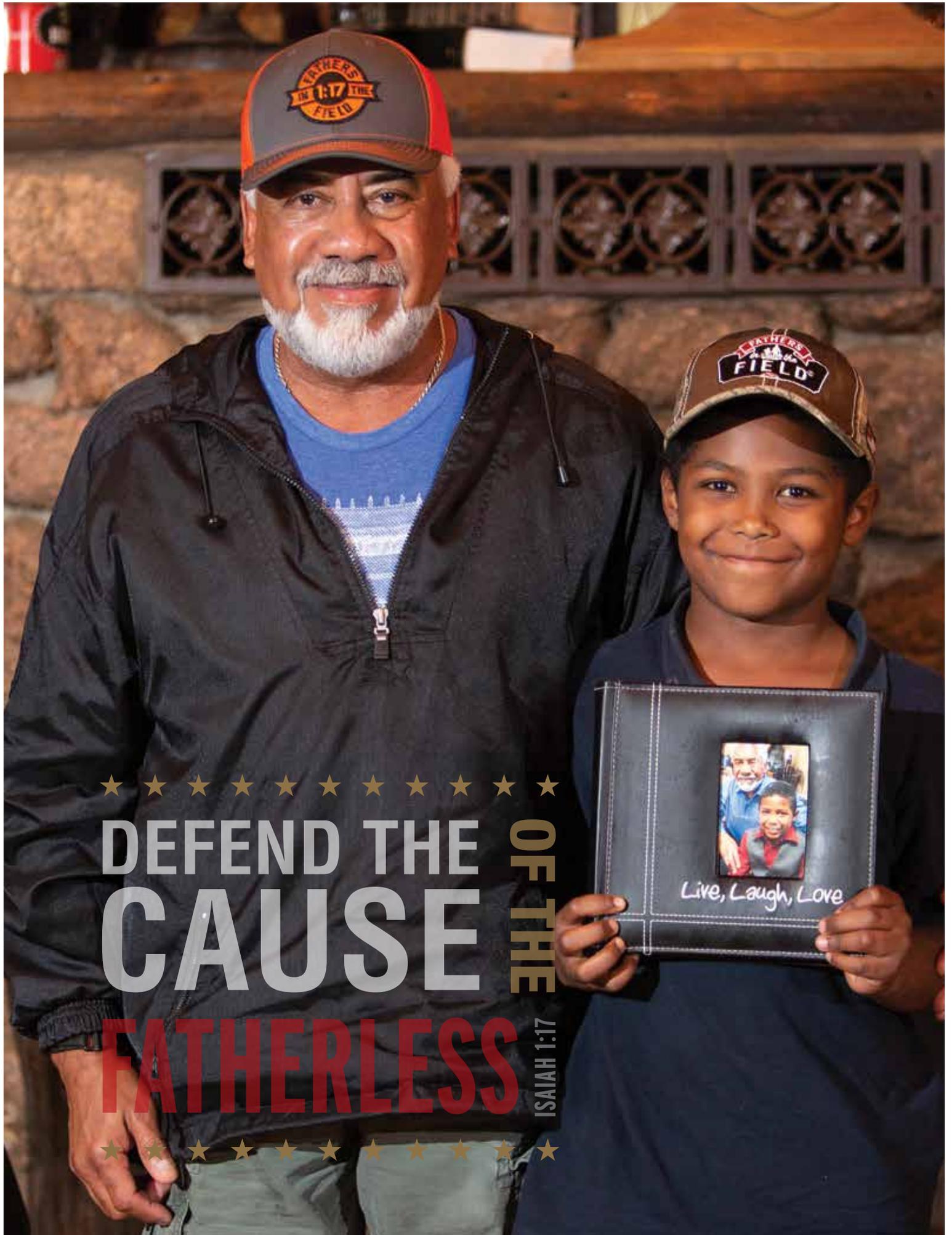
Service Projects



End of Year Event



Photo Album Ceremony



DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE FATHERLESS

ISAIAH 1:17

