



THE GREAT BATTLE

DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE FATHERLESS... ISAIAH 1:17



FAITH • FATHERHOOD • FORGIVENESS





Mission

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.

Objective

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 abandonment.

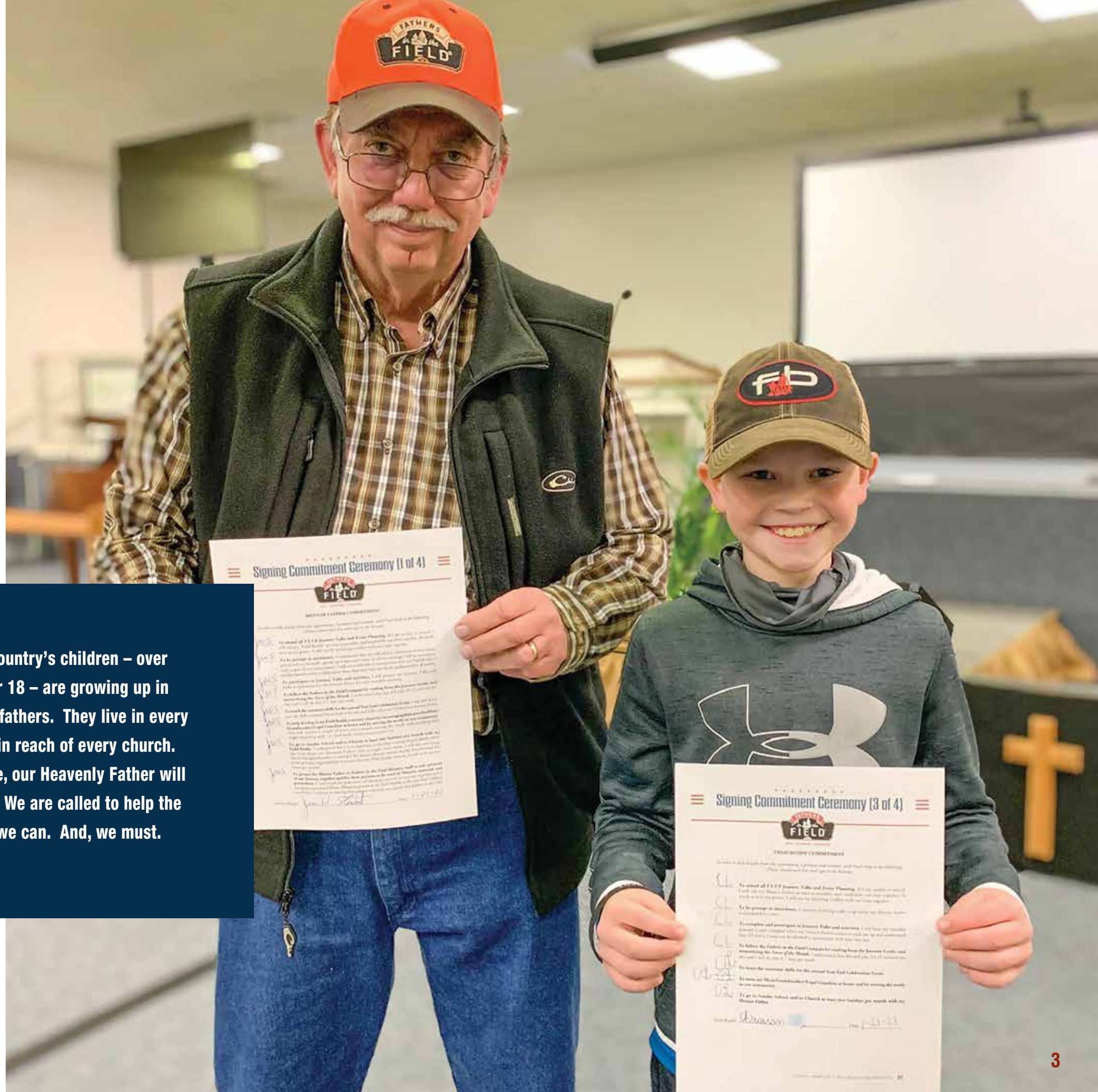


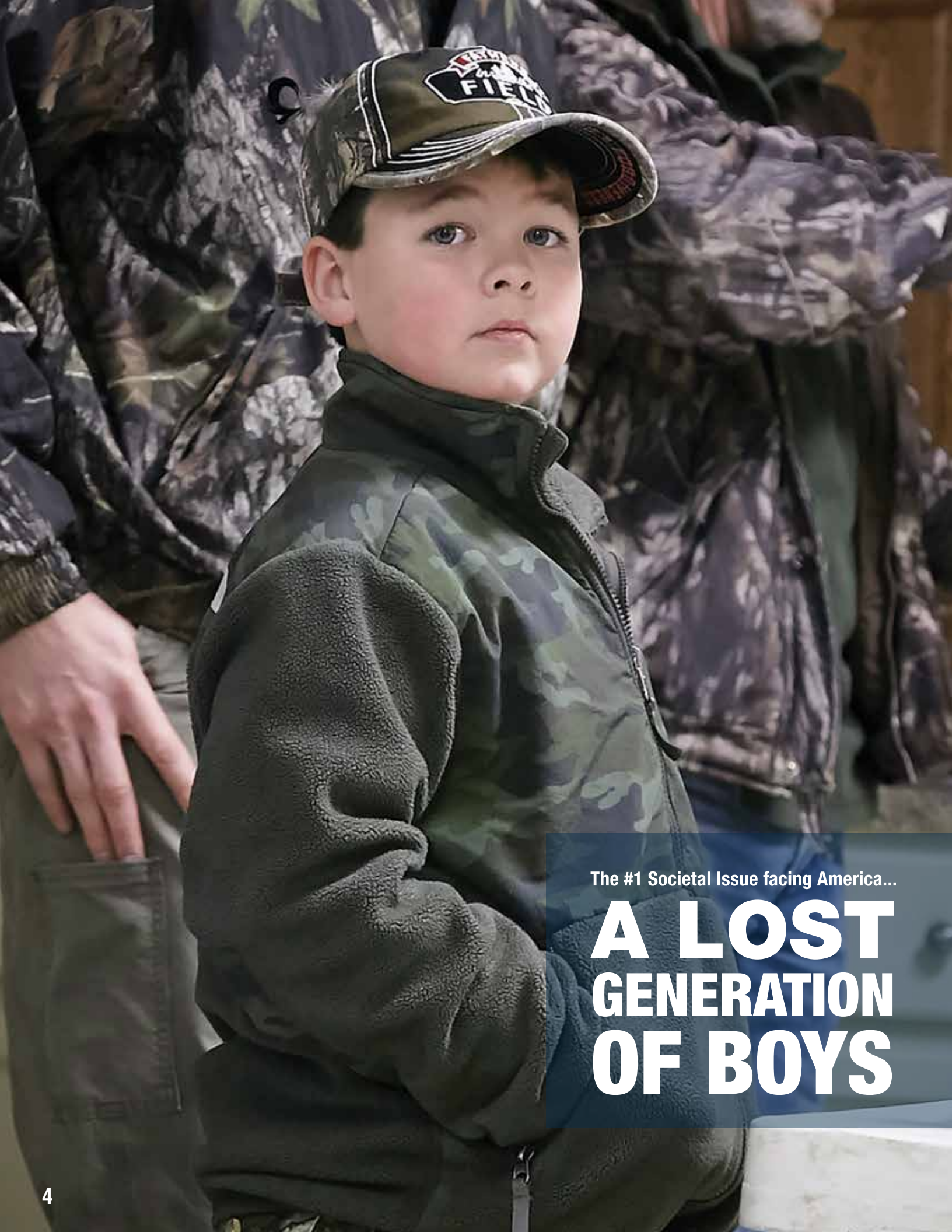
WATCH THE VIDEO
fathersinthe field.com/defeatgoliath/

Fathers in the Field's Heroes are facing the Goliath of our time – the damaging effects of fatherlessness.

DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE FATHERLESS... ISAIAH 1:17

50% of this country's children – over 25 million kids under 18 – are growing up in homes without their fathers. They live in every community and within reach of every church. Given this knowledge, our Heavenly Father will not tolerate inaction. We are called to help the fatherless, and now we can. And, we must.





The #1 Societal Issue facing America...

A LOST GENERATION OF BOYS

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Listening to the Heartbeat of GOD

A repetitive theme throughout the Bible is that God Himself looks after the needs of the fatherless. The cause of the fatherless strikes at the very center of God's heart and He has promised great rewards for those who defend the cause of the fatherless. Consequently, some of His harshest judgments are reserved for those who abuse or take advantage of the fatherless, and on those who sit idly by watching the abuse take place.

Fathers in the Field® was established with the deep conviction to answer God's call to defend the cause of the fatherless through the provision of godly mentoring fathers. The ill effects of growing up without a father upon the boy, the family and our society are profound.

We are confident that through a faithful commitment to a fatherless boy, his future will be much brighter and that godly men will have the distinct privilege of introducing him to the Heavenly Father and to His Son, Jesus Christ.



The Pain

When a father abandons his child... A boy naturally says, "I'll never forgive you!"

Society says, "Forget about him! You don't need a Dad!"

Jesus says, "Forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you of your sins." (Mark 11:25)



1.5 Million
children become
fatherless and
wounded **each year**

When a boy hears

from a caring Mentor Father that he has a Father in Heaven who loves him and offers forgiveness through His Son Jesus Christ, the boy is empowered to forgive his earthly father and break free from the torment of abandonment.



“It has been a real joy to share my love for God’s creation and skills I have learned over the years with my Field Buddy James. We started our journey months ago and our relationship has grown through sharing outdoor skills and the Journey Guide devotion Bible studies.

James and I think any young man just needs a little one on one, centered around the outdoors and God’s Word to develop into what God has for him. James’ growth into young manhood, knowing that God loves him and cares for him has been really quite incredible. As we have taken this journey together, my own growth as a Christian has taken on another whole level of commitment to Christ’s Kingdom.

Fathers in the Field is a real “hands on” way to effectively share the gospel of Christ with young men. I highly recommend it. The need is great. The great commission beckons us. I can’t think of a better way to glorify God and help us change the direction of a boys’ life than this ministry.”

Bill Moss, Elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church



WATCH THE VIDEO

fathersinthe field.com/video-hero-of-the-fatherless-jason/

Hero of the Fatherless: Jason Baker’s impact in the life of Caden is profound.

The only way to heal the wound of abandonment is through the radical, counter-cultural truth of Forgiveness

The Need Over 12 million boys are growing up fatherless in America – the majority of them carrying deep, damaging wounds of abandonment that threaten them and society. This problem is growing exponentially.

The harvest field of the fatherless is not only in distant lands, but now within the reach of every church in America.



Children from Fatherless homes are

- A greater **threat to society**
- **72% of adolescent murders** are committed by fatherless children
- **60% of rapists** come from fatherless homes
- **67% of state prison inmates** come from fatherless homes
- **85%** of juveniles in reform institutions are fatherless
- **30%** 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**

(Source: National Center for Fathering; US Department of Health and Human Services; US Justice Department; National Principals Association, US Census Bureau)



Fathers in the Field Ministry translates the Gospel into a fatherless boy’s language.



Great Rewards...

FOR A BOY who has been abandoned by his earthly father, hearing the healing and encouraging words that he has a Father in Heaven who created him, loves him and will never forsake him is a powerful and grace-filled perspective.

FOR A MENTOR FATHER to put his arm around his Field Buddy and tell the boy how proud he is of him for learning new outdoor skills or for helping a widow in need, may be the turning point from the damaging effects and statistics caused by abandonment.

FOR THE SINGLE MOM to know that a godly man is helping guide her precious boy into authentic Christian manhood, is an answer to grief-filled prayers.

FOR THE CHURCH, the church is fulfilling God's call to reach out to help the fatherless and widows in its own neighborhood and community, by not only sharing God's truths, but also demonstrating God's mercy.



The ministry was founded by a man who was deserted by his own father and struggled with the wound of abandonment for decades before discovering the healing of forgiveness.



Bonding

Mentor Fathers and their Field Buddies bond through the 12 month journey that includes:

- An end-of-year, multi-day “Adventure Passage” involving 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.
- Community service projects that help build a boy's self-worth.
- Meaningful conversations that 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. The boys learn from their Mentor Fathers about the liberating love of their Heavenly Father and the healing that comes through the forgiveness of their fathers who abandoned them.

Fathers in the Field is a non-profit, non para-church ministry which equips the local church to “Call” and raise godly men ‘as missionaries’ to intentionally mentor the fatherless in their own community.



WATCH THE VIDEO
fathersinthe field.com/video-hero-of-the-fatherless-gil/
Gil Jones' impact in the life of Dorian is profound.



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How the Journey Works

***Fathers in the Field*® works to achieve 3 important goals**

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.

Spiritually mature men in Christian congregations are empowered and equipped to reach out to fatherless boys in their communities and introduce them to the Father who will never leave or forsake them-God Himself.

Churches, Mentors, Field Buddies, Single Moms and Widows

Mobilizing Local Churches:

Fathers in the Field works through local churches to reach out to abandoned boys in reach of their communities and to approve Mentor Fathers.

Field Buddies

Fatherless boys ages 7-17 can participate in *Fathers in the Field*. Mentor Fathers: Christian men who love God and the great outdoors serve as Mentor Fathers and are asked to commit to annual relationships with their Field Buddies.

Single Moms

Fathers in the Field reaches fatherless boys through single mothers who want their sons to have a mature Christian male role model. The ministry is funded through sponsoring churches and faithful supporters so there is no cost to moms.

Widows

Community service is an integral part of *Fathers in the Field* ministry, which identifies widows in need and gives boys an opportunity to serve them and in doing so, gain a sense of accomplishment, helpfulness, and self-worth.



WATCH THE VIDEO
fathersinthe field.com/video-single-moms-journey/

Hear the heart and honest truths of a single mom and how *Fathers in the Field* has impacted her son's life.





Thoughtful, Faithful, Complete.

Fathers in the Field Regional Missionaries volunteer their time to train, coach, and equip the local church to have an intentional mentoring ministry to the fatherless.

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Journey Step Commitments

Mentor Fathers and boys meet four times a month, using the tools of the ministry, to gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special end of year celebration outdoor activity.



Journey Talks™

A monthly hands-on activity, progressively preparing for their special year-end “Adventure Passage” event, while incorporating a Life-Journey curriculum that guides boys into authentic Christian manhood. The Mentor Fathers share their love for the Heavenly Father in their comfort zone... God’s Creation.



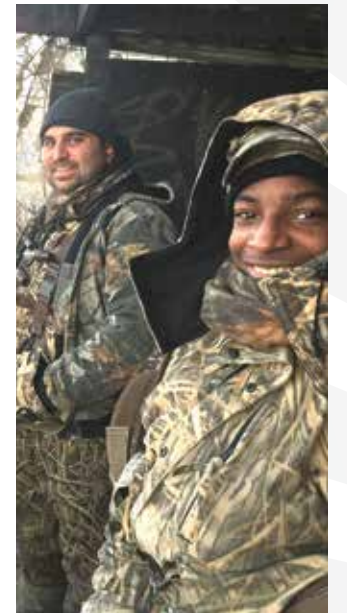
Church Family

The Mentor Father commits to pick-up and bring his Field Buddy to Sunday school and Church two out of the 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.



Community Service

Here the boy develops a serving attitude and learns that he has value, working each month building self-worth in the process by helping people in need such as widows and the elderly.



Annual Adventure Passage 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.



WATCH THE VIDEO

fathersinthe field.com/video-one-churchs-journey/

A Pastor sharing why *Fathers in the Field* is critical to reaching the fatherless in their community.

** Mentor Fathers commit to about 5 hours per month. Mentor Fathers and Field Buddies meet (4) times a month (two of which are Sunday school and Church) and using these tools, gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special outdoor activity so they have a year-end “rite of passage” adventure celebration to prepare and look forward to.*



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Keith Polk

A Mentor Father's Story

Keith Polk, one of the first *Fathers in the Field* Mentor Fathers, recalls the moment when he knew he had made a heart connection with his Field Buddy, Taylor. "We were coming home from turkey hunting. I dropped him off and he turned and waved at me when he walked into the house. I was likely to explode with excitement! Little things like that are important," exclaims Keith, who, having mentored Taylor for numerous years, has learned to rejoice in the small victories of life with a fatherless boy.

"Taylor's mom, Daphne, tells me that he used to be full of joy and laughter," Keith says. "They would play catch together and have a great time. But as he got older, he started throwing the ball so hard that she couldn't catch it anymore. **The reality of his loss set in as he saw his friends out throwing the ball with their dads, while his dad was nowhere in sight.** I think it was embarrassing and caused him to draw into a shell."

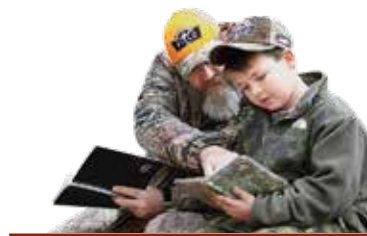
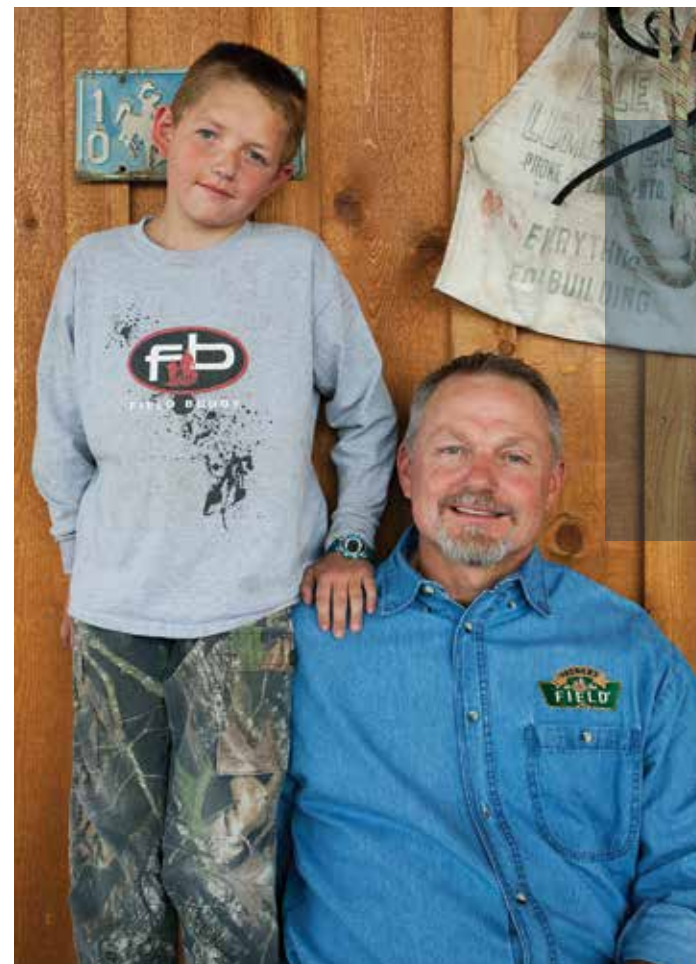
For Keith and Taylor, the *Fathers in the Field* journey has been one marked by patience, hard-earned trust, and small victories. The wound of abandonment runs deep and mentoring a boy who bears it can be challenging. But as Keith concludes, the reward is far greater. **"It's worth it because it's what God called me to do. And I get to see Taylor grow.** One day, I believe I will see more than a wave when he turns around and walks away. But whether I do or not, I am obedient to the Lord. And, I have grown to love Taylor like a son. I mentor him now because I love him. I want to see him grow like I want to see my own son grow."

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About

Fathers in the Field®

Founded in Lander, Wyoming and created by a man who was deserted by his own father at a young age and keenly felt that loss his entire life. Upon receiving Christ as his Savior in 2002 and being reconciled to his Heavenly Father, John Smithbaker started a journey of understanding, acceptance and, most importantly, extending and asking forgiveness. In 2005, John was inspired to create a way to seek and help others suffering the pain of a father's abandonment, and *Fathers in the Field* – a natural outgrowth of his faith and his love for the outdoors – was born.



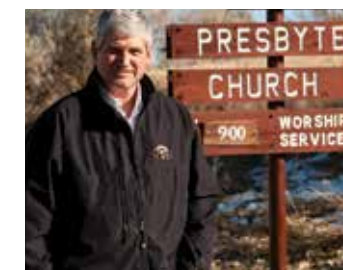
Each **Field Buddy** reads over **400 Bible verses** by the end of their mentoring Journey



VISIT US AT
www.fathersinthe field.com
[facebook.com/fathersinthe field](https://www.facebook.com/fathersinthe field)

As Christ's Church,
 we must not stand idly by and let Satan
 destroy the next generation of our boys".

Pastor of the founding Church,
 Scott MacNaughton





Gear for the Journey

All You Need to Outfit the Journey of a Life-Time

Getting Started: Everything a Church Champion needs to get the ministry started. Ministry Items Build camaraderie and excitement among Mentor Fathers. Monthly Journey Gifts Motivate and outfit your Field Buddy.



Welcome Package

We make it easy by providing everything the Church Champion and the Mentor Father needs to get started and implement the mentoring ministry within your Church.



Why Journey Gifts?

BONDING: Something very emotionally powerful happens when a man gives a gift to a Field Buddy for a job well done.

INCENTIVE: The monthly Journey Gift provides an incentive for the Field Buddy to complete his monthly journey lesson and community service project.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The monthly Journey Gift teaches the Field Buddy accountability; if he does not complete his monthly journey lesson or follow through with his other commitments, the gift is withheld until he does.

PRACTICAL: They allow the Field Buddy to participate in the end of year outdoor "Adventure Passage" event in safety and comfort.

FINANCIAL: They help to relieve any financial burden or embarrassment on the single mom who, in all likelihood, could not afford to outfit her son for the multi-day outdoor adventure.

SHARED VISION: The Gifts help relieve any further burden on the Mentor Father in having to pay for outdoor clothing and equipment needs for his Field Buddy. The church family shares in this ministry through their financial contribution.

HEAVENLY FATHER: These earthly gifts represent to the abandoned boy the spiritual reality of our Heavenly Father's gifts to His children.

Monthly Gifts

Providing monthly Journey Gifts is a critical component of this relationship centered ministry. Allowing the Mentor Father to serve and grow both the practical needs and the deep emotional needs of the abandoned boy are essential for their journey adventure.



"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like the shifting shadows."
James 1:17



Masen

A Field Buddy's story

Eleven-year-old Masen had never met his father, who abandoned him for a life of crime that ultimately led to prison. The wound of abandonment that Masen carried was not visible on the outside, but it gnawed at him on the inside – producing anger and resentment and convincing him that he was not worthy of a father's love.

In 2006, Masen, then nine years old, was enrolled in *Fathers in the Field* through a local church. Masen's grandmother noticed the *Fathers in the Field* enrollment ad in the newspaper and she called indicating that he needs help and we should call his mother to get Masen enrolled.

Masen and his Mentor Father started planning for their end of year turkey hunt. Masen was introduced to the concept of forgiving his father in month 6 of the 10-month Journey Curriculum. He emphatically and angrily wrote in big, hate-filled letters, that he will NEVER FORGIVE his father.

Over the next couple of months while sharing time together and exploring God's creation, Masen asked his Mentor Father and his Sunday school teacher many questions about this concept; such as, would you forgive your father if he abandoned you? Did Jesus really die for me on the 'cross'? How could God let His Son die on the Cross? Do I really need to be forgiven? Am I a sinner? Many wonderful conversations happened and unfolded in natural and normal settings, like driving to Sunday school and eating lunch under a tree while looking for elk in the Wind River mountains.



Today, Masen still does not have a relationship with his dad. But, he knows he has a Father in Heaven who loves him and will never leave or forsake him. Through his faith, his relationship with his Mentor Father and his Church family, and the journey they are on together with *Fathers in the Field*, Masen is growing into the young man he never imagined he could be.

The fatherless are the closest to God's heart! ★ ★ ★



One Sunday morning, when his Mentor Father picked him up to take him to Sunday school, Masen boldly and confidently told his Mentor Father that last night he prayed to his Heavenly Father to forgive him and that he accepted His Son, Jesus as his Savior... And, by the way... I forgave my earthly father too. And, I want to be Baptized! To say the least, his Mentor Father was blown away and filled with awesome joy.

They hugged and had such a wonderful drive to Church that day. One month later, Masen was Baptized in witness of his church family, his mother, grandmother, his grandfather, his great grandfather and great grandmother and yes, his Mentor Father.

What a celebration! Praise the Lord.

However...God's special redemptive plan is not over... Within two weeks of his telling his Mentor Father of being saved in Christ... Masen received the unthinkable. He received a letter from his father in prison wanting to see him. (God's plan is perfect... that letter would have been torn apart before God softened Masen's heart.)

Masen asked his Mentor Father... what would you do?...and the Mentor Father asked what do you think you should do? Masen thought for a little while and responded... I should go see him and tell him that I forgive him. And, tell him, that I have been forgiven too. Plus, I should tell him about Jesus. Maybe we can spend forever in Heaven together.

What a powerful testimony of God's mercy and love for His children. Masen's wound can finally heal, no longer festering.

He has broken the bonds of anger and hatred – and through God's grace, prayerfully the cycle of destruction. He is now whole in Christ.





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Making Headlines

Since its inception, the *Fathers in the Field* message has been shared with millions through exceptional national and local media attention.

"We are changing the hearts and lives of fatherless boys, one boy at a time. But we are also aggressively seeking to reverse the devastating trend of fatherlessness in America. Our message to fathers: Stay in the home and be the Pastor, Protector, and Provider that God calls you to be. And to godly men in our churches: Stand in the gap where fathers have abandoned their posts. Our boys need you to mentor them into godly manhood."

~John Smithbaker

In addition to the national media coverage, *Fathers in the Field* has had the privilege of sharing its message by visiting thousands of churches and participating in dozens of conference events across the United States



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Spreading the Word

- **Exposure on national broadcasting networks:**
The Outdoor Channel, TBN, Focus on the Family, Salem Radio Network, USA Radio Network, American Family Radio, Associated Press Radio, United News and Information
- **Write-ups in national magazines:** Time, New Man, Real Hunting, On Target, Significant Living, Peaks and Plains, World Magazine and ByFaith
- National Ministry **growth and expansion** into more than **30 states**.
- **National recognition and awards.**



WATCH OUR VIDEOS
fathersinthe field.com/resources/media-library/

Please visit our website and watch our wonderful videos on the ministry.





The Great American Rescue Mission®



A Plague Upon Our Land

Every day, in every county of every state in our nation, a boy is abandoned by his father. While the impact of abandonment on this singular life is tragic, when multiplied across our nation, the impact metastasizes like a cancer across our land. It is a generational cycle that must stop.

The treatment for this plague on our nation must be addressed at individual, regional, and national levels.

The plan of The Great American Rescue Mission combines the influence of intentional mentorship of a malleable life, the power of the local church, and the impact of building more national awareness and advocacy of the fatherless issues facing our nation.

Combined, this trifacta is the only hope of restoration for the boy, the reversal of our national trend of fatherlessness, and engagement with the Church to fulfill its biblical calling to care for the fatherless and the widow and defend the cause of the fatherless.
(James 1:27, Isaiah 1:17)



Mobilizing the local church to be the hands and feet of Jesus

Local church pastors are key to the bold vision of connecting and equipping people of faith across the nation in The Great American Rescue Mission. The next step in breaking the chain of generational fatherlessness is raising up and deploying more Field Missionaries in regional territories to cover the entire country, and engaging pastors of local churches so they may reach and rescue the fatherless boys in their communities.



WATCH THE VIDEO
fathersinthe field.com/the-great-american-rescue-mission/

John Smithbaker, founder of *Fathers in the Field*, who shares his own story of growing up without a dad and explains his passion for ministering to fatherless children.



Fathers in the Field has a proven ministry of impact. The graphic above shows how the restoration of a Field Buddy (fatherless boy) has a positive ripple effect of influence in the family, the local church, the neighborhood which ultimately bears weight on his entire sphere of connectedness.

Our nation, our home, cannot survive the assault on the family, on masculinity, on marriage and for the souls of our precious children. We need to reach and rescue those left behind. Our battle rages on frontlines of our churches, in our civic square and in our neighborhoods. We are commanded to defend those closest to our Heavenly Father's heart – the fatherless.



The Great American Rescue Mission – The Book

Fatherlessness is the #1 societal issue that is decimating the family and tearing at the very fabric of America. In his new book, *The Great American Rescue Mission*, ministry founder John Smithbaker shares how *Fathers in the Field* engages the local church to reach, rescue, and restore fatherless boys in their community to end the epidemic of generational fatherlessness.



GET YOUR COPY AT
fathersinthe field.com/store/the-great-american-rescue-mission-book/



Enroll your Church

How to tell if your Church has a Ministry to the Fatherless?

The way that a church “knows” - without excuses - if it has a ministry to the fatherless, is if there are abandoned children in their Sunday school and worship service. If there are not, then it does not!

Every church must have a ministry to the fatherless and widow. There is no true church apart from the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ AND the discipleship of the believer in proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ through an “intentional” mercy ministry to the fatherless, widow, prisoner and alien. When the Holy Spirit draws His children into His kingdom, He calls them into service. At the heart of God’s calling is justice and mercy to the fatherless and widow.

The missionary field is not only in distant lands, but in our own backyard. In the United States there are 25 million fatherless children (and rapidly growing) that are in reach of every church.

As the children of Israel are about to take their first step into the Promised Land, God gives them this encouragement and exhortation from Deuteronomy 10. God has set His affections upon them. Now, in return, they are to love the Lord, their God with all of their heart, mind, soul and strength.

What does that love look like? How does God measure that love from His children?

He measures the love of His children by their reflection of His character and their compassion to the fatherless and widow...



Leave a lasting Kingdom Legacy to Defend the Cause of the fatherless



Making a bequest to *Fathers in the Field* is a simple way to support Missionaries in our own

country battling to share the Heavenly Father with those left behind. You can name *Fathers in the Field* Ministry as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or financial accounts. Anyone can make a bequest and no amount is too small for our Kingdom work.

Simple wording: I give, devise and bequeath to *Fathers in the Field* [x%, \$ amount, describe gift as property, coins, firearms, etc.] for general purposes as shall be determined by its Board.



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www.fathersinthefield.com

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