**Father The Fatherless**

**Jerry Bryant**

I was part of the Jesus Revolution of the late early 70’s and 80’s.

At the time we didn’t realize the effect of not having Fathers to guide and bless us, and many did not continue the journey, because of that lack.

I believe we are in the season of another Jesus Revolution, with a renewed outbreak of revival, mass baptisms, youth worship…but again from my observation, not much has changed in that we still need fathers to impart and encourage a new awakening for God.

I read where more than 20 million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father. Millions more have dads who are physically present, but emotionally absent. If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency.

**Many would say that fatherlessness is the most significant family or social problem facing America.**

An article by Benjamin Sledge was entitled, [“Today’s Problem with Masculinity Isn’t What You Think.”](https://medium.com/s/story/todays-problem-with-masculinity-isn-t-what-you-think-b43e80edcf60) After decades of research: that boys and men in our nation suffer from what is referred to as emotional vacancy. He stated: “We’re dealing with a generation that no longer has the skills necessary to cope with hardship and adversity. People are chronically lonely even though they’re more connected than ever but, many times, **religious homes** can be the most emotionally vacant place for a young man. Poverty, Dropouts, Pregnancy, Suicide, Identity and Gender confusion. This “father lack” negatively affects relationships at church, work and home, an inability to navigate an emotional broken world.

FATHER ABSENCE was no surprise to God whose prophet wrote, and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; Mal 4:6

I’ve been intentionally giving of myself to the fatherless over the years, to come along side, listen and “see” them. It takes time but if they really feel they are valued there will be a connection and they will begin to trust and reach out for help.

On Pentecost Sunday at the congregation I attend, I noticed a man come in and stand in the back. He was dressed in a long black dress, wearing high-heeled shoes and earrings. So, I went over to him and said, “I’ve been waiting for you. Would you like to sit with me?” He did along with two others of his “transitioning” friends. There was such a presence that morning an invitation was given to come up if anyone wanted to encounter God’s love. All 3 of them did and by the end of the service each one prayed to receive Jesus, deliverance from darkness and to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I told my new friend, “I feel you’ve been misunderstood and dishonored. May I honor you and wash your feet?” And I did. And after the service to make this amazing story complete, they were water baptized at a local lake at a nearby lake. What a glorious exchange of love that day.

I challenge you to realize that your ceiling is someone else’s floor. It’s time to Father the fatherless.