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To: jc@welivingstones.org
Subject: What's Real Father!



3rd Quarter 2012

What a Father!

What it means to be a Father?

As usual our InsideOut Dad class at Wakulla Correctional Institution is exceptional. As a facilitator I allow for lots of participation and interaction among the men. Our class numbers 95.

Newsworthy was the recent altercation between Pastor Creflo Dollar and his daughter. Each man gave their input as to how they would have handled the situation. It was important for them to express what it means to be a man and father even while in prison.

Nearing the end of class, one inmate raised his hand to say that was all good, but his situation was unique. He stated his great-grandfather went to prison, also his grandfather, his father and of course he's in prison, and now one of his sons is in prison. Talk about taking your breath away and during his conversation every man was silent. Even I whom am never speechless had to take a few minutes to recompose myself and let all the men know how speechless I was. This was a testimony of how NOT to be a father.

Statistics show that 70% of inmates' children will follow their parent to prison.

This is an important and real statement. His father spoke how it wasn't too bad in prison and obviously he followed suit and so did one of his sons. He stated every Wednesday he



writes his other children to constantly remind them that prison is terrible, no decision in what you eat, always told when to go to bed and when to get up. Using a reality check are his words he uses to keep them from coming to prison by letting them know how bad it is and that it is not for them.

[Link to my website](#)

This is why it's critical to invest in our ministry by helping us reduce the number of our youth from falling into the same pattern as their incarcerated parents.

Hi Josephine,

Re-read the story again. It does take your breath away to know that prison like other things in life may take on generational characteristics-- in this case passing from the great-grandfather to the grandfather to the father and now his son. How sad a commentary that the father spoke how prison wasn't too bad marking the future path for his son and grandson.

We hear of fathers and sons in prison at the same time, not necessarily in the same prison, but for similar crimes and similar sentencing. It's not confined only to fathers and sons, but brothers, uncles, daughters, and the list goes on. Living Stones is undertaking a great responsibility to partner with The Service Network: Children of Inmates. Our first bonding visit is already in the works for Wakulla Correctional Institution Annex.

Our ministry needs your investment and support today--because not only is the work challenging, but also "*it takes our breath away.*" We are asking you to be an integral part of the solution by assisting us to help these *Children of Inmates*. Read the story again and let God use you in a mighty way to help someone else. Josephine and I are recruiting volunteers, making room in our hearts for the children, and being good stewards of your financial gift no matter the size to prevent one more child from following their parent to prison.

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If it were your father, grandfather, or child in this predicament--would you be willing to lend support. We also welcome any referrals for volunteers, prayer warriors, partners and investors to our program. Collaborators are welcomed and will be an integral part of this program to be known as the Service Network North: Children of Inmates.



Josephine plans on attending an actual bonding visit at the end of June to learn and understand how the process will work for Living Stones as well as investigate what our needs will be and resources to fund such an activity as the bonding visits.

"Living Stones' goal is not to allow one child to follow their parent to prison."

The Children of Inmates' program has already demonstrated in the Miami-Broward area that it works and has been working for the last five years with helping children of inmates through direct services and by supporting caregivers. Recidivism rates for these fathers and mothers are lower than the Department of Corrections. Funding for the Miami-Broward area is through the Children's Trust Fund set up for youth programs and services, whereas Living Stones is relying 100% on you, our gracious supporters for your timely and selfless gifts.

You're reading this is a good thing and it will take you only a few minutes to write your check to invest in this program for Living Stones. Mail your check, money order, or credit card donation to:

Living Stones International
PO Box 6747
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6747

If you're more inclined to donate online, then click the link below, where you are able to send your investment quicker and print out your own receipt.

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"And we know that all things work together to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Our purpose is clear, our hearts true, and our partners and investors we need. May God continue to bless you and your family mightily.

"People don't care how much you know until you show them how much you care!"

Your Co-laborers in Christ,

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