

A Father's HEART

by Dr. Yvonne Lewis

When you think of Father's Day, what comes to your mind? Do you have warm recollections of special times with your dad? Or do you have memories of a harsh, gruff, near-stranger who you wish hadn't been your father?



Dr. Yvonne Lewis is a naturopathic doctor, author, lecturer, and singer, as well as the general manager of 3ABN's Dare to Dream Network for urban audiences.

Perhaps you don't even know who or where he is. This is the perplexing situation that affects many in the inner city.

For those of us who have been blessed with great fathers, it's hard to relate to; and yet, it is a statistical reality for

many. More than 20 million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father.

The Ugly Truth

It's been said that if it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency!

According to the website of the National Center for Fathering, children from fatherless homes are almost four times more likely to be poor, and run a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse, dropping out of school, and suffering from health and emotional problems. Boys are more likely to become involved in crime, and girls more prone to become pregnant teens. In addition, children born to single mothers demonstrate higher levels of aggressive behavior than children born to married mothers.

Fatherless students account for 71 percent of high school dropouts, and have more trouble academically, scoring poorly on tests of reading, math, and critical thinking skills.

The same website stated that in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, researchers discovered a direct correlation between the absence of fathers and incidents of teen violence. The fewer the fathers, the more teen acts of violence.

One inner city teacher told a story about one of her kindergarten students. Her students were poor, and most lived in run-down neighborhoods. The school served a free breakfast and lunch everyday to kids who otherwise might have gone for days without a solid meal.

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Dr. Yvonne Lewis and Jason Bradley join the hosts of *A Father's Heart*.

PHOTOS: SHELAKA CHRISTIAN

When she asked a little girl what she'd had for dinner the night before, her answer was, "Bubblegum." She was fatherless, impoverished, and hungry!

A Father's Heart

For the past few years I've had a burden to produce a program on fathering for Dare to Dream, and on several occasions I've had a host confirmed and taping dates scheduled. Yet, each time, something happened to thwart the program. It was so frustrating!

So many young fathers want to know what to do, but because they've never had a dad, they don't have anyone to model parenting. The Lord knows how much our communities need this programming, and finally, we were able to get them done.

A Father's Heart will share stories and tips on successful parenting techniques that can be immediately implemented.

Xavier Morales, our host, and his team members, Gordon Fraser and



Hosts (L to R): Gordon Fraser, Denry White, and Xavier Morales.

A Father's Heart
Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.
CDT (UTC-5)

Denry White, stepped up to the plate and did some compelling programs. Their authenticity, transparency, and strategies are unparalleled.

They demonstrate the loving care of our heavenly Father, and as they share their success and failures, your heart will be moved and touched. I'm sure you'll be blessed by *A Father's Heart*! ☺