

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL EDITION

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AUTHOR

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Editor's note



Let me begin by wishing a 'Happy Fathers day' to all the men out there, whether you are a biological father or a father by adoption, you are most appreciated.

I want to take this opportunity to share a little about my dear beloved biological father. Growing up my father was a strict disciplinarian, whose words of advise I always carried with me everywhere I went. You would think him being a disciplinarian the whip was always close on hand but alas that was never his style. His words alone were enough to keep me in line. I only remember two times that I got a well-deserved whooping from him, but that's a conversation for another day.

His words of advise that sometimes felt like intimidation at that point in time protected me from making a lot of bad choices. Naturally, I did not always make the perfect choices, but thanks to that constant shadow of his presence, I was able to make a lot more positive decisions in my life.

One thing that he has always valued was education, and he instilled that value in my siblings and I. Our academic achievements are testimony to this. So this fathers day I honour him with all my heart, for had it not been for his presence in my life, who knows where I would have been today. I thank God for continuing to bless him with the gift of life and good health. Thank you for raising me to be the woman I am today!

"Te amo papá. I love you dad. Ngiyakuthanda baba. Ndokudai baba."

To the father of my two beautiful children, thank you for being a fantastic dad every single day. We love you 3000!

Now moving on to this week's Issue we continue to pay tribute to all fathers, and acknowledge their role in society as Greyson Chipote takes us through his thought-provoking book 'When Fathers Go Missing'. Enjoy!



GREYSON CHIPOTE

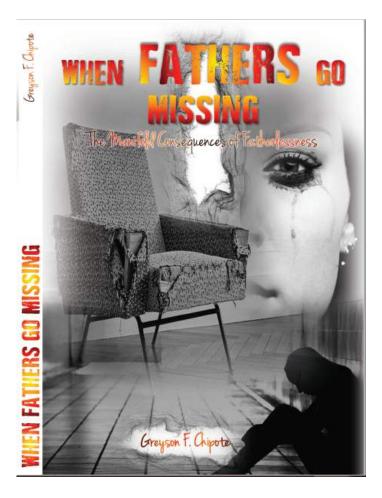
Author of the transformational book **'When Fathers Go Missing'** which tackles the manifold consequences of fatherlessness in all facets of society.

He is currently working on a documentary film titled 'Politics Without Paternity' drawn from chapter four of his book. The film reveals the connection between ruthless political dictators and how their personal lives missed father figures. Greyson is a seasoned banker by profession with retail and investment banking expertise. He is also the founder of Wisdom Capital, a financial advisory boutique that has synergies cutting across four continents.

Greyson is a passionate minister of the word of God and currently serves as a Pastor at Grace Christian Church. It is from his interactions in ministry, business and mentoring spheres that he identified a desperate need for men to take their rightful place in the community. As a result, a passion awakened within him to engage society about the subject of fatherhood and its importance. He is married to his lovely wife Loice, and they are blessed with two children, David and Denise. When Fathers Go Missing explores the critical role fathers play in shaping the destinies of their children. It highlights the disastrous effects the challenge of fatherlessness has on children and wider society. The emotional, social, political and economic implications can be dire, especially when individuals make decisions out of brokenness. Critically, Greyson provides eyeopening steps that may be used to heal broken relationships and nations.

This book, written in a captivating conversational style, makes a clarion call and provides a platform to have a much-needed conversation about fatherhood in the 21st Century. It is definitely a worthy read for every man!

The book is available on **Amazon**, **or** alternatively you can contact Greyson on the following number +**263 778 493 913** to get a copy.



Take for instance how many young people do you know in your community who have no fathers? How about relating to them and encouraging them. Relate with them by finding out what they are doing in class, sport, art etc. Encourage them. Affirm them. Celebrate them. This does not demand that you do algebra with them necessarily. If you can- the better. If you cant, just ask for the school report, identify the needy areas and demand an improvement. Celebrate the areas that they are doing well. Children yearn for a father voice to speak into their life. There is need for a balance between correction and encouragement. The more they are encouraged, the lesser they focus on the areas of their weakness. In your engagement, affirm them. Ensure that the door is open for them and ensure they know that the door is open for them.

Why Not Now: A message for every Man

And David said unto him, Fear not for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father, and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually." 2 Samuel 9: 7

The book is not about the melodramatic life of Mephibosheth. However, the essence of this chapter cannot overlook and resist the story of David and Mephibosheth. Without laboring the reader with the story, I will spare you the narration of this passage and hammer straight to the point. David remembers that he has a debt he has to pay, the debt of fatherhood. He wants to know whom he can father for the sake of the absentee father-Jonathan. Wow! And that is the essence of this book - to awaken fathers that will search for sons and daughters to father. Evidently, there is a yawning gap for fatherhood and there is a desperate need for the Davids of this generation to take up the challenge. Now lets break this down. How is this achievable?

"The admiration that a son seeks from his father when the child displays strength and competence is instrumental in boosting self-esteem"

Realistically, it is unwise to expect overnight results. Little by little, they will begin to open up and warm up to you. Do this to another child. Encourage another fellow father to do the same to another child. Before we know it, fatherlessness ceases to be the challenge and catastrophe that it currently is.

Imagine if our male teachers take this challenge. They frequently come across fatherless children. Imagine just fathering a child and follow them through class then sport monitoring their associations etc at a personal level and not at a classroom level. Imagine the impact that it can have. It might be in primary, secondary or even tertiary level. The child will not forget their teacher/father. All this can happen without governmental intervention, support, grant, budget etc. It simply calls for men to rise up.

"There is a father sized void in every person that only a father can fill"

Lets imagine again, a sports coach at a school or in a community. Youths who come to sport are generally passionate about their area of sport or art. Be it netball, basketball, soccer, music, dance to mention but a few. Why not coach life to the lads. To some, you are the only father they have seen and that they will ever see. Is it not fulfilling that you coached beyond sport. You coached life! The life principles outlive sport. That is more rewarding than a monthly income. My sport coaches therefore arise and become a corps of patriots!



With His Worship The Mayor of Bulawayo Cllr Solomon Mguni

Now imagine a policeman who handles a case of drug abuse by young boys. Going beyond the call of duty, they take interest in the perpetrator and take it upon themselves to ensure the boy(s) become better people. All it might require is to send each other whatsapp texts to check on the boy, demand that you meet at a football game or at a social gathering where they can see you outside your uniform, at a "human" level. Youths respond to love. Love is irresistible. Again, there is no need for governmental support, aid, grant etc for this. It calls for men to rise!



With the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Cain Mathema

The ministry of Christ has never been about growing denominations, church buildings and having the largest congregations. Needless to say, this is an open invitation to all saved men to take their place in society and beginning in the churches. Identify a child whose father is missing. Engage. Fill the void. Do the same in the community. Once again, this does not need a governmental policy, funding etc nor does it need a church outreach programme. This is about being the salt of the earth. To pastors, the call is obvious but the hope is for you to identify and pair Mephibosheths to the Davids and vice versa. This will solve immediate and future problems. It will reduce future marriage failures, drug abuse, violence, crime etc. Is this not what ministry is about?

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Take heed to shadow the precious and tend to their mother's need for they are indeed your priceless seed!

Today they are grown, and so they rebuke the pinky panther that their Father brought them in the cold weather regardless of a penniless morning.

Grown folks like them neither play nor touch dolls they gloat to wither your sacrifices!

It's not a shame on them; intellectuals call it growth and every stage demands its rent due dear parent! But because this is a lifetime bent on consent, money spent, things lent and choices meant. Allow us then to vent our appreciation to you as the realest gent who has stayed, spent and tried his best where others went away!

Old-timers used to say shush the boys and hush the men but take in the lush love of a father who still gives it unconditionally for that feeling is worth every gush! Its a pity the bush has more push on caring for these men than we do nowadays!

Father's day could be different this year, dear Fear! But your daughters and sons love free spear kills and the sweet pear they talk about to everyone that unfortunately lends an ear to their misguided.

Happy Fathers Day to all Fathers out there we love and appreciate you eternally!

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TO ALL THE FATHERS OUT THERE

by Maureen Nyasha Hove theeroyaldiadem.wordpress.com

To the present father

Thank you for deferring your dreams so that mine could be realised,

I know you would have wanted to be more than what you are today.

You sacrificed your sweat and hard-earned money for us,

Thank you for being uncomfortable so that I could live comfortably.

For lifting heavy loads on both hands, over your shoulders (literally and figuratively), it all seemed as if you were carrying weight as light as a feather! When mom and I tried to carry the same load, gravity immediately humbled us. It's like you were born to play out your role perfectly well!

For concealing your pain and stifling your tears when we hit rock bottom,

I understand that like any other human being, you have emotions.

For biting your lower lip and acting macho in front of us while you were in turmoil,

Like a duck, seemingly calm on the surface but paddling like the dickens underneath.

For showing up at all my special events from pre-school to asking you to bail me out in town after recklessly blowing up all the money I had including transport money.

I thought you had the ability to halt the sun and put everything on hold just for me.





For being a Ginnie in a teapot, popping out whenever I wanted you to,

Immediately appearing the moment I rubbed the teapot -the only difference is that I wasn't restricted to only three wishes per day!

I'm sorry for being selfish, I really never thought sleep was important to you as much as it was to me because at the slightest twitch in my stomach I would give out a deafening cry just to get your attention.

I remember you would immediately wake up and hold me in your arms till I fell asleep.

Even in uncharted and murky waters,

I always found myself in unfamiliar situations with zero experience, absolutely clueless about what would happen next.

I didn't know how to behave nor act, but nonetheless, you instructed me to firmly hold your hand and follow closely, right behind you.

All I did was watch and learn.

I always marvelled in my head what a gifted father I had!

All the new and fancy things you introduced to me, I could swear you had travelled around the world in your past life!

I wasn't afraid of the dark because I knew you were my knight in shining armour who would bust thieves and any other nocturnal beings.

For being my first teacher, handing me a pencil and paper with my name written on it and asking me to write it down, as you helped me shape the outline of the alphabet letters,

You made it all seem easy!

Thank you for being patient with me. I remember you constantly correcting the shaping of my letters.

Even when my b's would look like d's you still believed in me,

And	And
To the invisible and absent father who never had the time to play out the "daddy" role,	To the father who was deserted by his own flesh and blood,
Father, we needed you, the value wasn't in the material items, those	I apologise on their behalf; you are
things never replaced nor substituted your presence we craved most. We needed you as a guiding influence,	highly honoured!
We needed you then and still need your love and support.	To future fathers, your children deserve
Who will protect and nurture us too?	more.
Who will advocate for us, rebuke and teach us?	
We also want to hold you accountable.	To the father who never begat children
Even if we end up being raised by another man	of his own, ended up adopting and
there will always be a connection to you.	becoming a strong and significant influence on their adopted children,
Are you aware of the gap created and the large hollow in our lives that you left us with?	We salute you!
We tried to live with it, but I know I'll be spending all my life trying to	To the deceased father, you might be
compensate for what never was.	gone but never forgotten!
The opportunity is still there though,	
It's never too late to fill the void.	
You can begin some level of healing by trying to have a	
role in the lives of us, your estranged children, I know it will never be the same, but it's worth the try don't you think?	Happy Father's day!
It might not even happen since we were already used to not having you around.	

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