

June 2018

Volume 12, Number 11

y Father When I Was... 4 years old: "My daddy can do any-

5 years old: "My daddy knows a whole

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY

6 years old: "My dad is smarter than your dad." 8 years old: "My dad doesn't know exactly everything."

10 years old: "In the olden days when my dad grew up, things were sure different."

12 years old: "Oh well! Naturally, Dad doesn't know anything about that. He is too old to remember his childhood."

14 years old: "Don't pay any attention to my dad. He is so old-fashioned!"

21 years old: "Him? He's hopelessly out-of-date!" 25 years old: "Dad knows a little bit about it, but then he should because he's been around for so long."

30 years old: "Maybe we should ask dad what he thinks."

35 years old: "I'm not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad."

40 years old: "I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise and had a world of experience."

50 years old: "I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was. I could have learned a lot from him." - Unknown Author

How true this is!

Most men have a wish list for their children. We only wish the best for them. We hope we've instilled within them character, integrity, and wisdom to

navigate through the difficult times of our day. Naturally, we hope they have better lives than our own, mates who will share these important values, and great grandchildren! Most importantly, we wish for them to have a personal relationship with the Lord.

Life is so brief, and by the time we have reflected on its brevity, we realize we have more years behind us than are ahead of us! It is our prayer that our children learn the importance of life so they can pass it on to the next generation.

To all of you who are fortunate enough to be called "Dad," and to those who have not contributed to the physical birth of a child but have earned the title by serving as mentors or role models, I wish you a Happy Father's Day!

In His Service,

- Dr. L.W. Edwards



n the same day we celebrated the freedoms won by our veterans, billions of people around the world lived under tyranny and oppression. Basic freedoms such as the right to religious expression and assembly are un-

heard-of concepts for many on our planet. Makes you a little more thankful to live in America, doesn't it?

When we address topics such as religious freedom, we sometimes don't realize just how difficult life is for people without it. Let me give you some examples for context. These stories can all be found at icommitto-pray.com:

- US Pastor John Cao was fined \$3,000 and sentenced to prison for seven years on false charges after crossing the China-Myanmar border to serve 2,000 poverty-stricken children in Wa, Myanmar. Pastor Cao has been detained by the Chinese government since March 2017. The court announced his seven-year sentence last month.
- On Sunday, May 13, three churches in Surabaya, Indonesia, were attacked by a family of Muslim suicide bombers, resulting in the deaths of 13 people.
- Anaram Bokar and his family shared a home with his brother in India. Anaram became a Christian convert from Buddhism in 2004, and planted a thriving house church in 2007. As he continued to share the gospel, first the local villagers, then his brother, became hostile towards him. What began as intentional disruptions of worship services escalated to the point when, this year, Anaram's brother ordered him and his family out of the house and made it permanent by destroying their living quarters. Village leaders have refused to help because Anaram is a Christian. Today the family is living under a tarp on their farmland.
- Mauritania's National Assembly recently passed laws increasing the penalty for leaving Islam. The death penalty is now mandatory for "blasphemous remarks" and "sacrilegious acts." A two-year prison sentence and fine of up to \$17,100 may now be dished out for "outrage to public decency and the values of Islam" or "the breach of prohibitions prescribed by Allah or the facilitation of their non-compliance" aka distributing religious literature or making statements which convince a Muslim to become a Christian.
- On May 18, two Pakistani Christians shared Christian literature with a Muslim shop owner after he had

requested the materials. The shop owner then called the police, who arrested and detained them. After confiscating their literature, money, and phones, police brought the men to the police station and locked them in an interrogation room for almost 12 hours.

• Pastor Abraham Topno ministered to a minority tribal group near India's Odisha state. On May 2, he entered a taxi, but was abducted in route and killed. His decapitated body was found by a search party with a note signed by a Communist rebel group.

The ability to worship in church, live out our faith, and hold views which differ from the mainstream is a right we far too often take for granted here in America. It may not be until we have lost these freedoms that we fully appreciate >>>Keep Reading



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