

# Father's Day

Danita's Children

June 2008



11-YEAR-OLD DANITA AND HER DAD, MR. MIKE ESTRELLA

Father's day is the time during which we take the opportunity to tell our fathers, "Thank you." Many of us, including myself, have been blessed with incredible fathers. But there are more than 143 million orphans who, this father's day, have no one to call *father*.

When I was eleven years old my father took me on a mission trip to Haiti. His decision to include me on this special trip would one day reap a harvest of hundreds of children being loved and provided for. The harvest was not seen immediately. It was 22 years before I returned to Haiti. But I will always be grateful to my father for planting that seed in my heart.

The most common question I am asked is, "What is your greatest need?" People want to know how they can best make an impact in Haiti and how they can help save the children. My first thoughts always go immediately to our most obvious needs: feeding 600 children and staff daily, clothing and housing our children, and donations are greatly needed for our new medical clinic. **But the truth is, our greatest need is for godly men, fathers who will teach and mentor my boys how to be men.**

Traditionally, the majority of missionaries on the field today are women. What today's mission fields lack is the presence of godly men—men of integrity who will be the example of Christ to young boys, men who are willing to be a father to the fatherless.

I realize the value of mothers, and at Hope for Haiti Children's Center, we've been blessed with women who have each laid their lives down to become moms to my 75 children. But as my boys get older, I understand more and more the value of having a father to lead his family before the Lord – a father to demonstrate what it is to truly be a man of God.

**Psalm 68:5-6 "A father to the fatherless... God sets the lonely in families..."**

I highly value adoption, but the truth is, most of our orphans will not be adopted. However, each one of us can reach one. You can sponsor a child each month. You can visit Haiti and by reaching out to a boy you can teach him how

to be a man. You can pray that God will send men and married couples to the mission field to take up the role of father to fatherless children.

This Father's Day, please say a prayer for the orphans that do not have a father.

**The children of this world need you. Do you hear their cry?**

And, if you're reading this today and you're asking God, "Lord, how can I impact this world for you?" please consider becoming a father to the fatherless.

**What seeds are you planting in the hearts of your children? And, is there room for one more?**

To my father: "Thank you, Papi, for planting the seed in my heart. Happy Father's Day. I love you!" Thank you Lord, for being a loving heavenly Father. And happy Father's Day to our entire family of supporters for Danita's Children!

With the greatest love,

*Danita*



DANITA AND HER FATHER TODAY

## Ways You Can Help

*sponsor a child* – visit [danitaschildren.org](http://danitaschildren.org) and sponsor one of my children.

*Donate* – Share your resources and help us build our medical center.

*volunteer* – Get involved as a Tell Five Ambassador or a fundraising coordinator; go on a missions trip to Haiti, or volunteer in our stateside offices.

*pray* – that God will send godly men to the mission field. We need godly men and married couples to parent our children full-time in Haiti.

*tell five* – Tell Five people in your circle of influence about Danita's Children. Encourage them to visit our website and sponsor a child.

# Why Does a Boy Need a Father?

(Excerpted from *Why a Son Needs a Dad: 100 Reasons* by Gregory E. Lang)

A son needs a dad:

- 1 To show him how to be productive with his hands.
- 2 To pull him back when he's headed in the wrong direction.
- 3 To teach him to apologize for his bad choice of words.
- 4 To encourage him when he becomes acquainted with disappointment.
- 5 To tell him that he is proud of him.
- 6 To help him learn from his mistakes.
- 7 To talk with him about the tough decisions he will face in life.
- 8 To teach him to always give a good day's work.
- 9 To tell him that there is no disgrace in losing.
- 10 To help him try again after he has stumbled.



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- 11 So a boy can have a father and a hero to look up to.
- 12 To show him how to be a good husband.
- 13 To teach him that respect must be earned.
- 14 To help him discover his place in life.
- 15 To teach him to be respectful to women.
- 16 To teach him to build a loving home on a foundation of God's wisdom.
- 17 To teach him to give more than he takes.
- 18 To teach him that forgiving is always the right thing to do.
- 19 To teach him to be honest at all times.
- 20 To teach him to leave pride and selfishness at the foot of the cross, because true discipleship will cost him everything.



4-8 YEAR OLD BOYS AT HOPE FOR HAITI CHILDREN'S CENTER

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Address Correction Requested