



# Happy Father's Day



The last words in Malachi reflect God's heart as His own words are quoted in chapter 4, verses 5 and 6, *"See I will send the prophet Elijah to you...He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers."* This is extremely intriguing to me as this is how the Old Testament was finished and it reveals what God wholeheartedly desires. Reestablishing this vital relationship between a father and his children is highly important to the Lord and He is purposeful in reconciling them, despite any devastation that may have occurred. Due to His mercy, grace, and power, deep wounds are healed and the hearts of fathers and children are turned toward each other.

The pictures on the front speak a thousand words about the beauty of a relationship between a father and his children. For some of the men shown, they had come to a place in their lives where they had damaged this precious relationship with their kids, seemingly beyond repair; the pain and turmoil that they were dealing with was too much to consider. There appeared to be no hope, but God had other plans. His desire is to set things right and to restore, reconcile, and revive this sweet connection between a father and his children.

Just the other day I witnessed an amazing visual of this as I drove around the camp. A recent graduate who is now in our 'family development' program was outside playing catch with his son. He was playing the "catcher" and his son was winding up on the 'pitcher's mound,' delivering fastballs with all his might. The Dad made a comment about the velocity of his throw and just how fast he really could throw that ball. The son smiled, threw out his chest, wound up, and heaved another pitch to his Dad with even a little more vigor this time. This was a powerful moment for me as I realized that this is what Dunklin Memorial Church is all about. A little over a year ago that father was separated from his family - physically, mentally, and emotionally. Today, they are under the same roof, loving one another and spending quality time together. Their hearts are being healed and this valuable relationship is being reconciled, due to God's grace.

May we all embrace the calling God has laid on us to be "Dad." This is one of the most priceless gifts some of us are given in our lives. Enjoy the day and spend some quality time with your children as you play some catch, go fishing, read a story, or just hang out. Let them know through words and actions that they are loved and cherished.

Happy Father's Day!



Nick

