

June, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Gilead Bible Church,

June is the month when our nation celebrates Father's Day. This year Father's Day is Sunday, June 19. The world owes thanks to Ms. Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. The idea of a Father's Day celebration originated in Sonora's mind when she listened to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. At the age 27, Sonora pondered if there is a day to honor mother then why not for father? Sonora felt strongly for fathers because of the affection she received from her own father Mr. William Jackson Smart. Sonora's mother died while childbirth when she was just 16. Mr. Smart raised the newborn and five other children with love and care. Inspired by the struggle to promote Mother's Day, Ms. Dodd began a rigorous campaign to celebrate Father's Day. The Spokane Ministerial Association and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) supported Sonora's cause. As a result Spokane celebrated its first Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Though there was an initial hesitation the idea gained gradual popularity, and Father's Day came to be celebrated in cities across the country. Pres. Wilson approved of this idea in 1916. Then Pres. Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day in 1924 to, "establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." Pres. Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day in 1966. Then in 1972, Pres. Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June. ¹



Believe or not, I did not think about honoring my father and celebrating Father's Day until I starting attending church while in college. It was only then that honored my father and celebrated Father's Day. I trust that as families in Gilead Bible Church, we would continue to honor our fathers and celebrate Father's Day, not because of this country's policy, but because of the teaching of the Bible.

One testimony of honoring fathers that encouraged me was given by Will Graham, the son of Franklin Graham, whose father is Billy Graham. Will shared it on June 18, 2009. I trust that it will encourage you as it has encouraged me. ²

When I think about my dad, Franklin Graham, I don't think about the "public" Franklin Graham who stands in front of the world speaking on national television or preaching in large stadiums.

I think about my dad who raised me to be the man I am today. I think about my dad who led me to Jesus Christ as a young boy. I think about my dad who fiercely protected his children from the prying eyes of others until we were old enough to handle it on our own. I think about my dad who offered strong discipline, accompanied by incredible love. I think about my dad who was the example of a godly husband.

My brothers, sister and I grew up in a farm house in the mountains of Boone,

N.C. about two hours from Charlotte. Thanks to the wisdom of my dad, I had a blessed childhood that was all a boy could dream of. We had several animals – dogs, cats, chickens, horses, cows, and even a pig – and we spent our free time riding around the farm on dirt bikes and playing in the woods. My dad is my friend.

My father's ministry laid the foundation for my own faith. I still remember the Sunday, where – after a church service – my dad told me about Jesus Christ who came to this earth to rescue mankind, who went to the cross for my sins, and who rose again. I accepted Christ that day. My dad is my witness.

As I grew older and became a teenager, there were times when people would want me to speak at different events. My dad wisely made sure that anybody who wanted something from me went through him first. The reason: he wanted to make sure that if I entered into the ministry it was because God had called me into ministry and not because I was pushed into it simply because my last name is Graham.

As the son of Billy Graham, he had faced the burden of people assuming he would take over his father's ministry and he purposely chose to shield us from that. My dad is my protector.

I'm often asked if I – as the namesake, William Franklin Graham IV – ever felt any pressure to become a preacher, and I can honestly say that thanks to my dad I have not. I am an ordained minister and an evangelist now, but not because I'm the son of Franklin Graham or the grandson of Billy Graham.

During my teenage years I distinctly felt God's calling on my life and am now acting in accordance with what I feel is His will for me, and my dad gave me the opportunity and freedom to hear that calling by not pushing me in one direction or the other. My dad is my adviser.

Even today, my dad continues to help my daily ministry by imparting bits of wisdom he has gleaned in his years. In both practical application and spiritual preparation, my dad's influence permeates my messages when I preach. My dad is my mentor.

I am so grateful to God for the friend, witness, protector, advisor and mentor that He provided to lead and guide me – my dad.

God Bless,

Pastor David and Helen Moy

¹ excerpted from <http://www.fathersdaycelebration.com/fathers-day-history.html>

² excerpted from <http://www.billygraham.org/articlepage.asp?ArticleID=1723>

2011年六月

親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹,

六月全國將會慶祝父親節。今年父親節是在6月19日星期天。我們能慶祝父親節應感謝杜德夫人桑娜。1909年,當她參加完教會舉辦的母親節主日崇拜之後,心中萌生了慶祝父親節的念頭。27歲的她,心裡想著既然有紀念母親的節日,也應當有一個紀念父親的節日。杜德夫人對父親有濃厚的感情,因為她父親威廉斯馬特先生是一個很慈祥的父親。杜德夫人的母親在她只有16歲時,因分娩而去世。威廉斯馬特先生獨自一人父兼母職,用愛心撫養大了這個新生兒和其他五個孩子。過往那種積極提倡母親節的動力激勵了她,杜德夫人開始推動成立父親節的運動。The Spokane Ministerial Association 和當地的 local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) 都很支持杜德夫人的提議。因此 Spokane鎮的人們,於1910年6月19日慶祝了首個父親節。雖然這個推舉起初有些遲滯,但慶祝父親節這個想法逐漸普及,美國許多村鎮和城市也開始慶祝一個叫做父親節的日子。在1916年總統威爾遜贊同這個想法。1924年,美國總統科立芝也支持父親節成為全美國的節日,藉此“讓父親和子女建立更親密的關係及鼓勵父親對養兒育女盡力擔當應有的義務。”1966年總統詹森簽署了一項總統令,宣布六月的第三個星期日為父親節。然後在1972年,總統尼克森更將父親節訂為永久性的國定紀念日。¹



信不信由你,我從沒有想到要榮耀我的父親和慶祝父親節,直到我開始在大學期間參加教會我才懂得榮耀我的父親和慶祝父親節。我相信,基列教會的家庭會一直尊重父親們和慶祝父親節,這個舉動是由於聖經的訓誨而並不是因為這是國家的條例。

葛衛理,葛福臨的兒子,葛培理的孫子,在6月18日,2009年的一個紀念父親的見證給予我很大的鼓勵。我相信,它也會鼓勵你。²

每當我想起我的爸爸,葛福臨時,我不會想起那個站在世界各國電視台或在大型體育場館公開傳道的葛福臨。

我心中的爸爸是那個教導我成為今天的我,自幼便把我帶到耶穌基督裏,當他的孩子還未有能力抵擋引誘和試探時會拼命保護我們的爸爸。我心中的爸爸是個嚴父也是個極慈祥的爸爸。我心中的爸爸是一個虔誠丈夫的典範。

我和我的兄弟姐妹生長在距離夏洛特(Charlotte)約兩小時,北卡羅來納州布恩山上的一個農場。多虧了我的爸爸,我擁有所有幸福男孩夢寐以求的童年

。我們有一些動物 - 狗, 貓, 雞, 馬, 牛, 甚至豬。 我們更可以自由自在的在農場上騎自行車和在樹林中玩耍。我爸爸是我的朋友。

我父親的福音事工奠定了我信仰的基礎。我還記得一個星期日, 當教堂主日完畢後, 我的爸爸告訴我耶穌基督來到這個世界為要拯救人類, 祂為我的罪被釘死在十字架, 然後復活。就在那天我接受了基督。我爸爸是我的見證。

隨著我逐漸長大, 我成為青少年, 會有人要求我為不同事件而表態。我爹明智地確定如有任何人對我有任何要求, 一定要先和他商議。其原因是: 他要確保如果我要事奉, 那是因為神的呼召, 而不是因為我是格雷厄姆(Graham)的家族關係而受到壓力才事奉。

作為葛培理的兒子, 我爹面對的壓力是人們往往假設他會接替他父親的事工, 所以他極力避免我們遭受到同樣的壓力。我爸爸是我的保護者。

我經常被問及: 作為威廉富蘭克林格雷厄姆第四, 有沒有感到任何壓力要成為一位牧師, 我可以誠實地說, 感謝爸爸的保護, 我從來沒有感到任何壓力。我是一個牧師和傳道者, 但並不是因為我是葛福臨的兒子或葛培理的孫子。

在我十幾歲時我清楚地感受到神的呼召, 我現在成為一個傳道人是按照神的旨意, 我爸爸給我機會作這個自由選擇。我爸爸是我的顧問。

即使在今天, 我爸爸每天繼續用他多年從事事奉得來的智慧, 幫助我每日的事奉工作。無論在實際應用和屬靈層面, 我的講道內容都極受我爸爸的影響。我爸爸是我的導師。

我很感謝上帝賜與我這個父親 - 他是我的朋友, 見證, 保護者, 顧問和導師, 他指導我, 帶領我。

願主祝福你們,

梅牧師及師母

¹ excerpted from <http://www.fathersdaycelebration.com/fathers-day-history.html>

² excerpted from <http://www.billygraham.org/articlepage.asp?ArticleID=1723>