

THE POWER OF A PARENT'S BLESSING

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It was a lazy Thursday afternoon at the supermarket. My eyes scanned the grocery shelves for discounted items and other treasure finds. I was drawn to the magazine stand. On the cover of a glossy elite magazine was the picture of a celebrity couple. They were married, but it was an unusual union. Angelo King is the heir apparent of the Victoria Court chain of hostels. Joey Mead was a former supermodel. Angelo loved to dress up like a woman, and decided to live and act like a woman, as he stayed married to Joey. In the article, they talked about acceptance and breaking barriers. I felt a tug in my heart. I asked the Lord, "Lord, what are You burdening me with?" Then the Lord said, "Bless the boys into manhood".

The world has shown us a distorted view of who is a man and who is a woman. The world has given us a warped definition of what a family is. Many studies have documented the relationship of fatherlessness to a son's delinquency or homosexuality.

Parents are God's ordained ministers of blessing over their children. Blessing is God's ordained method to establish a person's identity

and destiny. Blessing answers every person's question, 'Who am I?', and 'What am I here for?'" However, some parents are not aware that they are to build their children up. Some, unwittingly, release words that hurt, to motivate their children. Or some of us may not have received messages of love and acceptance through our growing up years. As a result, we have difficulty expressing our own love for our children.

When Jod and I learned about the concept of blessing, some 20 years ago, we began a lifestyle of blessing our children. We started by praying Bible verses over them daily before going to school. Then by our words and action, we expressed to them that they are highly valuable to us, despite how they perform at home or in school. It was not a walk in the park. It was a conscious effort to express love and acceptance, to separate their identity from their behaviour, and to actively point them to God. When they were between 16 to 18 years old, we had a Jewish ceremony called Bat Mitzvah (for girls) and Bar Mitzvah (for boys), where we honored them before their friends and released Nicole and Bianca into womanhood, and Aaron and Ira into manhood.

Now that they have become adults, we saw how blessing our children made an impact in their lives. By the grace of God, they are blooming where God has planted them - Bianca as a college student, Nicole as a praise and worship leader and preschool teacher in GCFSM, and Aaron and Ira, as medical interns in UPPGH.

We felt that we had to share the concept of blessing with other parents, so that they, too, can have a culture of blessing, not only in their generation, but in the generations after them.

Learn how to bless your children, and join us on September 24, Saturday, at 9-1130 am, for the Family Builders webinar on "The Power of A Parent's Blessing". The zoom link will be provided soon. The following day, September 25, Sunday, during the worship services, all parents will have the opportunity to bless their children. Please join us, too, on September 17, Saturday, 730 am-12 nn for Family Day at GCFSM grounds. Let's meet other GCFSM families and celebrate God's faithfulness. See you! ✨