



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Honor, your earthly and heavenly fathers because without them you will not be here.”

## Our Father

“On December 6, 1907, at 10:20 in the morning, there occurred at Monongah, West Virginia, the worst catastrophe in the history of coal mining in any section of the world. It was an explosion in mines Nos. 6 and 8 of the Fairmont Coal Company, which completely wrecked the mines and snuffed out the lives of almost four hundred men. The worst of the explosion occurred in the No. 8 mine and so great was its force that the concrete roof of the engine house was torn into fragments and one piece, weighing more than 100 pounds, was blown more than 500 yards. The victims came to their deaths suddenly. Many were found sitting upright in the positions they were in when the explosion came with its spread of deadly gases. The scenes at the mines during the work of rescue were pitiful in the extreme. For several days frantic women grouped about the opening of the mines and their shrieks of agony were enough to move the hardest heart to pity. Grief-stricken mothers, wives, sweethearts and sisters waited and watched and wept.”<sup>1</sup>

“A local woman named [Grace Golden Clayton](#), concerned for the over 1000 children who lost their father in the disaster suggested to her minister (Reverend Robert T. Webb of the Williams Methodist Episcopal Church South in Fairmont, West Virginia) that he honor all fathers at a Sunday service, which he did on 5 July 1908. The following year a Washington woman named Sonora Smart Dodd attempted to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for fathers, which was then implemented statewide in 1910. It grew from there and was established as a federal holiday in 1972.”<sup>2</sup>

“Across America, 2022 data indicates there are approximately 18.3 million children who live without a father in the home, comprising about 1 in 4 US children. Children from single-parent families are twice as likely to suffer from mental health and behavioral problems as those living with married parents. Some data suggests that children without fathers in the home are 279% more likely to carry guns and deal drugs compared to peers living with their fathers.”<sup>3</sup>

Children, honor and obey your father not just one day a year but every day” that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” (Eph 6:1-3). If your father was not part of your life or was not a good father, then pray for him daily. With God’s help he could change, and maybe you could be reunited. (I have a friend who did not know his father for over 50 years. They are now united.) If your father has passed or is unknown, then look to your Heavenly Father for He cares for you. I Peter 5:7

“Fathers provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph 6:4) Fathers spend time with your children and your grandchildren. Take them to church activities. Play with them. Listen to them. The future of this country depends on your involvement and leadership in the family. Also, “love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it.” Eph 5:25. The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.



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“Our Father, which art in Heaven”

The word father is in the Bible 1,511 times. Is He your Father?



<sup>1</sup>[archive.wvculture.org/history/disasters/monongah03.html](http://archive.wvculture.org/history/disasters/monongah03.html)

<sup>2</sup>[libcom.org/article/monongah-mining-disaster-1907-steven-johns](http://libcom.org/article/monongah-mining-disaster-1907-steven-johns)

<sup>3</sup>[americafirstpolicy.com/issues/issue-brief-fatherlessness-and-its-effects-on-american-society](http://americafirstpolicy.com/issues/issue-brief-fatherlessness-and-its-effects-on-american-society)

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