



# ROYAL DAIS

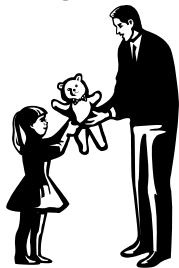
## The Royal Dais Celebrates Fathers



*Nancy D. Collins, Founder & President, Transforming Life Ministries, Inc.*

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From the Editor:

In honor of Father's Day, this issue of the Royal Dais will lend its theme to celebrating fathers and sharing stories that are relevant to the lives of great men. Perhaps you won't recognize the names but greatness has been achieved in their ability to grasp purpose in spite of major boulders in their

lives.

You will also meet a woman who has given her life over to serving fathers. I've often said, If Bishop T.D. Jakes can loose women, surely there's a woman somewhere, who has the mandate to loose men! Read On! While our goal has been to entreat the hearts of diverse women, Transforming Life Ministries' mission is to

touch the Body of Christ... and that does include men! We want that message to be reflected in what we share in the Royal Dais. So men look out there's more to come relevant to you!

Enjoy,

Nancy D. Collins

**A Tribute to Fathers....**

- To the father who's raising a strong independent daughter without the help of a mother.
- To the single father who's making an impact in his child's life.
- To the father who's had to mourn the death of a child.
- To the father who gladly pays child support because it contributes to his child's well being.
- To the father who desires relationship with his child but can't have it.
- To the father who's found a way to nurture his children while living in a separate household.
- To the father who remembered what his father taught him about fatherhood and passed it on to his children.
- To the father who says: Do as I say and as I do and leads by a good example.
- To the father who finds joy on the soccer field even on a rainy day.
- To the father who truly honors his child's mother.
- To the father who understands his headship and prays with his family.
- To the father who's made mistakes and doesn't know how to say I'm sorry, but desires to.
- To the father who didn't have a father to teach him, yet found a way to teach his children.
- To the father who transformed his boys to men.

**You're Invited To...**

**Koffee Klatch**

Holy Ground  
Coffee House  
304 W. Allen St.  
Springfield, IL 62704  
July 23, 2006

**Just Talking Life**

Workshop on  
Emotional Healing  
Community Arts Center  
(Monroe Street Church)  
1229 1/2 East Monroe  
Springfield, IL.  
August 26, 2006

**Women's Monthly Bible Study**

Triangle Center  
Every Third Saturday  
(Private Sessions)

For more information  
[www.tlifeministries.org](http://www.tlifeministries.org)



## THE VICTOR'S CORNER

### Salutes

#### LORENZO LOUDEN



Time and time again we hear countless stories of fathers, sons, husbands, brothers, and friends and how early life circumstances and choices left them in a place they now find difficult to break free from. What was once acceptance of friendly chains, are now chains that are keyless, worn, rusted, and friendless. The journey from boyhood to manhood is indeed a rights of passage. But to what and to where? And what has been the price? Unfortunately some never make it. Either the unregenerated mind wins or the grave. In this instance retrospect is nothing more than a reminder of what was absent of what could be.

So the question becomes: Can an Ethiopian change his skin, or leopard change his spots? And I say, ask Lorenzo Louden, a man who has challenged impossibility and created a road map for men who need hope and affirmation.

Let's join him in the VICTOR'S CORNER!

Lorenzo Louden was born in 1957 in Little Rock Arkansas. At the age of one, his family moved to the Westside of Chicago. Every child should be given an opportunity to succeed, but Lorenzo was not one of them. Growing up on the Westside of Chicago during the 60's and 70's he lived in a household with-

out a father, and with a mother who battled a street life filled with controlling addictions, making it impossible to be a nurturer and provider. At various times he witnessed his mother being violated by pimps and the lifestyle that took control of her. The voids in their household taught little Lorenzo unbelievable survival skills. As early as five years old he remembers becoming caretaker and stealing to make sure he and his little sister could eat.

At the youthful age of twelve, when normal kids would find themselves on the basketball court, or enrolled in programs at the YMCA, little Lorenzo became a member of a prominent and treacherous gang in Chicago. Lorenzo's gang related activities led him to a life of crime and earned him an extensive rap sheet. In 1977 he was arrested and held in the Cook County jail for approximately 2 ½ years only to be sentenced to the Department of Corrections for 50-60 years as an indeterminate sentence. He was required to serve a minimum of ten years before qualifying for a parole review hearing.

While incarcerated he came through the ranks of a soldier and was promoted to gang chief for one of the largest street organizations in Chicago. This promotion established him as chief over 500 gang members in one of Illinois' three maximum -security

facilities. In 1987 he was afforded the opportunity to sever ties with this organization. During his 17 years in DOC, Lorenzo never received a letter or visit from outside friends, nor family and remembers making only one phone call during his stay.

In 1991, Lorenzo attended a church service with a former inmate whom he once shared a cell with. During this service, his cell mate preached an anointed message which touched Lorenzo's heart and he in turn gave his life to Christ. Lorenzo was baptized a few weeks later. This marked a pivotal point in the ex-gang leader's life.

From 1987-1994 Lorenzo participated in seven annual parole hearings. Three weeks after the seventh parole hearing, he was finally granted parole. Miraculously he was then released within 24 hours of his parole notice, which was the first time in Illinois history that an inmate was expeditiously released. With such short notice he was without parole plans or an agent and was paroled to Mount Vernon, Illinois. He was required to make contact with the parole office in Mount Vernon within three days of release.

Shortly thereafter, Lorenzo moved to Springfield, Illinois and acquired full time employment, and later became self-employed. Though faced with many test and trials of prison life for seventeen years, he acquired his GED,

and four associate degrees. Lorenzo successfully served over 10 years on parole without incident and was released in November of 2004.

In 1994 Lorenzo became a father and has worked diligently to maintain a good relationship with his son. He was determined his son would not have the same gaps he'd experienced in his life. He made sure he was a part of his son's daily routine and school activities. In 2002 Lorenzo remarried, and to his immediate family came a daughter and another son. Lorenzo's relationship with his three children is intentional. He welcomes the relationship with open arms and constantly looks for ways to be a blessing!

Lorenzo and his wife Bevey are founders of **Tower of Refuge, Inc.** an organization that contributes to the successful integration of ex-offenders into society. Lorenzo has also been given a powerful message of deliverance to gang leaders. He and his family reside in Springfield, IL.

For more information go to: [www.towerofrefugeinc.com](http://www.towerofrefugeinc.com).

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## Father Power

by Sandy Robinson, II



Of the many roles in which I am called to operate on a daily basis (Christian, husband, father, government official, ministry leader, etc...), none really quite touches my

heart as much as that of father. I truly love being a dad! Don't get me wrong, I'm not talking about priority here but just what has the ability to stop me in my tracks and make me really consider matters of the heart. There is just so much wrapped up in and dependent upon the effective execution of the role of father.

Let me try to explain further... I am eternally grateful for the free gift of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ and my resulting role as a Christian. I am also overjoyed that my wife, Jeleta, consented to spend her life with me and my resulting role as her husband. These are my top two priorities. But there is something unique about the combination of the unconditional nature of a child's love coupled with their vulnerability and depend-

ence for the issues of life that causes me to reach levels of sacrifice and compassion of which I never knew I was capable. I love my kids! It was this evolving process into fatherhood that then allowed me to begin to understand in a greater and more tangible way the sacrificial love of my heavenly Father. It was also this same process that allowed me to really begin to explore the true dimensions of my covenant relationship with my wife. My role as father (and the resulting traits I have had to develop) has allowed me to enhance and value in a greater way, my relationship with Christ and with my wife!

This interconnection is probably why the most significant qualifications that God requires from us to operate in leadership in His house relate to our ability to lead in our own homes. 1 Timothy 3:4-5 states, ***"He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way; for if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for God's church (RSV)."*** God knows that the

compassion, nurturing, patience, caring and shepherding that is embodied in properly leading your home are the necessary traits required for the discipleship of His people. Within the family, God has given us the keys to fully operating in the purpose, plan and destiny that He has ordained for each of our lives!

So many men today, spend their energy and effort pursuing dreams and visions only to become frustrated in their inability to attain them while not recognizing that the missing ingredients to their recipe for success lie within their very own household. Yes, God has given a vision and we are called to fulfill the task but we cannot successfully complete the journey without developing our resources first! Our wives are the biggest resource with which God entrusts us and our children are next. However, we seem to oftentimes be more occupied with attempting to focus our hunt in so many other places rather than digging in these rich wells of potential. If we continue to search in all the wrong places for the treasure of success, we will only find fool's gold!

In our family lies the most precious resources

that God will ever entrust to us and success will only be achieved in maximizing their potential which in turn will maximize our own God-given potential. To neglect this premise would be the same as attempting to field a Super Bowl caliber NFL team without first strengthening and conditioning your team in training camp. It's in training camp where you assess skills, correct mistakes, establish your game plans and methods of execution. Most importantly, you also develop the relationships and connections that allow you to know that the members of your team can be counted upon when situations get serious. You don't want to be in the midst of a crucial circumstance only to find out that your team is in need of training. Men, train your team! Spend the required Focus, Energy, Effort and Time (F.E.E.T.) that is necessary to build a team capable of win-

Continued on page 4

## LOCAL WOMAN COMMISSIONED TO LOOSE FATHERS

Jerrilyn Dixon will never try to take the place of her children's fathers. She's fulfilled in her role as mother. Neither will you ever hear her encouraging other 'sisters' to 'X' their children's fathers out of their lives. She knows the importance of family relationship. Instead she's making it her business to talk to fathers through FAITH.

**FAITH is Fathers Are Important to Their Heirs.** It is a not for profit community based ministry with a purpose to educate men on the importance of being a part of their children's lives. Special emphasis will be placed on assisting fathers and fathers-to-be, via relationship building, resources,

identifying emotional needs in both youth and fathers, and improving parenting skills.

One would have to admit that this ministry is somewhat unorthodox. How many women do you know who are called to speak directly to men and challenge them about their commitment, or lack of, in relation to family. Well if Bishop T.D. Jakes can loose women, then surely there's a woman somewhere who can loose men. Jerrilyn Dixon we applaud you and others who have taken on this important mission.

Jerrilyn says she felt an urgency to help but initially didn't know how. "I didn't grow up with a fa-

ther. As a matter of fact I've never seen him. As a little girl, I missed having a relationship with my father". Jerrilyn believes that although there are circumstances that prevent mothers and fathers from being in a committed relationship with each other, it should not prevent the father from taking his rightful place in his children's lives.

Jerrilyn has seen some of the negative results of having an absent father in her own children's lives. Nevertheless she strives to be a good mother praying that her children will know their value even without a father present.



Jerrilyn says the response from men who have participated in the program has been very positive. FAITH will be holding a workshop June 24, 2006 at Lincoln Library, 326 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, IL. For more information call 217-891-3350. Email [faith-fathers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:faith-fathers@sbcglobal.net).

## SOULESSONS CONT'D.

ning a championship. Spend time in your prayer closet solely devoted to seeking God's will for your wife and your kids! Then come out and implement His plan for them. This will unlock His plan for you! A true win-win-win situation (God, them and you).

I have found that when I utilize my God-given abilities to focus on the development of my family unit, tremendous success, peace, and joy are the in-

evitable result. The work that is necessary is always less and easier than what it is when I'm trying to do my own thing. My focus becomes clearer, my team is united and we are ready to take on any challenge that faces us...together! I love embarking upon this God ordained journey knowing that in the process, I am building my wife and children and not causing them to suffer setbacks just to achieve something that I perceive is in their best interests.

When we set out to accomplish a goal, it's a team goal and we are united in the pursuit and united in the reward when it's achieved.

That's what God has intended for our families, that we be brought into closer relationship with Him and each other through life's journey. That our leadership be tested and proved in our home teams first, before we attempt to lead His team. Then, we will be equipped and ready to meet the challenges that

we will inevitably face and success will be the sure result. There is nothing more fulfilling than a test that you have prepared for, been tried by and ultimately passed! Brothers, if we truly want to be the men that God has called for us to be and in turn the leaders in the Kingdom that we profess to be, let's get ourselves and our homes in order!

Sandy Robinson is the founder of **Perfecting Word Ministries**. For more information go to [www.perfectingword.com](http://www.perfectingword.com)

## The Diary Of A Fatherless Daughter



Partial excerpt taken from: *Talkin' Out the House-A voice of Hope and Healing*

June 17th 12:01 a.m.

Dear Diary,

Today is Father's Day but I don't have a father. I can't send a card, or a well wish. No planned dinner or road trip. Daddy's AWOL. Gone. Absent. Missing. Lost. Vanished. To sum it up...he's nowhere to be found.

From day one, I never knew him. My mother said his name was Walter, and those that knew the two of them agreed. No one could tell me what happened to him. I asked her about him many times, but each time she dismissed me. In an attempt to punish him, she punished me. She at-

tempted to cover her hurt and pain by shutting him out of her life. Imprisoned by rejection, she closed every chapter in her memories and begged me not to intrude.

"Why do you want to know about him? He's never done anything for you." So she wished him away. Never to be found again.

I often wonder about "Daddy". My daddy. Often wondered what my life would be like if he had been there. Each day I wished for him, I suppressed the shame and agony of being without a man



I didn't know.

I don't know if this relationship they had was a one-night-stand, or the beginning, or ending of a love affair. No one bothered to inform me. Either way, daddy left his post and never returned. If by chance he walked up to me today, I wouldn't know him. I have no memories of him, yet I often wonder about the paternal side of my existence. Surely there are grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, or perhaps half-brothers and sisters. I often wonder if they're wondering too. I wonder if they know?

I remember thinking, why does he hide? I don't want anything from him. Really, I don't need a thing. If I could just talk to him, I would say...

"It's okay, Dad. You can come out of hiding. The baby needs no formula. She needs no shoes. She needs no diapers. She now buys her shoes. The parent teacher conferences have all been attended. The doctor appointments, she now drives herself to. It's okay. You don't have to hide anymore.

Daddy all I really want....is to love you.



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**COMING SOON....**

TRANSFORMING  
LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.  
*Koffee Klatch*  
July 2006

Email us with your questions, comments or prayer request at [royaldais@tlifeministries.org](mailto:royaldais@tlifeministries.org)

About Transforming Life Ministries, Inc.

Transforming Life Ministries, Inc. is a not-for-profit, 501(C)(3), multicultural, non- denominational ministry whose mission is to encourage, empower, and engage the hearts of diverse women as they see their purpose. All contributions to this ministry are tax-deductible.

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