



# LIGHTLINES

*Mission: Turning the hearts of fathers to their children  
and the hearts of children to The Father.*

## Restoring the Family to the Creator's Design

By Eli Williams

In the beginning, the Creator designed the perfect plan for the establishment, nurturance, maintenance, and perpetuation of the human race. The family. Fathers and mothers, parenting partners for life, raising children together in the same home in the worship and discipline of the Lord. Each child completing their education, beginning a career, falling in love, getting married, and having children. Repeat, generation after generation. Fast forward. What do we see today in the U.S.A.?

- ◇ Unwed birth rates as high as 70%
- ◇ As many as 25% of children in the U.S. are living in households with a mother alone
- ◇ 24 million children are living in bio-fatherless homes – 34%

The consequences are child poverty, abuse and neglect, academic failure, youth crime, behavioral, emotional and psychological problems, and drug abuse. To name a few.

The divine order has been rejected. God's original vision for the family, intended for the healthy development of civilization, is viewed by many as antiquated. The need for a live-in dad has been questioned. The concept of a God-ordained male family head has been denounced as gender biased. Men and women have been freed to practice sex outside of marriage. Becoming pregnant out of wedlock has lost its former stigma.

Hence, we are experiencing the breakdown of the family, and the failure of family formation. We are on a path toward the very collapse of society. Is it too late to turn things around? Perhaps.

However, as Christians, we have been given a charge to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. (Matt. 5:13-16) As salt preserves meat, our responsibility is to do everything we can to keep the rotting world alive until Jesus comes again. As darkness tries to overwhelm mankind, our job is to shine as lights to show people the Father's love and His righteous ways.

One way we can be salt and light is by the good work of restoring the family to God's original design, and by giving the Father the glory for all that results. The logical place to start is the Church. There



is a need for a multi-generational Christian male development and enrichment initiative.

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Young men, grown men and senior men simultaneously learning, teaching, and rediscovering God’s plan. Each with a Timothy to mentor, and each with a Paul to emulate. It’s like the threefold cord spoken of by King Solomon (Eccl 4:9-12). Two strands are good, but a triple-braided cord is stronger. We need each other... sons, dads, and grandfathers... working together to restore the power of godly maleness for the sake of strengthening families.

By starting with the Church, we are positioned to raise up an army of mature, responsible, scripture informed, Spirit-filled men. Together, we can serve as witnesses to a world that has lost the vision of the Creator’s design for humanity. Urban Light Ministries has begun an innovative initiative to accomplish the above, using my book *Father Love – The Powerful Resource Every Child Needs* and the companion study guide.



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After a conversation with my friend Pastor Sam Bryant in the fall of 2018, Sam and the church leadership agreed to serve as the site for a pilot of a scripture-based enrichment class for their males. Beginning January 6, 2019, each Sunday for thirteen weeks, the teens, college students and men meet during the Sunday School hour at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Springfield. With the aid of video clips and a Power Point presentation, I facilitate an hour-long conversation around fatherhood, manhood and spiritual leadership in the home.

Each participant has purchased a book and study guide. Each week they are given a reading and action steps. The following week, a discussion is facilitated on the assigned topic. Attendance has been averaging more than two dozen. Two other churches have expressed serious interest in the ministry.

**To learn how your Sunday School or men’s group can have a Father Love Dad’s Discussion Group at your location, contact Eli Williams. [ewilliams@urbanlight.org](mailto:ewilliams@urbanlight.org) | 937-328-0122**



A quarter century of turning the hearts of children to The Father.

As we continue to celebrate 25 years of bringing the love and message of Jesus Christ to our elementary school children, we thank you for your continued support. We not only bring these children the gospel of our Lord, but we are blessed to be able to share real life examples of God's love, mercy, grace and healing power.

Just yesterday I was able to tell the children this heart-warming story of a woman, a friend of my wife's, who just that morning had given birth to a miracle baby. Shortly after Hannah became pregnant her embryonic sack ripped and almost all the life sustaining water leaked out. Her doctor told her she should just abort the baby because it won't survive. But Hannah and Jonny have a strong faith in God and refused, putting their trust and their baby in God's hands.

They got a second opinion and this doctor said abortion is an option, and if you decide to try and carry the odds are slim that it will survive. They would not be deterred from their faith in God. She was placed on immediate bed rest. And after lots of continued prayer, and coming a little early, God brought baby Asher Benjamin into the world. A true example of God's miracle working power, and how trust and faith in God can prevail over the beliefs of man.

After telling the children this story we gathered and prayed for baby Asher. Hearing them say, "yes Jesus" as we prayed and firmly saying, "in Jesus name we pray", brought the love of God welling up in my eyes. It is times like this, where we not only share the gospel with the children, but we can give them real world examples of God working in our lives that makes The Sunshine Clubs so special.

Phillip Sanders, Director  
The Sunshine Clubs

*Support for The Sunshine Clubs is provided in part by partners like you and...*



## URBAN LIGHT WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES



**Melissa Brown**  
Associate Professor of  
Social Work at Cedar-  
ville University.



**Stephen Massey**  
COO of CitiLookout  
counseling agency in  
Springfield, Ohio.

Bruce Stapleton was elected Chair of the ULM Board of Trustees. His two-year term began January 1, 2019. Bruce is a resident of Centerville, Ohio and has been a volunteer with Urban Light for several years.

Other officers are:  
Howard Evans, Vice Chair  
Kermit Rowe, Secretary  
Mark Sturgeon, Treasurer



**Bruce Stapleton**

# POPS 101

The Basic Principles of Healthy Fathering

POPS 101 is an introductory, informative and interactive program to help fathers learn the basic principles of becoming better Protectors, Order keepers, Providers and Stabilizers (POPS) of their families. The program includes four one and a half hour sessions facilitated by trained dads.

To learn more and to register:

[www.urbanlight.org](http://www.urbanlight.org)

## WAYS TO BE A ULM PARTNER

- A. **PRAY** REGULARLY FOR THE LORD'S DIRECTION, PROTECTION AND PROVISION FOR OUR CAUSE
- B. **VOLUNTEER** WITH A SONSHINE CLUB -OR-
- C. **LEAD** A SONSHINE CLUB -OR-  
BECOME A DAD'S DISCUSSION GROUP LEADER WITH YOUR CHURCH OR MEN'S MINISTRY
- D. **INVEST** IN THE VITAL CAUSE OF ULM.  
**A FEW SPECIFIC NEEDS INCLUDE:**
  - VIDEO PROJECTORS & CHILDREN'S BIBLES
  - BOOKS, STUDY GUIDES & ADULT BIBLES
  - EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE
- E. **SOME OTHER WAY THE LORD LEADS YOU**



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