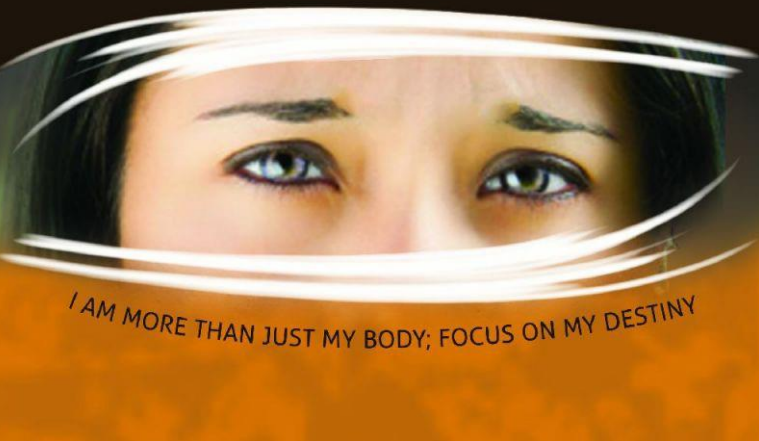


A close-up, black and white photograph of a person's face, focusing on the mouth and lips. The person's eyes are closed, and their lips are slightly parted, showing a soft smile. The skin has a natural, textured appearance. The text "BE MY MORDECAI" is overlaid in a white, serif font, centered on the lower half of the face.

BE MY
MORDECAI

Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died (Esther 2:7 NIV)

BE MY MORDECAI



INTRODUCING THE 'BE MY MORDECAI' INITIATIVE

The 'Be My Mordecai' initiative is a new initiative introduced by the 'Meeting by the well' ministry which is a healing and restoration ministry based on the Biblical model demonstrated by Jesus Christ found in John 4:4-42. We exist to heal, deliver and set people free from their past and into their future and we use a lot of our restoration testimonies to minister to people and to help the younger generation avoid the same mistakes we made.

We are launching this 'Be My Mordecai' initiative which is based on the Biblical story of how queen Esther, an orphan was raised up by her uncle, Mordecai who was able to mentor Esther, a very pretty girl into her purpose without feeling the need to abuse her, physically, emotionally or sexually (Esther 2:7).

Rather, he mentored and coached her and instilled values in her that was key to the great destiny she was created for.

Today, we have a lot of orphans and girls without fathers who need our modern day 'Mordecai's' and that is why we are introducing this initiative. As part of this initiative, we

are introducing the 'Be My Mordecai' magazine which would include;

- Articles of the kind of things a girl would need to know about herself that only a father or a responsible guardian can tell her.

The purpose is to help girls without fathers get to know the love of a father and ultimately the love of God, the Father.

- Encouraging messages from good fathers raising up their own daughters telling of the values they try to instill in their daughters.
- Personalised, Inspirational letters to a few of the orphans, encouraging them and telling them something they need to know about themselves. These would be published in subsequent editions.

We want to be able to donate these magazines to the young girls in schools and orphanage so they can read and be inspired.

Also, we want to be able to support these girls by contributing some of our books and other resources on positive self-image, valuing yourself, purpose etc.

In the future, we are also thinking of sponsoring a father or minister of the gospel on a trip with us to come and address these girls. Finally, we would be raising money to support some of the girls to do relevant courses or whatever it takes to contribute towards fulfilling their destiny.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

God is love (1 John 4:8) but for those that have had relationships where love is associated with pain or have not experienced any kind of close relationship at all (perhaps they came into this world as abandoned babies either because their parents died or they just didn't want them), trying to explain to them that "God is love" or "Jesus

loves you" is not that easy. They are bound to ask "what does love mean?" I don't know what that feels like.

Also, there are certain things that a girl's needs to hear from her dad that helps shape how she sees herself. For example, a girl needs her father to be her number one hero. She needs him to be the mirror through which she views all other men and the standard by which they are judged. Her father should be the one to show her how a woman should be treated and he should be able to protect her when she is at the age where she is not wise enough to protect herself

A young girl's father should also be the one to show her unconditional love and tell her that she is the most beautiful girl in the whole world. He should also be the one to tell her that her value as a woman should be more important than her outward appearance.

Unfortunately, this isn't always the case and it has affected the lives of many women. One of the women I came across in 2016 had this to say about her relationship with her dad;

"I didn't have a relationship with my father. He was an alcoholic... I had a stepfather that abused me so I never really had a father relationship and I know that it has affected my relationship with God but I love the Lord very, very much and I have come to know that He loves me. I'm beginning to know that He loves me very, very much but I don't love me very, very much".

A child's relationship with her father how she sees herself and also shapes how she sees God and that's why we are doing this. God, who though unseen, wants to be revealed to people through His love.

For more information about this initiative, please visit our website (www.bemymordecai.org). Alternatively, you can send an email with the title 'Be my Mordecai' in the subject line to info@meetingbythewell.org

God bless you

Ruky Obahor



OUR

BACKGROUND

THE UNSEEN GOD

You may have heard it before that the book of Esther is one book in the Bible where though we can see the incredible handwork of how God was able to catapult an orphan girl into the noble position of a queen. However, God is not even mentioned once. So, you can basically say it is a book characterised by the hidden or unseen God who worked through a man named Mordecai. That's the concept I want you to hold on to as you read about this 'Be my Mordecai' initiative.

God; though unseen, has many characteristics and one of them is Love. The Bible says...for God is love (1 John 4:8 NKJV). In fact,... in this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:9 NKJV).

The Scriptures also tells us that... no one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us (1 John 4:12 NKJV).

WHAT'S THIS LOVE YOU TALK ABOUT?

God wants everyone both saved and unsaved to know of His love and many times, when we evangelise to people, we give them the famous "Jesus loves you" line and that He died for you. Now, to someone that has experienced love before especially a father's unconditional love, they may be able to identify with what you are saying but to someone who has never really experienced true, unconditional love, they would find it hard to understand you.

Like I said earlier, for those that have had bad relationships where love is associated with pain or a lack of context, trying to explain to them that "God is love" or "Jesus loves you" is not that easy. They are bound to ask "what does love mean?" I don't know what that feels like.

Now, I am someone that searched for love in all the wrong places and it cost me one heartbreak after another. I tell people that I did not have a single relationship that did not end up in heartbreak. This coupled with a lot of things I had been through in life, made me on many occasions ask God the question I know many have asked; "if You love me, why have you allowed all these terrible things to happen to me?"

During the period I was going through my second divorce, the church I was attending at the time was collaborating with Urban Saints, an evangelistic outreach ministry in the UK who in an attempt to coach us in how to reach out to others, gave us a free DVD which was a letter from God titled the Father's love. I still remember sitting there trying to watch this DVD. It was really painful to watch. Hearing God say things like;

My Child,

*You may not know Me, but I know everything about you. (Psalm 139:1)
You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in My book. (Psalm*

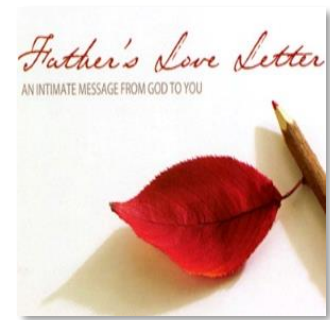
139:15-16)... I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. (Acts 17:26)

I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. (1 John 4:16)... And it is my desire to lavish My love on you. (1 John 3:1)... Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. (1 John 3:1)

*I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. (Matthew 7:11)
For I am the perfect father. (Matthew 5:48). I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)... When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you (Psalm 34:18)*

*I am your Father, and I love you even as I love My son, Jesus. (John 17:23)
For in Jesus, My love for you is revealed. (John 17:26)... He is the exact representation of my being. (Hebrews 1:3)... He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. (Romans 8:31)*

Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. (2 Cor 5:18-19)... His death was the ultimate expression of My love for you. (1 John 4:10)... I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. (Romans 8:31-32)... And nothing will ever separate you from My love again. (Romans 8:38-39)



I cried throughout as I heard these words; "how can You say all these amazing things of how You love and care for me and still allow such terrible things happen to me?"

Also, during that season, I found that whenever I told God "I love You", there was always something that always made me add "whatever that means" to the end of my sentence because all the men I have loved and done crazy things for in a desperate attempt to keep them, have broken my heart. However, I also found myself asking the Lord to teach me what that love means. Honestly, I meant it - "teach me what love means."

I remember having a really bad week once. I was meant to be preparing a message for an event I was invited to speak at but I struggled with a topic. This was for a street evangelist, who devoted a day to evangelising around the whole of London, and then inviting the homeless to the evening session where they were to be served dinner. It was at this evening event that I was to minister but like I said, I struggled with my message and out of frustration, I said "I know you love me but I struggle to grasp hold of it".

I've said all this to say that when you talk about love, I really struggled with the topic because I had no context for it and this is even with me having a natural father. I believe this is the same struggle for anyone to trying to understand the unseen God because they need a reference point. Most children that have a good relationship with their dad's and have been surrounded by love find it easier to grasp but it's not the same experience for many others.

Like I said, I was getting ready for a programme but just wasn't getting any clear message. Before I knew it, I started thinking of an orphanage to support. The first thing that came to my mind was 'Esther's Group' probably because it is a ministry that a friend of mine runs in Africa. However, it wasn't an orphanage but as I was contemplating about that, from nowhere, the name "Be my Mordecai" came to mind and then, the Lord started speaking to me.

He said;

"Many people don't know what My love feels like. If you that has an earthly father is finding it hard to grasp My love, what do you think about those fatherless daughters out there; those orphans that have

no reference point of what it is like to have a father pour out unconditional love into them and build up their esteem.

The worst part is when some of these orphans or fatherless daughters have male figures in their lives – uncles, close relatives and guardians who are meant to take care and look out for them but they end up abusing these girls. Yes, some have got father figures in their lives, however, he ends up abusing them but the Lord wanted me to study Mordecai and the role he played in Esther's life. He stood in the gap and mentored her into a marriage that saw her fulfil her purpose.

The Lord then said, take "meeting by the well" to the orphanages. Tell them your story, sow your resources into their lives. Do whatever you can to show them my love and prepare them for the purpose I created them for".

In the story of Esther, the king ordered a beauty contest to find the most beautiful girl to marry (Esther 2:2-4) and Mordecai was one of the major people to prepare Esther to meet the king.

Esther was given a years' worth of beauty treatments and according to the Bible, we know that a woman's real beauty is not just outward adornments. The Bible says... What matters is not your outer appearance—the styling of your hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes—but your inner disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in 1 Peter 3:3-4 (MSG).

Cultivate inner beauty...

Today, many men make women feel it's all about the outward appearance; the body but we need these same men - the good ones at least to help our young girls to see past the outward appearance. There are some things a girl need to hear her father say to her.

Unfortunately, an orphan doesn't have a father so the purpose of this "Be my Mordecai initiative is to find good men that can be good role models to speak these things into their lives and would lead them to Christ by showing her the father's heart.

There's a queen in ever Esther but if you don't give her the opportunity, we would never know.



WHAT BE MY MORDECAI IS ALL ABOUT

*Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a **lovely figure** and was **beautiful**. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father*

and mother died (Esther 2:7 NIV)

My mom and I were having a discussion a while back about men and I remember my mom saying that there were no good men. Now, there was a time I would have agreed with her but I did not. Rather, I said, "that may be many women's experience but that does not mean it is true." There are a few good men out there who are good husbands and role models to their children and the world needs to know or hear more of them.

The Bible introduces us to Esther who was an orphan from an early age. Both parents were dead and her 'Mordecai', her uncle brought her up. The Bible does not fail to let us know that Esther had a **lovely figure** and was **beautiful** so, what does this say about Mordecai - for her to still be left at the mercy of him who played a major role in mentoring her into her destiny without the need to take advantage of her lovely figure?

EVERY YOUNG GIRL HAS DREAMS DESPITE HER CIRCUMSTANCE

Despite her circumstance, I'm sure like every girl does, Esther still had dreams, especially as she was occasionally exposed to royalty. Your circumstance does not prevent you from dreaming, you know.



Esther must have been there when the queen threw a party. There was a time King Xerxes threw a banquet for all his nobles and officials and we are told that... the celebration lasted 180 days—a tremendous display of the opulent wealth of his empire and the pomp and splendor of his majesty. When it was all over, the king gave a banquet for all the people, from the greatest to the least, who were in the fortress of Susa. It lasted for seven days and was held in the courtyard of the palace garden (Esther 1:4-5 NLT).

The party was talk of the town and Esther must have been one of those invited because she lived with her cousin in the fortress of Susa (Esther 2:5-7).

"Wow! I get to attend the kings party? But I haven't got anything decent to wear", she must have thought to herself. We are told that the courtyard was beautifully decorated (Esther 1:6) so, I'm sure Esther looked around and wandered in amazement.

The Bible also lets us know that... At the same time, Queen Vashti gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes (Esther 1:9). So, Esther may have also caught glimpses of the women that attended the banquet and admired their very beautiful gowns. Who knows? Maybe she had a moment of self-pity where she thought life isn't fair. However, she never would have dreamt that by the end of the party, her life would take a dramatic turn.

On the seventh day of the party, Queen Vashti disobeyed her king and before she knew it, she was out the door (Esther 1:10-21).

As a result... Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the king's harem at the fortress of Susa and placed in Hegai's care (Esther 2:8 NLT). She was provided with beauty treatments and assigned seven maids and... when it was time for her to go to the king's palace, she was given her choice of whatever clothing or jewelry... (Esther 2:13 NLT). Before we know it, the king made her his queen and... to celebrate the occasion, he gave a great banquet in Esther's honor for all his nobles and officials, declaring

a public holiday for the provinces and giving generous gifts to everyone (Esther 2:18 NLT). Wow! Her own party! Can things turn around that quickly for someone?

Like I said earlier, God's name isn't mentioned once in the whole of Esther's story and maybe after losing both parents, she may have felt abandoned by God but God who is the Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5) was silently working behind the scenes, preparing a place for her.

ESTHER WAS NOT ABUSED

Esther was young and beautiful and we know that she was a virgin when she got married, meaning her uncle did not abuse her. There's debate on whether he was a eunuch or not but even with that, his hands were not cut off. Some girls have been fondled and it's more or less the same thing.

Abuse is abuse and when it comes from someone you trust, I can image that it's effects is even more damaging.

Some men even do it right under the noses of parents in their own homes not to talk of someone that was an orphan. Her uncle had eyes but he did not use that as an opportunity to abuse her and that should never be taken for granted.

ESTHER WAS GUIDED INTO HER PURPOSE

Mordecai mentored Esther from the time she was in his care till she moved into the palace and even when she became queen and lived in the palace, he went by to find out about her welfare which is what we are calling all 'Mordecai's' signed up to be part of this initiative to do by way of letters, video messages etc.

We are told that... Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it. And every day Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to learn of Esther's welfare and what was happening to her (Esther 2:10-11 NKJV).

He did this every day but we are not asking our 'Mordecai's' to do this every day. However, collectively, we would ensure the gap is filled – not every day but as often as we can.

MORDECAI INSTILLED VALUES INTO ESTHER

We are told that... Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him (Esther 2:20 NKJV). To me, these speaks of instilled values. The Bible talks about training up a child in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Esther

didn't just say now I'm in the palace, let me be my own master, she still obeyed Mordecai. Also, Mordecai knew that giving that information away would be detrimental to her welfare. This represents instilled value and wisdom about how to act in public; what to say and what not to say. What to reveal about yourself and what not to reveal.

There's more... In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name (Esther 2:21-22 NKJV).

Here, Mordecai was able to trust Esther to do what she needed to do and again, it's about mentoring young girls to get to that point where they can apply such wisdom. Also, when Esther was full of uncertainties, Mordecai spoke courage into her. He equipped Esther with information she otherwise had no access to. He then challenged her and taught her how to be bold.

MADE FOR A TIME LIKE THIS

This was one of the greatest thing we know Mordecai did for Esther which was to thrust her into her purpose. He told Esther...

... "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any

more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14 NKJV)

Our Esther's need to learn about God's purpose and be equipped to be thrust into that purpose, so our section on purpose will provide information on God's purpose etc.

MORDECAI DID WHATEVER ESTHER ASKED FOR

So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him (Esther 4:17 NKJV).

This is the part where from time to time, the young girls we support would need our 'Mordecai's' to act on their behalf and it could be in various ways. What did Esther command Mordecai to do?

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" (Esther 4:15-16NKJV)

Esther had taken this bold step to walk into her purpose, the least Mordecai could do for her was to

assist her by gathering people together to pray and fast which basically means interceding on her behalf. We know women are known to pray but there's something about when men pray.



However, apart from praying and fasting, these girls need resources and this is where sponsorship comes into play. [See our sponsorship section on page 20]

MORDECAI IS HONOURED



We finally get to the portion of the story where Mordecai was honoured for all his good labour. Mordecai felt the pain of his people. There's something to say about the kind of heart he had and we would like to honour that kind of heart.

Then the king said, “What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” And the king’s servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.” (Esther 6.3 NKJV)

How was Mordecai to know that just raising a little girl would in the end save his own life? But that was not all the honour he received. After Esther saved the Jews, we are told that... Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad (Esther 8:15 NKJV)

We would like to honour our 'Mordecai's' in our Mordecai is honoured section of our magazine. One of the way would be to publish appreciation letters from our girls. The other way would be to present them with craftwork made by some of the older girl we support. All of these would be featured in the 'Mordecai is honoured' section of the magazine.



ORPHANS

WE SUPPORT

*“I will not leave you as
orphans [comfortless,
bereaved, and helpless]; I
will come [back] to you
(John 14:18 AMP)*

Meeting by the well has teamed up with Pastor Immanuel Raju of the Young Pastors Group of Visakhapatnam, India to help coordinate our 'Be My Mordecai' initiative in India.

Altogether, Pastor Immanuel has submitted 41 applications which consist of both Christians and non-Christian children. Not all of these children are girls. Boys have also been included as well. Also, not all of these are orphans. Some have lost their dads while some their moms and need our support.

We are going to be working with Pastor Immanuel to establish what kind of support we can provide these children but for the purpose of this Be My Mordecai initiative, here are some of the young girls that we have selected for this first stage of this initiative;



Pastor Immanuel Raju



Hutta Battula Geethika is an 8-year-old Christian female from Oduru, India. When she was 1 year old her father died in an accident. And only last month, which was February 2017, her mother also died of cancer.



CH. Revathi is a 9-year-old Christian from Kothoro, India. She is an orphan and currently lives with her grandmother.



Rampa Mowinica is an 11-year-old Christian from Vendra, India. When she was 5 years old, her mother died with jaundice and liver damage. Her father though alive is mentally handicapped. She also has an older brother who is dumb and can't speak.



V. Devi is a 13-year-old non Christian female from Vakalapudi, India. She has no father and mother and is currently living with her grandmother.



K. Harika is a 13-year-old non-Christian from Vakala Pudi, India. She has no father and mother and currently lives with her sister.



Undrajapo Syamala, is a 13-year-old Christian female from Vendra, India. When she was 6 years old, both her father and mother died from aids.



K. Durga Bhavani is a 15-year-old non-Christian female from Vokalapodi, India. She has no father or mother.

These are the profiles of some of the girls we are supporting. More would be published on our 'Be my Mordecai' website. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please complete our Sponsorship Form included in this back and hand back to us.

You can also send an email with the title 'Be my Mordecai' in the subject line to info@meetingbythewell.org



SCHOOLS

WE SUPPORT

The 'Be My Mordecai' project is not just limited to orphanages. We are also reaching out to schools.

We want to be able to support older girls in schools by contributing some of our books and other resources on positive self-image, valuing yourself, purpose etc. and we have teamed up with Esther's Group in Nigeria to support the work they are doing with Baptist Girls Academy, Obanikoro, Lagos.

On the 18th of March 2017, Esther's group would turn 7 years old and in conjunction with celebrating the

launch of the 'Be My Mordecai' initiative, we are donating copies of my book 'Created and Formed for a purpose' and I would also be visiting the girls in 2017 so share my journey with them in person.

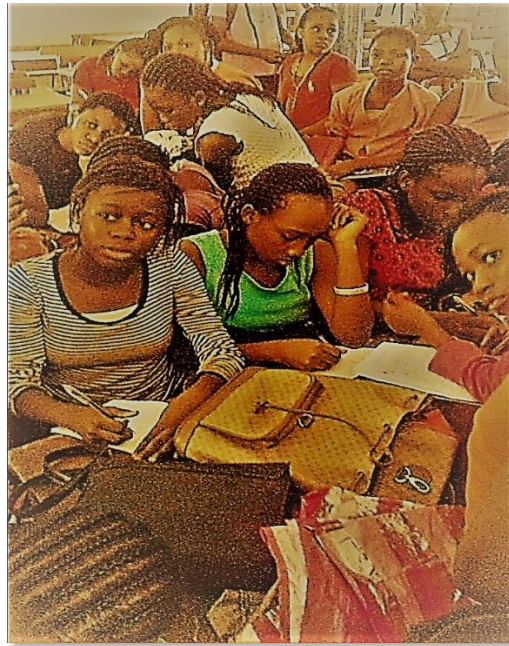
Please check out our website for details.

For details on how you can support this cause, please send an email with the title 'Be My Mordecai School Support' in the subject line to info@meetingbythewell.org





Pictures from the 2016 Skills Acquisition Program organised by Esther's Group at Baptist Girls Academy Obanikoro, Lagos





Mrs Eunice Adetola of Esther's Group Nigeria addressing the young girls

In August 2016, we were led to hold our very first annual Skill Acquisition Program a vision that we have carried with us for over 3 years. There is always a set time with God and when that time came He moved people and resources in a way that defies human understanding.

We got people who were not only willing but available to take out their time to train a group of young people ages 10-18 basic knowledge of what they may use to earn extra income either now or in the nearest future.

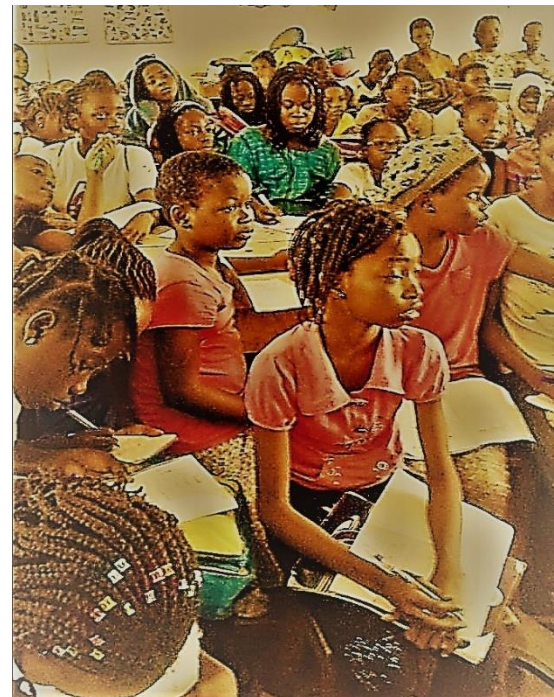
The goal was to simply sow a seed in them that will be nurtured at the

appropriate time. They were taught how to cook, bake, do make up and tie gele (head tie). They were taught how make cocktails, print on t-shirts and handkerchiefs, how to make gift and cake boxes, etiquette, morals and Godly principles for everyday living.

It was a very interactive class. We set out to train about 50 people and we had over 100 students in attendance. The entire program was for free and we sincerely hope we would surpass in 2017 and subsequent years what we did in 2016.

Mrs Eunice Adetola

Phone: 09085566492 : **Fellowship address:** 1 Thomas Laniyan street, Idi roko bus stop Anthony, Lagos, Nigeria
Email: Esthersgroupng@gmail.com,
Twitter: esthersgrpng





FEATURED LETTERS

FROM DADDY

To kick this off, I wanted to hear from a young girl's perspective, so I had a chat with the daughter of a friend of mine aged 13 years old and this is what she had to say;

Me: How's your relationship with your dad?

Young girl: I think we are quite close. At first, I wasn't really close to my dad. It was just like a normal relationship but after I got in to secondary school, I started realising that I relied on my dad a lot more especially when I was doing my exams. My dad was the one that pushed me during those moments I didn't want to continue because I felt like I couldn't do it. My dad was the one that would encourage me to carry on and do my work. If not for that, I probably won't have gotten into grammar school because he was the one that helped me with my exams and GCSE's.

Me: So, when you had a closer relationship with your mom, why was that? Was it because she bought you all the girly stuff?

Young girl: My dad works a lot so I didn't really see that much of him. So, I had a more closer relationship with my mom.

Me: Do you and your dad seat down to just chat?

Young girl: Yes

Me: What kind of things do you chat about?

Young girl: It is mostly about education because he is the one that can answer all the questions that I have. Also, he educates me a lot on what men do to women and how to be careful. He talks to be about how men think from his

perspective as a man and how to be careful. He has also thought me how to protect myself. like when I am older. My mom does that as well but it is mostly my dad.

Me: So, you are very happy to have your dad with you, right?

Young girl: Yes

Me: If your dad wasn't there, what do you think would have happened?

Young girl: I probably would have been quite a lazy person. I probably won't have been as smart and be in a grammar school. I probably would have just been in an okay school because when I was preparing for my exams, I was quite lazy and many times, I tried to give up. If my dad wasn't there, I probably won't have gone to grammar school because he was the one that educated me and tutored me. I have got tutors but they were not as good. It was my dad that really educated and tutored me.

Me: Not every girl has her dad there to provide for her. Is there any time you have gotten a need - let's say you want money for books, clothes, or a school trip etc. Have you ever worried about where the money was going to come from or has he always provided for you?

Young girl: My dad always gives me money every week. My mom sometimes complains that I have to be more independent but he gives me what I need. If I want something, he provides for me. If I am going out, he gives me money. He gives me like everything I need. It is not like I am a spoilt child. I know I would have to work for what I need but he helps me. He buys me stuff so it's not like I don't get anything. He gives me what I need. At the same time, it is not everything that I want that I get. It is mostly what I need. And he would spoil me a little if I did well in my school work,

Me: So, have you got friends that do not have a father figure in their life? If so, have you seen the difference with someone out there?

Young girl: One of my best friends doesn't have a mother or father. Her dad is not around,

Me: How do you think it has affected her?

Young girl: Well she has no one to give her advice. No one to lean on for her education. She is the one that has to push herself. She lives with her aunty and her grandma. They don't have time to really be worried about her right so, she is more independent. She doesn't really rely on people or trust people. She doesn't really know how to deal with the outside world because she has never really been told how to deal with stuff. She is independent. She doesn't really depend on any one. All the things that she needs, she wants to get by herself.

Me: I like the words that you use. These are the exact words I am looking for because when you don't have anyone especially a father figure to take care of you, it is hard to trust somebody else. You don't want to rely on anyone because no one is there to take care of you. It then becomes all about you and then, you now become selfish. It's not because you want to be selfish, it is just because you think I have to look out for myself. Nobody else will look out for me.

Me: If you were to share with your friend some of the things your dad tells you concerning schooling, boys, and life in general, what would you say to her?

Young girl: I would probably tell her stuff that my dad tells me. Like when I observe her doing anything, I would probably tell her the things my dad would tell me about how to be mindful about the outside world. He tells me the good stuff and the bad stuff so I can see things from both sides. He tries to make me not do the mistakes that he did. So, I would probably just tell her stuff that my dad tells me like to take my education seriously, be careful of boys, don't do drugs. don't fall for peer pressure and things like that.

Me: So, if your school was to tell you to invite your dad to come and speak to girls who do not have a father figure in their lives, would you be proud to invite your dad?

Young girl: Yes. I think my dad has also got experience because his dad died at a young age. He would know what it feels like to not have a dad. He should be able to tell them how well he turned his life around. Regardless of everything he went through, he didn't use it to make himself feel sorry about himself. He was able to make a life for himself.

That was the end of our chat. I thought that was amazing and I wanted us to hear from her dad as well so I got him to write us a brief letter and the first of our two featured letter is from him.

GO AND BE YOURSELF

Dear Daughter,

The most important thing irrespective of your background is knowing who you are. You are precious to your dad. Though there are differences in gender and even when in this Morden day, people still see females as inferior, however, you need to know that you are equally important and it is the way you see yourself that others would see you.

Little girls they say, are their daddy's princesses and so you should see yourself as 'royalty'. You should see yourself as something of great joy. Be proud that you are royalty and have the self-esteem to believe in yourself. Never let anybody put you down. As a girl, I know you want to get that acceptance and recognition from people but you don't really need that. You are not less important than anybody. This mindset should take you through whatever circumstances you find yourself - the good and the bad. You are not subservient to any individual or circumstance in life. You don't need to take permission to be who you are. Go and be you.

Love from Daddy

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND BEST DAUGHTER IN THE WORLD.

By Mr Joseph Sajowa

Dear Daughter,

From the very first time you entered the world and I lay my eye on you, you made me the most proudest dad in the world. I remember hearing you cry and then seeing you smile; you were very small with your little hands and little feet. I bless God for your life each and every day as I watch you grew. I remember watching the way you crawled for the first time, the first step you took, the first time you spoke and the word 'dad' came out of your mouth. I remember the first day you read, the first time you wore your school uniform.

I love you because you bring joy into my life each and every day. You are my little princess and you always will be. I will not exchange you for another because you are so precious to me - more than gold, silver or any precious diamond.

Every day, I pray to God to always keep you safe and if I were to give you two great advice as I watch you grow up into becoming a young woman, the first would be to make God your number one priority and pursue a personal relationship with Him. The second would be to humble yourself.

Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. 4 You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God (1 Peter 3:3-4 NLT).

Love, from the proudest dad of all.

Mr Joseph Sajowa



OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

WHAT IS INVOLVED

You can become a part of our 'Be my Mordecai' initiative in a number of ways - from providing financial support to moral and spiritual support.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

You can support us financially either by giving a monetary donation as a

one-off donation or as a regular donation.

You can also specify what your financial contribution can be used for. This could be either to;

- pay for copies of our books to be distributed to our young girls.
- support the production of the 'Be my Mordecai' magazine to be distributed to our young girls
- contribute towards sponsoring a trip to visit the orphans or schools because we want to be able to take a father or minister of the gospel along with us to address these girls from time to time.
- buy copies of the magazine
- sponsor a child to be able to pay for education, courses, or other useful resources etc.

MORAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

We are looking for godly men to sign up to support our girls morally or spiritually and your involvement would be either to:

- Write a personalised letter to any of the orphans of your choice from our database or young girls that have lost their dad.
- Pray and fast regularly for a young girl of your choice from our database.
- Contribute to helping our young girls to do whatever is needed to achieve her purpose.



WHAT IS NEXT?

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of this initiative, please complete the 'Be My Mordecai' Sponsorship Form which is included as a separate form in this magazine, specifying what level of support you want to be involved in.

You can also complete this form online by logging on to www.bemymordecai.org

And the king loved Esther more than any of the other young women. He was so delighted with her that he set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti (Esther 2:17 NLT)

BE MY MORDECAI

www.bemymordecai.org | www.meetingbythewell.org

