

"All I want to be is a good Dad!"

On Monday mornings, the men in the program, men in training, and staff members convene in the chow hall to participate in 'Praise and Worship.' This happens at the beginning of every week for a reason - we honor the Lord's rightful place by sharing testimony of the things He has done the past week and the situations we are grateful for. Also, we lift up our voices in praise to Jesus Christ.

I do my best to be in there every Monday. Today I actually took out my phone and videotaped the men singing 'Reckless Love.' It's overwhelming in an awesome way to hear one hundred men raise their voices together in praise. Just a few of the lyrics to that song are:

*Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me
You have been so, so kind to me
... Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the 99
And I couldn't earn it
I don't deserve it, still You give yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
... When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me.
You have been so, so good to me
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me*

The message in this beautiful song is fitting. It clearly depicts where these men are presently and the fact that they are discovering just how much the Lord loves them. He is offering each man His free gift of life and forgiveness. The men then proceed to stand up one at a time, sharing with the body of Christ what they are grateful for and specifying the amazing things the Lord is doing.

I listen intently because what these men express reveals what's in the deeper places within their souls. I heard a father today mention that he was grateful for his son visiting and all he really wants to be is a good dad. There is so much to consider in that thought. Most of us can relate to that heartfelt desire. Our heart is to bless our children, to love them extravagantly, and to offer them a 'covering' to find refuge. Amidst all the hopes and visions that well up within us as men, the one that comes with a strong burden is to be a good Dad.

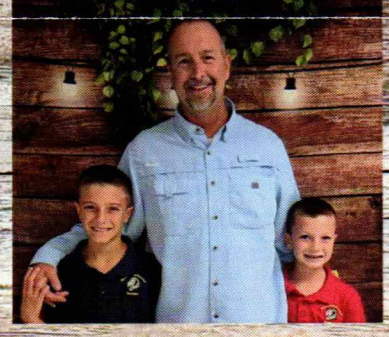
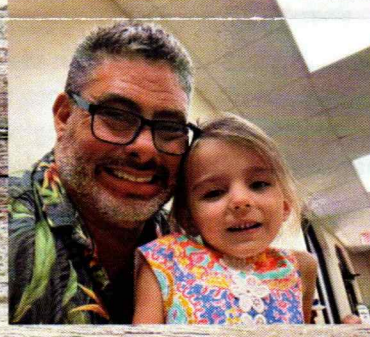
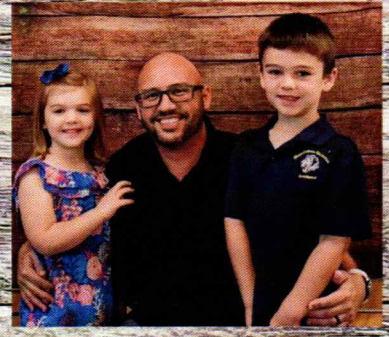
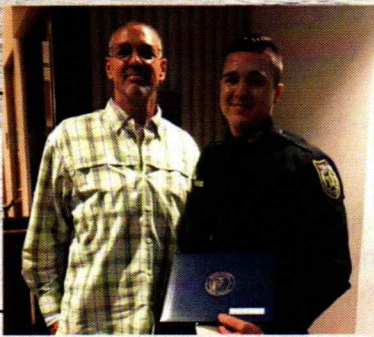
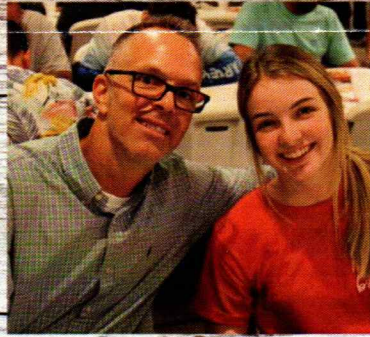
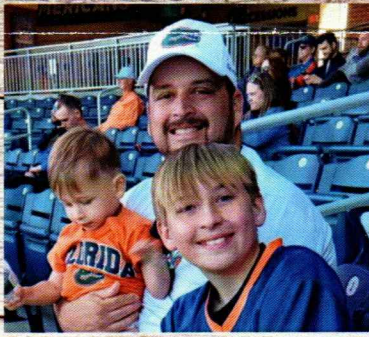
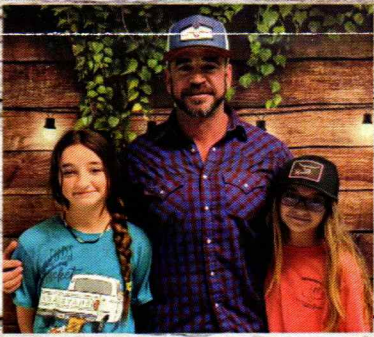
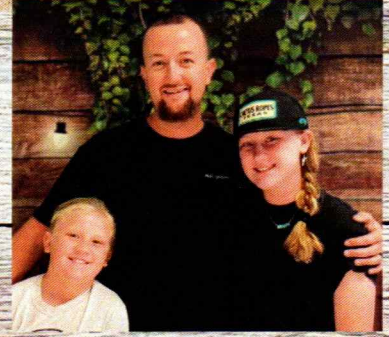
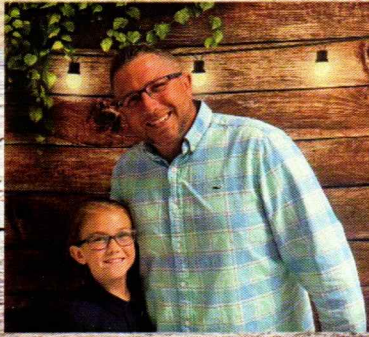
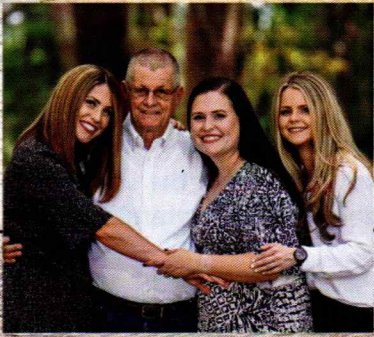
As we ourselves are recipients of His reckless love, grace, and mercy, may we all share this love with our children in the same way. The gift of fatherhood – what a tremendous blessing.



Nick

— H A P P Y —
Father's Day

Happy Father's Day!



"You are my hiding place; you will protect
me from trouble and surround me with
songs of deliverance."
Psalm 32-7-8

Thank you
DAD
FOR EVERYTHING