

## Boy Child and man's diminishing role

### Our fathers, our blessing

By Alice Mbaye

Men are Gods Channel for releasing blessings to families, generations, communities and nations. This is the lesson of God's dealings with Abraham and the patriarchs. In the Good book, The Lord said to Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show you. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shall be a blessing.

The Lord further told Abram that He will bless those who bless him and curse those that curse him. It is through him that all families of the earth be blessed. God chose the man, Abraham to bring forth His blessing to all nations.

#### Origin

A father is an origin; a seed, in other words, the beginning. It is difficult to kill a seed according to Pastor Morris Oloo of Kings Garden Centre. We might not like the seed but it cannot be erased even in death.

In today's world, men have resorted to a passive living. Many do not want to be involved in nurturing their children, hence denying them a crucial part of their lives. The struggles that we face are real but we should not abandon our roles as fathers.

In Genesis 24:50-51; It was the men who consented to the marriage between Rebekah and Isaac; it was a man that released generational blessing upon Rebekah.

"Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said the thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.

#### Blessing

Laban was Rebekah's brother, Laban was not a preacher but his prophetic utterances stand till today. (Genesis 24:60). It is the Role of men that fear God, whether married or not, to release blessings upon their physical or spiritual children, brothers, sisters or family. The same applies to the community, organisation or a nation.

We read the story of Esau and his brother Jacob in the Bible. Before he died, Isaac told his son Esau to prepare a meal for him so that he could bless him. Meanwhile, his wife was eavesdropping and hatched a plan with Esau's twin brother Jacob. It was Jacob who received his father's blessing in the end.

In the Book of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 26:21-25, Saul blesses David despite the fact that he tried to kill him on several occasions. Verse 25; "May you be blessed, my son, you will do great things and surely triumph." The blessing is likened to Saul legally handing over the throne (through blessing) to David just has had been purposed by God.

#### Father-figure

Jesus too was a father figure to His disciples, he taught, blessed, counseled, washed their feet when he wanted them to lead by example. Like a father, he nurtured them despite the problems that arose from time to time. It is an open secret that the Apostles caused trouble but Jesus guided them like a father. Peter had his own problems, Thomas doubted him but like a father to his children, the Lord was there for them.



Happy faces; Are we preparing the boys to be men enough?

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4.

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. Proverbs 4:1

Children with fathers who are actively involved in their upbringing are more likely to be emphatic and to have a better sense of self-worth.

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**JOKES**

It is said that President's William Taft's wife was a pushy woman such that during the inauguration day, President Taft pointed a finger to his wife and said: "Now look here, I'm in the White House now and I'm not going to be pushed around any more."



President James A. Garfield likened office-seekers to alligators: "They open their mouths for a horse but are perfectly willing to settle for a fly."

"This new nation shall strive to live with its neighbours to the north, east, south and west. The Republic of South Sudan shall be a partner in all human endeavours that promote security, justice, liberty and prosperity. As South Sudanese we know how it feels to deprived of freedom and dignity," President Kiir.

"Notwithstanding decades of war and suffering, the people of South Sudan do not harbour any bitterness towards our erstwhile compatriots."

Below; Rural Service Programme Board members in a group photo during a recent training conducted by Mr Fred Wakhungu (left standing), a consultant with TAABCO.



**Prayers needed as South Sudan makes its first steps**

Two months ago, a new Republic was born in East Africa. The world celebrated the birth of South Sudan, Africa's 54<sup>th</sup> state. It was indeed a sight to behold as South Sudanese danced the whole day, celebrating their independence. It is a fact, the people of South Sudan have suffered for long and it took them 56 years to realize their dream.

This is what President Salva Kiir Mayardit said of their suffering during the proclamation of Independence, "A happy day like this should not dwell on bad memories.

But it is important to recognize that for many generations, this land has seen untold suffering and death. We have been bombed, maimed, enslaved, and treated worse than a refugee in our own country."

President Kiir also recognized the enormous task ahead and called South Sudanese and world at large to assist in building the country.

**Economy**  
"This republic is at the tail end of economic development. All the indices of human welfare put us at the bottom of all humanity. All citizens of this nation must therefore fully dedicate their energies and resources to the construction of a vibrant economy," he said.

Despite the needs, the country has been endowed with huge resources including arable land for cultivation, abundant rainfall and minerals.

**Abyei**  
But hardly a month after the momentous occasion, ethnic clashes broke out in the Jonglei state where some 675 people were reportedly killed. There were reports that 36,000 heads of cattle were stole.

There are still tensions in some pockets of the republic yet the issue of Abyei is yet to be resolved. Happy to note is that the tension has subsided but we call upon all people of goodwill to pray for South Sudan as it makes its first steps of a free nation.

## My experience at the this year's AIESEC meeting

### By Chantal Ongaro

"I commend AIESEC's continuing efforts to develop the future business leadership of our Countries." *Nelson Mandela, Former President of the Republic of South Africa.*

A wise man once said that for one to map the future, they must first look to the past. With this in mind, the concept of "change agent" has lingered in my mind for far too long. Classic definitions bring out the aspect of one who brings change, be it positive or negative. My focus however is not the nature of the change but rather the "location" where

the change took place, takes place and perhaps will take place. Looking back to 1948, in the midst of the turmoil, suffering and heartache, 7 change agents formed AIESEC, the change agency we now love so much. Present in over 1,700 universities and encompassing over 35,000 members, AIESEC is the world's largest youth-run organization focused on providing a platform for leadership development over 7,700 leadership opportunities each year, in addition to over 5,500 global internship opportunities annually. AIESEC offers change agents-

because chose not to conform to the current pattern of their world. Change agents because they dared to envision a different world from their own. Change agents because they set out to crystallize their dream and make it a reality, the reality we now live. The question then becomes, "do we still live this reality?" AIESEC came into my life 6 months ago. There I was, looking at its website and came across a really interesting item,

"Do you want to be a teamster in the International Congress 2011, Kenya?" I can say with certainty that the opening ceremony attended by more than 700 delegates on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2011 was a success. Meeting and interacting with energetic young people who are passionate about changing the world and making it a better place was an eye opener. Only then did I understand, this was my place, this is where I want to be.

My dream is to be a registered member of AIESEC – be among the energetic and passionate young future leaders as well as play my role and contribute to the future development for the whole organization.

The International Congress 2011 presented a great opportunity to those present including its members to build a future path for the organization and the Kenyan youth.

The theme of the congress this year is "Carving Young Leaders for a Sustainable Future", focused on a multitude of issues like sustainability, technology, youth led impact movements, emerging markets, ethical business etc. Did you know that former US President Bill Clinton and Former UN Secretary General Koffi Anan are alumnae of AIESEC?

This life-changing experience will continue to reinforce my belief on 'give and take'. I always hold that belief when I am helping other people. Do not focus on how much you can gain and how much you can take from that, but focusing on how much you can give to others.



Dr Agnes Abuom and the Ecumenical Solidarity team in a group photo with President Hellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia (centre) when the mission visited the country in August, ahead of its second post-conflict elections to be held in October. Photo courtesy.

"The principal danger of fatherhood today is that fathers do not have the vital sense of father that they have had in the past. Because of a host of pressures from society, the father has lost the confidence that he is naturally important to his children—that he has the power to affect children, guide them, help them grow. He isn't confident that fatherhood is a basic part of being masculine."

## It calls for more than Good Governance if we must succeed

### By Chantal Ongaro

We live in the best of times, but great challenges lie ahead. Service delivery protests are but one indication of how far we still have to go. At the core of these and other protests, is a demand by citizens for corruption to be eliminated; for leaders to behave reasonably, and that organizations and policies are set up on ethical foundations.

#### Institutions

There is an obvious discrepancy between what has been achieved in terms of deliverance by public institutions, and what is expected by the public. Society is not

satisfied with the current performance. Nowadays, the media's reach has grown exponentially with the rise of social networks. Thus public awareness of government's positive and negative achievements is greater than ever. With greater awareness, the communities' expectations rise. These expectations must be met. No-one is willing to compromise.

If expectations are to be met, leaders must be exemplars of good governance. Good governance is more than just the existence of an efficient public sector. It calls for fair and responsible institutions that respect human being and their civil liberties. Although necessary, good

governance is not sufficient. Leaders must behave in an ethical manner. Government structures must be fully accountable to their populace. The public must have the opportunity to participate in decision making that affects their lives. At the very least, decision making processes should be transparent and leaders must also report back to their constituents. The reasoning underlying decisions taken on behalf of and for the benefit of the people should be communicated. Leaders should prove they are servants to the people. They should lead by example.

People have spoken and are calling for a government that will be accountable to them. Are we listening? What is our response for

zero tolerance to corruption? A corruption free government will be better able to communicate and answer to the need of the poorest member of the society.

#### Culture

Human security and poverty reduction will be achieved. However, this is not a role only to be played out by government but it is upon every individual. It starts with us. Good Governance is a process which cannot be shaped by legislature alone. It requires a transformation of culture. We need leaders who are dedicated to building an environment where ethics and appropriate regulation will be encouraged.

“Fathers have been so busy– working hard that they let the years slip by– almost unnoticed. Then suddenly they realize that its too late to build relationship with their children, hence living with regrets.”

“Our very survival as a people will depend on the presence or absence of masculine leadership in millions of homes.” Dr. James Dobson

## Boys crying out for role models as they wallow in darkness

By Sam Kiplagat

Where are the boys?” This is a question posed by Basic Education Minister Sam Ongeru recently while presiding over an official event in Central province. Indeed this is a question that should concern all Kenyans. Findings conducted in Central province point to a worrying trend- that boys are dropping out of schools to become matatu touts, get hooked up in the miraa trade or enlist in the ranks of the outlawed Mungiki sect. Others still, run to the city or major towns in the country, looking the elusive employment. While there, they get frustrated and fall prey to illegal gangs, in the wake soaring the crime rate. Whereas the number of girls joining primary school and completing form four has been impressive over the years, boys on the other hand have been disappointing. This situation is more pronounced in central province where even at the national exam level, girls are now scoring higher than boys. The only provinces where boys are still doing better than girls are Nyanza, North Eastern and Coast.

### Bodaboda

The trend is, however, not restricted in Central Kenya, in fact it is wide-

spread and every corner of this country is reeling with the same. In Bungoma for example, a story carried in a local newspaper states that a survey done in the county last year revealed that most Bodaboda cyclists were primary school dropouts. Area District Education Officer Alice Taiti was quoted saying that the disparities in secondary schools enrollment in the area was huge with the girls' number being higher. She warned that if the situation was not checked, the boy child faced a grim future. Along the shores of Lake Victoria, boys drop out of school to join older fishermen. In Keiyo, boys have joined the lucrative passion fruit farming. Sadly, the voice of the boy child is not only missing in schools but also at home. The boy who used to “pester” his sisters is no more and girls are taking over.

### Prefects

A consultant with TAABCO who has been conducting trainings in various schools in Nairobi revealed a rather disturbing fact- that many parties in the estates nowadays are organized by girls. Mr James Matagaro, who is also a motivational speaker, revealed that even in schools it is the girls who are taking leadership positions; be it class prefects, monitors, games captains and the like. Boys meanwhile, fold their hands and remain unresponsive and it takes a lot of nudging for them to volunteer themselves to such positions. He goes on to say that during schools' parents, teacher and children's meetings, it is always the girls who make comments, ask questions or offer prayers at the end of the sessions while the boys either appear distracted or are pretending to be in deep thought.

So what went wrong? Somebody once said that link a boy to the right man and he seldom goes wrong. Are we linking our boys to the right men? Are fathers available to nurture and mentor boys into real men? Are they their role models?

Various reasons have been ad-

vanced regarding the wane of the fortunes of the boy child. The single biggest contributing factor, however, has been the failure of the Kenyan man as a husband, a father and a role model. Our children's' role models are footballers (in the English Premier League), film superstars, rock musicians and the like. A few years ago, grandparents used to play an important role but this has since been overlooked as young parents “protect” their little ones. The grandparents are people with immeasurable experiences, wisdom, knowledge and great mastery. They can effectively play the role of mentorship to our children today since their outside engagements are minimal.

### Authority

Another study conducted last year at the Industrial Area Prison and Remand Home revealed that a huge percentage of the suspects therein are children of single parents. Psychologist Dr. James Dobson says that dad's leadership at home should be a model of strength and authority, but always tempered by love and compassion. So is it a pointer that dad's are failing? Closer home, Pastor Simon Mbevi of Mavuno Church says that we need to realize that the woman cannot be liberated until the man liberates himself. The preacher says that Kenyans focused too much on the girl and women at the expense of the boy and men. “Most of our social problems are pointers to the failure of masculinity,” he says. In the work place, women are proving more aggressive and more promise. Men this quote from Dr. Dobson should be a challenge to you. “Our very survival as a people will depend on the presence or absence of masculine leadership in millions of homes.”



Young men in a group photo. Frustration and lack of role models force them to join illegal gangs.

## Who is a disempowered man?

By Teresa Jatanda

You might be asking who a disempowered man is. Definitions obtained from the internet suggest that a disempowered man fails to meet the fundamental responsibilities the society has given him.

This is a person who is filled with a deep sense of frustration and anger which they usually unleash on those around them. Such people also fail to support their children and parents and they are unavailable to those who love them emotionally, economically, socially and spiritually.

### Addictions

Further, a disempowered man is usually depressed and is difficult with emotions. Many at times they are victims of addictions and

usually target women a scapegoat for their problem. They may also turn violent.

Male disempowerment should be recognized as an issue, and should be discussed freely. A boy child should be engaged with and mentored into manhood early enough. To assist such men, it is advisable to work in a discussion group comprising of men.

Researches also done reveals that fathers have a greater impact on their daughters.

### Success

It has been proved that fathers generally have as much or more impact as mothers do in the following areas of their daughters' lives: achieving academic and career success—especially in math

and science; creating a loving, trusting relationship with a man; dealing well with people in authority—especially men; Being self-confident and self-reliant;

Others include, being willing to try new things and to accept challenges; maintaining good mental health (no clinical depression, eating disorders, or chronic anxiety) and expressing anger comfortably and appropriately—especially with men.

Sadly, there are mothers who feel uncomfortable or jealous with the idea that their daughter might share as much time or as much personal information with her father as she does with her mother.

Dedication to the fathers. By Teresa Jatanda

### I Want to Be Just Like You

In a time when fathers are totally absent, gone most of the time, or physically present but mentally distracted, you are there for me—looking at me, listening to me understanding me, talking with me. You make time for me even when it's inconvenient for you. You make me feel important to you. I learn from you when you teach me, when I watch you do things, and when I observe you just being you—a terrific father. Every affectionate smile you give me, every pat on the back, every hug shows me you love me, that you're proud of me. These are things I'll remember to do for my own kids. You're a great role model, Dad. I want to be just like you.

## Is the role of male as the breadwinner becoming obsolete ?

By Reuben Inganji

The roles and purpose of men as the 'alpha male', provider and protector within the family unit and the community as a whole, is slowly becoming obscure and belittled.

### Family

The changes have left today's man in a state of alienation from his 'purpose' and making him insecure as to what it really means to be a man. This has come in direct relation to the breakdown of the family and through the rise of women in the work place.

The success of feminism in empowering women to break the chains of social roles has done little or nothing to sanction the change in our concepts of the male role. And although the trend of the

single mother family may not have been the direct dream of the feminist, the indifference to the importance of the father has left many men not paying full respect to the miraculous responsibility of fatherhood.

It is also key to look at the way in which the role of man as breadwinner is becoming obsolete not only through the success of women in the workforce but also because mothers are now encouraged to return to work as early as possible.

### Sole contributor

The importance of the father figure has been negated as well as the virtues of family values being forgotten. And if a man's wages is no longer the sole contributor to the protection, rearing, education and the future of his offspring, then why can't he just spend what he has on himself. The modern man is encouraged to be individualistic and carefree. So if we are to build from here, then not only should the

women be respected as an equal within the workforce, the roles of men should respect as an equal within the structure of the community.

Men need to feel needed as much as women do. If the new roles of women are to work, then we need a constructive understanding in the ways we need the strengths of men, without leaving the doors open for a neo-fascist interpretation for the breakdown of the family and a macho backlash to role reversal.

Men used to be the people who went out and earned money by working and women stayed at home and looked after the children. This has long changed as we have men nowadays staying at home and look after the children and do the supposed "women jobs" like cooking and cleaning.

roles of



Enumerators being trained ahead of food security baseline survey conducted by Gordon Kojo at CISS, Siaya County.



**Grandma and grand-daughter; maintaining inter-generational linkages.**

## Defining the 21st Century man

By Chantal Ongaro

The traditional roles of men and women were established to ensure the power of the head of household. Historically speaking, that head of household has always been male. But the rapidly developing world has brought about many changes into the traditional roles of both men and women.

### Support

We have been socialized to expect men to be brave, industrious and domineering, whereas women have been expected to be submissive, timid and nurturing. Nowadays, however, women do not have to rely on their husbands anymore to provide a financial support for the home and in many cases they become breadwinners and head of the home themselves.

### Image

Thus, these changes have resulted in male losing his image and ego as the dominant gender in the society. First of all, it is not possible to talk about the changing role of men without mentioning the transformation that the female role has come through. The contemporary social situation was caused in large degree by women anticipation and making them more "equal" to men. Females are not forced to stay at home nursing children and making diners, they are free

to seek employment and pursue a successful career. And even if a woman chances to bear a child, she is encouraged to return to work as early as possible and in fact reproved if she does not.

Therefore, in many cases men are expected to take over the duties of a housewife. We now have men do the laundry, prepare children for school and pick them up afterwards and cook especially if his spouse's career happens to be more successful and profitable.

### Gentle

It is also important to look at the way in which the role of man as strong and masculine has become cliché. Brutal, strong and ruthless men were long ago vigorously condemned.

However, the new type of a man – gentle, sensitive, caring, grooming himself, not being afraid of giving vent to his feelings, a man who, when in need, will put on his shoulders the burden of taking care of his home and children – still evokes mixed feelings due to making the impression of being too feminine.

There are, however, opinions that men simply live up to the women's expectations. According to survey carried out recently, men were asked what it meant to be a man in the 21st century, and "more than half think that

society try to feminize them, turning them into waxed and coiffed metro sexuals.

Some 52 per cent of men say they have to live according to women's rules. In consequence, when seeking some ideal to conform to, boys tend to choose the person that guides them throughout most of their lives, and who unsurprisingly often happens to be the mother.

### Perspective

Accordingly, men are desperately needed in all aspects of society to provide the male perspective. Modern society has seen women taking up jobs which were in the past years reserved only for men. Men also go for jobs earmarked for women, such as dancers, hairdressers, even beauticians; and they are making inroads.

This does not mean that they are gay or effeminate. This is just another aspect of the evolution of society and meeting the needs of professional tolerance.

All in all, the male roles have not changed drastically in contemporary society. Looking from the angle of functionality, it is men in who we rest our hopes for holding power and solving everyday life issues.

For this reason the majority of population still considers men the only breadwinners even though the reality evolved to the extent that is not necessarily true.

Men's behavior has changed, as well as their lifestyles and their roles might also have gone some major transformations.

**“Accordingly, men are desperately needed in all aspects of society to provide the male perspective.”**

## Reclaiming the role of man despite the difficulties

By Sam Kiplagat

Is your husband a leader, mentor, provider, and protector? Is he present at home for you and the children or does he spend time with his friends socializing and cheering his favourite team in the English Premier League?

Going by the recent developments and programmes in churches, social media, TVs and newspaper articles, it is obvious that there is a problem with our men. Is the role of man diminishing by the day? Are we boxing them into a corner?

In a study conducted immediately after the post-election violence in 2008, the Coalition of Peace in Africa (COPA) makes some revelation about this subject- that women are asking the same question- where are men nowadays?

The role of the elder, father, husband and boy child, says COPA in their findings, has consistently deteriorated over the generations. Whether it happened long before Kenya attained independence, it is a problem we must tackle. The study by COPA says that during the Second World War, Africans were forcibly recruited into the fighting forces, causing a breakdown of social fabric.

### Hopelessness

The study goes on to say that most able-bodied, strong and healthy men were recruited into the force. And upon decommissions after the war, men returned to lives of broken down families, abject poverty, shame and hopelessness.

"Those who had not gone to war had grown up without a father-figure, critical in patriarchal societies," reads part of the book titled *In Search of Healers*.

There were other problems that bedeviled Africa such as slave trade which robbed the continent of able-bodied men.

### Trauma

In another book titled *Drivers of Violence: Male Disempowerment in the African Context*, Anzette Were says that conditions of poverty, unemployment, landlessness, war, disease and famine in Africa today have been superimposed on the trauma from Slave Trade and Colonisation passed down

from one generation to the next." After independence, nothing was done to cure it or heal the people of the trauma suffered over the years. And now the problem is with us and sadly the trend should worry every Kenyan.

In a bid to reclaim this role of men, a number of churches have started programmes targeting boys and men.

In Nairobi, Pastor Simon Mbevi of Mavuno Church has *Man Enough* programme and *Boys to Men*. The latter targets boys between the age of 13 and 25.

A few kilometers from Mavuno, there is Pastor David Muriithi of House of Grace, Lang'ata with another programme dubbed Men of Valour Empowered.

### Gender

The church has been forced to step in to prod men to reclaim their manhood, and fulfill their roles as husbands and fathers. Pastor Mbevi has written two books- *Dad is Destiny* and *Boys to Men*. It is said that the changing gender roles have left men confused about what manhood really means in the current age.

So who is to blame for this worrying trend?

According to Pastor Muriithi, women are also to blame because it is them who have encouraged the situation by allowing men to sit the roles of both father and mother.

He says that power in marriage results from the contribution of resources—particularly education, income, and occupational status—to the relationship. The spouse who contributes the most will have the greater decision making power.

Further attention has been paid to the impact of extended families and kin support resources on power in marriage.

### unwanted

Pastor Mbevi says that feminist movement taught women that they can do without men and this has led to many of these women showing men that they really do not need them. He adds that this makes men feel unwanted and makes them aloof to responsibility.

For years, most our attention was focused on the girl child and women. Meanwhile the man was ignored and boys were lumped in together with men with a wrong notion that they can defend themselves.

Pastor Mbevi adds that most of our social problems are pointers to the failure of masculinity and to address it, "we need to realize that the woman cannot be liberated until the man liberates himself."

In a study by Craig Allen and Murray Straus's (1980) *ultimate resource theory*- the loss of men's power relative to women's may also result in a greater likelihood for violence.

The study says that when husbands lack economic or interpersonal skill resources to maintain a dominant position in marriage, they may fall back on physical size and strength—resources that, on average, husbands tend to have more of than their wives.

### Power

Inequality in marriage is related to a number of consequences, many of which are interrelated and, in turn, reinforce gender inequality. The two suggests that power should be fairly apportioned to every family member, from the youngest infant to the most elderly person.

"If every member of a family has a sense of personal control, balanced with family control, the family can be a source of power and strength through its guidance, support, and care. When someone in the family abuses power, however, the damage to trust, loyalty, and freedom can have long-term negative effects for everyone in the family." Men, rise up and let us reclaim our roles.



TAABCO consultant Afram Pete advising the youth in Kaptama, Mt. Elgon.

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Sino House, Rose Avenue,  
Off Argwings Kodhek Road  
P.O BOX 10488-00100.  
Editorial Director;  
Dr. Agnes Abuom  
Editor; Sam Kiplagat  
Contributors; Ms Chantal Ongaro, Ms  
Alice Mbaye, Mr Reuben Inganji, Mr  
Fred Wakhungu and Teresa Jatanda.

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TAABCO Research and  
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Transforming Organisations

TAABCO Research and  
Development Consultants  
SINO HOUSE, Rose Avenue,  
Off Argwings Kodhek Road  
P.O. Box 10488, 00100

Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254-20-2712698,  
2712700  
Fax: + 254-20-2712980  
Email: [taabco@taabco.org](mailto:taabco@taabco.org),  
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## The Revolving family issues that are quickly getting out of hand

By Fred Wakhungu

Joel Spring in his book  
"Purpose of Schooling"  
remarked that the church and  
family were collapsing and the  
children left to the school-  
house for molding.

At the early ages way back  
beyond the 1960s, Sunday  
school for the children and  
youth was a must; so were  
Madrassa for the Muslim chil-  
dren and youth.

### Learnt

Boy child followed and always  
were to be found with their  
fathers as the girl child fol-  
lowed and learnt from their  
mothers.

Like father like son and vice  
versa was the norm.

This trend, however, changed  
in the mid 1970s when the  
native youth picked up white  
collar jobs to replace the de-

parting whites and reds from  
the public service. To imitate  
the white man, who showed  
open love to their children even  
in the streets, the African or  
native parent yielded the pres-  
sures that had been a hallmark  
of child control.

### Attention

This "civilization" brought with  
it the notion that mothers de-  
served more attention from  
their employed sons and daugh-  
ters.

Upon arrival from their urban  
workplaces, the children re-  
ported first to their mothers in  
the kitchen and only came to  
greet the father after the pri-  
mary coaching by their moth-  
ers.

### Youth

The result is what is in the pub-  
lic domain today. The youth do  
not appreciate their fathers any-  
more because they are not pre-  
pared to undergo any mentor-  
ing that will counter their ac-

quired foreign lifestyles.

The mothers on their part would  
at all costs hide and conceal the  
acquired habits of their children  
from the father.

As a consequence, fathers are no  
longer the heads of their families  
and because of their tender han-  
dling of disciplinary issues, the  
youth have developed into what  
we are witnessing today- young  
men plaiting their hair, wearing  
ear studs while others practicing  
homosexuality.

### Reconsider

But all is not lost because it can be  
remedied. To start with, parents  
should reconsider their separate  
ways of family operations and  
come together as unit and try  
helping the youth realize the very  
needy change.

Let the fathers and mothers swal-  
low their pride and practice the  
command of God in the book of  
1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:1-12 and re-  
member God's command in the  
Joshua 1:6-9. It is not too late to  
return your children in the stable.

"As a consequence,  
fathers are no longer  
the heads of their  
families and because  
of their tender  
handling of  
disciplinary issues, the  
youth have developed  
into what we are  
witnessing today-  
young men plaiting  
their hair, wearing ear  
studs while others  
practicing  
homosexuality. "