

FATHERS IN THE FIELD



PRESS KIT



BACKGROUND

Fathers in the Field is a ministry created to “defend the cause of the fatherless,” as spoken about in Isaiah 1:17. This ministry offers a thoughtful, faithful and complete mentorship program for boys that have been wounded in fatherhood abandonment.

Fathers in the Field was established in 2005 by John Smithbaker and Scott MacNaughton, two men who had each personally experienced the wounds of fatherhood abandonment, when they realized that God had been calling them found a ministry such as this, bringing faith, fatherhood and forgiveness to boys going through the same hardship.

This unique ministry was founded with the deep conviction to answer God’s call to defend the cause of the fatherless through the provision of godly mentoring fathers. Driven by the profound ill effects of fatherlessness in society, Fathers in the Field combines fatherly mentorship, outdoor ventures and the message of the Gospel to bring healing into these valued lives. Through each mentor’s faithful commitment to a fatherless boy, an opportunity for a brighter future is presented, alongside the distinct privilege of introducing him to his Heavenly Father.

Fathers in the Field leads boys outdoors, away from distractions, where they can relate one-to-one with a man they admire. The program is designed for boys ages 7 to 17, who urgently need male role models, reaching them through single mothers, eager to give sons a father figure – a role they cannot fill alone. This is a free initiative for these families, funded by charitable sponsors and participating churches. Fathers in the Field requires a three-year commitment (one year at a time) from participants, to provide constancy, requiring the boys to ‘earn’ the program’s blessings by serving others. Above all, the aim of this ministry is to impart unshakable faith in a Heavenly Father who will never abandon His children.

Mentor fathers and boys meet four times a month and, using ministry tools, gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special outdoor activity (camping, hunting, fishing, riding, whatever they decide to do together), serving as an anticipated year-end ‘rite of passage’ celebration.



BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN J. SMITHBAKER



John J. Smithbaker is an author, speaker and founder of Fathers in the Field. His passion and focus are to help men recapture their divinely assigned roles of Pastor, Provider and Protector in the home, as well as in the Church. Standing in the gap for the fatherless and challenging men to defend those under their care is a call on his life from the Heavenly Father. As a gifted leader, Smithbaker combines his personal experience and straightforward style to connect with men impacted by the wounds of fatherlessness, helping them recognize their God-given, mission-oriented purpose in life.

Before entering full-time ministry, Smithbaker served for 15 years as president and CEO of Brunton Outdoor Group, a leading manufacturer of outdoor adventure products.

In 2005, Smithbaker launched the Fathers in the Field ministry to share God's abiding love with fatherless boys through mentorship with godly men in their local church. His desire is to be a catalyst for the Kingdom by "defending the cause of the fatherless," pointing others to the Heavenly Father's eternal power, forgiveness and faithfulness.

Smithbaker is the author of "Man Enough to Forgive: Healing the Wounds of Fatherhood Abandonment" and "The Great American Rescue Mission: Reaching and Healing the Fatherless," which clearly makes the connection between the destruction of families, the eroding roles of men in the home, and the ills of American culture – and charts a path to restoration by coming alongside the wounded fatherlessness across the country.

He is happily married to his wife, Tracey, and together they have three adult children.



BIOGRAPHIES

SCOTT MACNAUGHTON

Scott MacNaughton is the Pastor and Co-Founder of Fathers in the Field. His hands-on ministry calling was developed later in life, following his pastoral career of 30 years, when he came to realize that he had been neglectful in the intentional “deeds” of ministry. MacNaughton’s passion and aim is to help the fatherless, hoping to transform churches across the nation by calling them forth to meet this crucial need. Through his personal experience with fatherhood abandonment, and a divine calling to help others, MacNaughton seeks to share the healing power of faith and forgiveness through Fathers in the Field.



Unbeknownst to him at the time, MacNaughton’s roots in this calling actually began from the wounds of his own father’s abandonment of his family and pastoral position within the church. Later, in college, God gave MacNaughton the idea for an outdoor adventure ministry that would introduce abandoned boys to their Father in Heaven, a Father who promises to never leave or forsake them.

Years later - following a distinguished 15-year tenure as CEO of Brunton Group, a leading manufacturer of outdoor adventure products - while pastoring from the very pulpit that his dad abandoned, MacNaughton befriended a man named John Smithbaker who was also learning how to forgive the father who abandoned him. The two realized that God had given them the same ministry vision for fatherless boys. Through their similar testimonies, alongside MacNaughton’s background in outdoor ventures, Fathers in the Field was born.

MacNaughton has found his purpose as Co-Founder and Vice President of Fathers in the Field, a role that takes him across the U.S. to raise awareness about the issue of father abandonment and the ministry of Fathers in the Field. He also serves as a Mentor Father to a boy named Masen, who just last year accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and has started his own journey of forgiveness with his earthly dad.



FACT SHEET

Statistics on fatherlessness:

- Children from fatherless homes account for the following:
 - 63% of youth suicides
 - 71% of pregnant teenagers
 - 90% of runaway or homeless kids
 - 85% of youth sitting in prisons
 - 71% of high school dropouts
 - 75% of teens in drug treatment
- Research shows that mentored children are:
 - 46% less likely to use drugs or alcohol
 - 33% less likely to resort to violence
 - 59% more likely to get better grades

Fathers in the Field

- In 2005, John launched Fathers in the Field to share God's love with hurting boys dealing with abandonment issues.
- Fathers in the Field's goal is to help prevent the devastating cycle of earthly father abandonment before boys become men.
- The objective of Fathers in the Field is to offer mentorship to boys who have experience fatherhood abandonment through one-on-one skills training, outdoor activities and a deepened understanding of the love of God through the Gospel.
- The primary focus of the ministry is thee-fold: Faith, Fatherhood, and Forgiveness.
- Fathers in the Field is geared toward helping boys aged 7 to 17, who urgently need male role models.



FACT SHEET

- Mentor fathers and boys meet four times a month and, using ministry tools, gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special outdoor activity (camping, hunting, fishing, riding, whatever they decide to do together) so they have a year-end 'rite of passage' celebration to prepare for and look forward to.
- Fathers in the Field leads boys outdoors, away from distractions, where they can relate one-to-one with a man they admire.
- The ministry reaches these recipients through single mothers, eager to give sons a father figure – a role they cannot fill alone.
- The program is free of charge to the boys, instead funded by charitable sponsors and participating churches.
- A three-year commitment from participants is required to provide constancy.
- Participants are required to 'earn' the program's blessings by serving others.
- Above all, the priority of Fathers in the Field is to impart unshakable faith in a Heavenly Father who will never abandon His children.
- Program mentors are required to complete the Life Journey curriculum, a guide created by the Fathers in the Field ministry.
- Fathers in the Field aims to renew the vision of the Deacons and return them to their biblical mandate.
- Engaging the women in the church is a crucial aspect of Fathers in the Field to help liaise with single mothers and offer valuable insights into the needs and challenges of single motherhood.



SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Fatherlessness:

- Why do you believe fatherlessness is the No. 1 societal issue of our time?
- What are the common cultural ills associated with fatherlessness?
- What could happen if the problem of fatherlessness is not addressed? Do you believe there is a solution?
- What are the God-ordained roles of men in the family and in the Church?

Fathers in the Field:

- What inspired the creation of Fathers in the Field?
- What makes this ministry different from others organizations that address the issue of fatherlessness?
- Can you share more about your personal forgiveness journey from fatherhood abandonment?
- Why is biblical forgiveness critical to a fatherless boy's journey?
- Can you explain the ministry's process of connecting a Mentor Father with his Field Buddy?
- Why is being outdoors of importance in your ministry?
- Can you share any impact stories or examples of how the ministry has impacted someone's life?
- How does Fathers in the Field help and serve single mothers?
- What role does the local church play in the fight against fatherlessness?
- What is a Fathers in the Field Regional Missionary?
- Where can audiences find more information about Fathers in the Field?



LINKS

Fathers in the Field Website:

- <https://www.fathersinthefield.com/>

“The Great American Rescue” Book Page:

- <https://www.fathersinthefield.com/store/the-great-american-rescue-mission-book/>

“Man Enough to Forgive” Book and Work Book:

- <https://www.manenoughtoforgive.com/>

Social Media:

- YouTube: [@Fathersinthefield](#)
- Facebook: [Fathers in the Field](#)