

MESSAGE

Occasion : Father's Sunday
Theme : Standing fast, Serving God as Free in 2023
Focus : Standing fast, Holding fast the Confidence Steadfast unto the End
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon
Date : June 25, 2023

TITLE : YE HAVE NOT MANY FATHERS
Text/s :

1 Cor 4:14-16

14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

KJV

Bible Reading :

1 Cor 4:14-21

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15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you.

19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

KJV

Ps 78:3-7

3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

KJV

Song/s :

- My Heaven Father Watches Over me

- My Wonderful Lord (G)

- God Leads Us Along (Eb)

Other references :

INTRODUCTION

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One of the challenges we have as Filipinos is that of the absent fathers in many of our families.

SWS: 7% of Filipino households have OFWs; 7% of Pinoys seeking work abroad

Kaycee Valmonte - Philstar.com

April 20, 2023 | 1:39pm

SWS: 7% of Filipino households have OFWs; 7% of Pinoys seeking work abroad

MANILA, Philippines – Seven percent of Filipino households are home to overseas Filipino workers but this number may double as 7% of adult Filipinos say they are currently looking for work abroad.

The Social Weather Stations conducted a survey from December 10 to 14, asking in-person 1,200 Filipinos aged 18 years old if they have family living at home currently working abroad or if they themselves are seeking to follow their steps.

In December 2022, the Philippine Statistics Authority said it tallied 1.83 million OFWs around the world in the April to September period of 2021. These numbers may be higher as the Department of Migrant Workers reported that around 800,000 were deployed in 2022.

The SWS survey noted that 75% of their household OFWs send money back home, while a small portion of 3% never do. In February, migrant workers sent \$2.57 billion back home.

Remittances are considered a cornerstone of the country's consumer-dependent domestic economy, with money sent back home totalling \$5.33 billion since the year began. Record remittances were collected in 2022 at \$32.14 billion.

Overseas aspirations

Meanwhile, 17% or two out of 10 Filipinos are hoping to live abroad. This is apart from the 7% who are looking for work overseas.

For those looking for work, here are the top seven countries mentioned by survey respondents:

Canada (16%)
Saudi Arabia (12%)
Kuwait (9%)
United Arab Emirates (9%)
Japan (7%)
Qatar (6%)
USA (6%)

As more countries eased travel policies amid the pandemic, more opportunities have opened for Filipino workers. However, some groups and sectors – such as nurses and those in healthcare – warn that the exodus may lead to consequences on local industries.

<https://philippineone.com/ofws-and-the-children-left-behind/>

OFWs and the Children Left Behind

By **PhilippineOne Contributor** -

36663



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (commonly abbreviated as the CRC) is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. As indicated in the CRC, the “family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding” is paramount for the “full and harmonious development” of a child’s personality. Every parent knows this and

dreams of co-habiting in such a situation. So, what if the family environment is skewed and not the perfect blissful notion of what a family should be? Will a child’s personality be equally skewed?

To many, a normal family unit is made up of a father and a mother and their children. However, life throws many curve balls and parents are often forced to re-invent the conception of a normal family so as to ensure or, at the very least, hope for the “full and harmonious development” of their children.



A classic illustration of the above occurs when one or both parents are employed overseas. In a country where unemployment is a colossal and ongoing fact-of-life, working in a foreign country and the resulting remittances, offers a way out of omnipresent poverty. Overseas work helps in decreasing Philippine unemployment as well as feeding, sheltering and clothing entire households.

In short, because of an entrenched poverty, Filipinos view overseas work as the only alternative to escape from debt and hopelessness. OFW's (Overseas Filipino Workers) will travel to foreign nations, legal or not, to escape the dark cloud of poverty and they often do without considering the possibility of suffering inhumane abuse from foreign nationals or worse, jail.

OFW in Numbers

The Overseas Filipino Worker phenomenon is a dynamic and a rising sector of Filipino society. The exodus of Filipinos to foreign nations began in 1974 and has yet to show any signs of slowing down.

According to a study entitled Migration and Filipino Children Left Behind, the Philippines is a major supplier of labor migrants to more than 100 countries and roughly 1 out of 4 Filipino children are left behind by their parents. In the 2015 Philippine Statistics Authority survey, the number of OFWs who worked abroad had reached approximately 2.4 million. This figure consisted of Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) – the ones with existing work contracts and who comprise 97.1% of the overall OFWs – as well as the remaining 2.9% who work overseas without any contract (more than likely illegally).



According to the above survey, the total remittance sent by OFWs was appraised at 180.3 billion pesos (3.8 billion USD). These remittances included cash sent home (135.6 billion pesos), cash brought home (37.3 billion pesos) and remittances in kind (7.4 billion pesos). The majority of OFWs sent their remittance through banks (62.2%) while the rest through agencies or local offices (4.0%), door-to-door delivery (2.4%), friends or co-workers (0.1%) and through other means (31.4%).

What are OFWs thinking?

Most Filipino migrant parents like to believe that the intimacy of relationships is not essentially fixed by physical proximity but is determined by the willingness of parents to fulfill their duties and, therefore, migration is part of how parents' duties are fulfilled for their children. They leave the household and sacrifice their time with their children out of love. While these parents find it difficult to separate from their children, they make the sacrifice in order to "provide for the child's material requirements." Therefore, it is important to note, that Philippine households view overseas work as a method of attaining economic goals because of the money transfers that the left-behind family receives.

Do Children Understand Why Their OFW Parents Have to Leave?

Many parents working abroad assume that their sons and/or daughters fully understand why they have to leave; that their departure is for the children's benefit as well as their future. Having said this, it is worthy to note that when parents leave young children, the children more often than not, have no clue where their mother or father are working or even what work they are. In other words, there is an obvious lack of intimacy and bonding from an early age.

Do children really understand why their parents leave? Do they really feel more privileged and more fortunate compared to other children because their parents are working abroad? Are they really in a better social position than others?

I do wish to emphasize that the OFW split families are not split because of divorce or death. The marriage, in most cases, is still intact. In Canada, for instance, even though parents are divorced, each parent still plays a significant role in the upbringing of their children and most importantly, sees their children daily or very often. The OFW situation is totally dissimilar. They leave for very long periods of time and their children can, or more likely will, be psychologically affected. No one can argue that a young child will fully understand why Mommy won't be reading bedtime stories at night or why Daddy won't be going to Saturday's football game. The fact of the matter is that very few well-adjusted children will choose a bigger home over their playmates and the majority of children would prefer to have their parents hug them and let them know that everything's alright. No matter how much an OFW wants to believe that Skype offers some type of intimacy or bonding...it doesn't.

What Psychologists Say

Clinical psychologists theorize that children, especially school-aged children, need more attention from parents, since this is when fundamental psychological development begins. While it is important to give a child his/her basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and education, it is equally important to give love, a sense of belonging, freedom, fun and immediate acknowledgement of achievement.

What we're seeing in the OFW familial culture is that, whether out of guilt or not, OFWs are inclined to gift their children the latest models of cellphones, toys and other unnecessary material options. The expression, "buying love", is bandied about secretly. Although children enjoy these presents, they have more pressing need for a "complete" family. They would prefer to have both parents present at special occasions; or a father to talk to about an intimidating classmate; a mother's shoulder to cry on whenever a teacher has been unusually frightening; someone to help choose a dress to wear during the prom and someone to ask tips from when the recent crush's attention is not forthcoming.

Children of OFWs are prone to emotional, psychological, and behavioral problems. It has also been observed that many OFW children are becoming self-doubting and drug dependents. In addition, most of the OFW children have become so materialistic and spend their parent's money on gadgets and internet gaming from lack of guidance. The remittance is being wasted on self-absorption.

Basically, migration of one parent or both is a very agonizing time for children and can trigger destructive emotions. In the case of an absentee father, children may develop gender identity problems which become more apparent as they mature.

The following is a short list of issues that OFW children share:

1. Values are twisted towards materialistic goals
2. Are much more likely to use drugs or alcohol and/or commit delinquent behavior than children with two active at-home parents.
3. Are much more likely to have gender identity issues
4. Have an increased risk of divorce
5. Are more likely to be physically or sexually abused
6. Are more likely to show rebellious activity towards one or both parents

The Truth Is...

Money is essential. It can buy the basic necessities and pay for children's schooling. However, money is not everything. While no one can argue that money can buy life's comforts and luxuries, money is not the glue that bonds a family together. There are millions of families that lack money yet they stick together and have lifelong loving relationships. As the Beatles once penned, 'money can't buy you love'.

However, let's not dump all the blame on OFW parents; they have made a very difficult choice. Such choices, for the most part, are made out of desperation and emotional exhaustion. Considering the government's apparent inability to create adequate jobs for its people; the reality that the jobs available in different industries do not match most applicants educational qualifications, and the "padrino" culture still prevalent in the country, most Filipinos are pushed to seek greener pastures in faraway lands.

For those who are still toying with the idea of working overseas or those who have already made the decision, think hard and deep on the consequences of your choice. Leaving your families does not only mean being separated from your children, it also means incurring additional costs as you will need to find someone to care for your children. You need to think of the most viable options and living arrangements so that the children you leave behind will not feel the full vacuum that your departure has created.

Our children only have us, their parents, to lean on. Let's not leave them fend for themselves and make them regret that they were born into a world and a life they didn't ask for.

Written by Gemma Minda Iso

Gemma Minda Iso, a freelance writer for over 12 years, has published one book and is about to launch her second. She does project-based in-depth research works for foreign clients, writes a column for a local newspaper and speeches for government officials and private company executives. Currently, she dabbles with her events management start-up and is kept busy with her Toastmasters International-related activities.

BODY

1 Cor 4:14-16

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15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

KJV

Prov 23:10

10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

KJV

A) The warning and correction of a father.

Prov 3:12-14

12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

KJV

Col 1:28

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

KJV

Acts 20:31-32

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

KJV

2 Cor 12:14-15

14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

KJV

B) The exhortation and comfort, charge of a father.

1 Thess 2:11-12

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

KJV

Titus 2:15

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

KJV

Titus 2:6-8

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

KJV

Deut 3:28

28 But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.

KJV

C) The provision of a father.

Matt 7:7-11

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

KJV

Luke 11:9-13

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

KJV

1 Tim 5:7-8

7 And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.

8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

KJV

D) The teaching and training of a father.

Ps 34:11-19

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

18 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

KJV

Prov 4:1-9

1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

KJV

Prov 4:1-4

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2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.
KJV

Prov 22:6

6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
KJV

Eph 6:4

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
KJV

E) The discipline and chastening of a father.

Heb 12:9-11

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

KJV

Heb 12:5-8

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

KJV

F) The love and care of a father

John 15:9-10

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

KJV

1 John 3:1-3

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

KJV

Ps 103:13

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

KJV

Ps 103:13-17

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;
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G) The leadership and example, standard of a father

Ps 78:3-7

3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:
KJV

Gen 18:19

19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

KJV

Josh 24:15

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

KJV

CONCLUSION