

How Courageous Parenting Began



(Bob Bishopp is a Genesis co-founder, former board member, and past Courageous Parenting leader. He wrote this letter to Dr. Stanley Mukolwe after our Evening of Stories event)

Dr. Stanley,

I have felt compelled to write to you for some time ever since Dave Hutchins told me about the dialogue that has been evolving with you regarding Courageous Parenting. Were it not for our mutual friend, Sam Hershey, the book might never have been written much less published. Sam and I became friends in the early 70's when he was involved with the Navigators' campus ministry at Washington State University. Sam later moved to California but we continued to keep in touch through the years.

One day in 1999, Sam called to ask if Meg and I were still volunteering in a parenting ministry. He was curious about the curriculum we were using. I told him that it was one largely developed by Dave Hutchins in collaboration with Kevin Huggins. I told him that it had proven to be very effective helping parents understand the importance of pursuing the heart motivations of their teens. He asked if I could get a copy of it to him by 10 AM the next morning which I agreed to do.

A few weeks later, Dave Hutchins got a phone call from Kent Wilson, the new publisher for NavPress. Unbeknown to Dave and me, Sam had taken the parenting manuscript with him to Colorado Springs and given it to Kent Wilson. Kent was calling to ask Dave if he had ever thought about publishing it. Kent said that NavPress was looking for parenting materials that were not formula driven or linear in their thinking. He was very impressed that our curriculum focused on the need for parents to change versus expecting their kids to. Not long after that initial conversation, Dave had a contract and an advance from NavPress to write the book.

It is absolutely thrilling to know that God is using "Courageous Parenting" in your ministry there in Africa! I am humbled and awestruck every time I think back to what God has accomplished through the Courageous Parenting ministry at Genesis not to mention what He has done in my own family.

Inside the cover of my original copy of "Courageous Parenting" Dave Hutchins wrote these words..."So much of your own journey is pictured in these pages; your hopes, your pain, your desires, your darkest moments." He was so right. He closed by saying "may we use this book to bless others as we have been blessed." It would appear that the story continues.

I hope you have been blessed by the "back story" of how "Courageous Parenting" came to be. The Navigators have been involved since the very beginning!

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Bishopp