



# Caleb's Promise & A Dilemma for 24 Million Children

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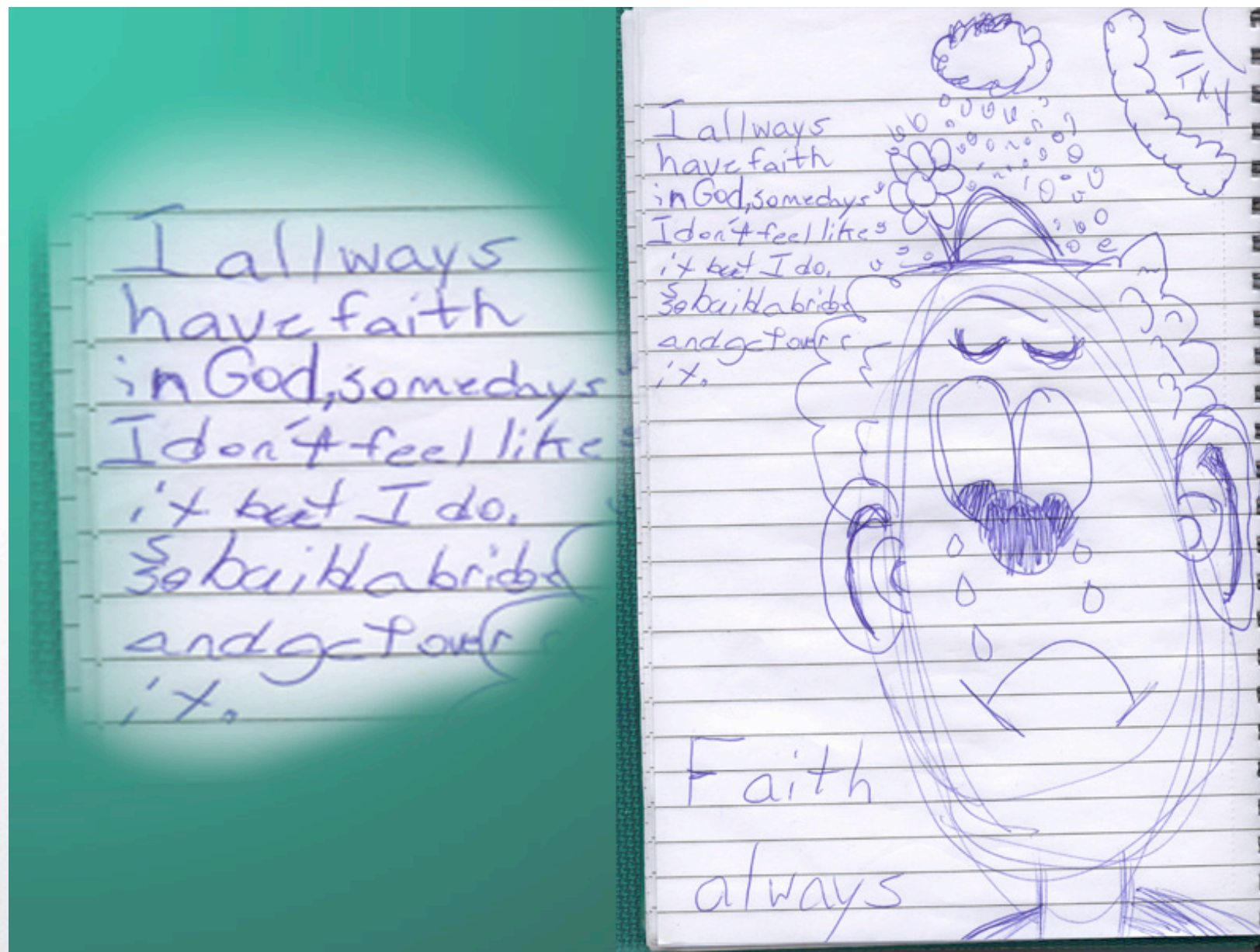


Caleb Josiah Stevens  
2/21/95-8/05/05





# “Somedays I Don’t Feel Like It”







# Cub's Eulogy

- **Funny.** He loved to laugh and make others laugh. He never took himself too seriously.
- **Faith.** He lived according to a can-do attitude straight out of Philippians 4:13.
- **First.** He always raced to be the first at everything, including opportunities to serve.
- **Fruit.** His life produced something worth passing on.

This could just as easily describe Caleb's dad.

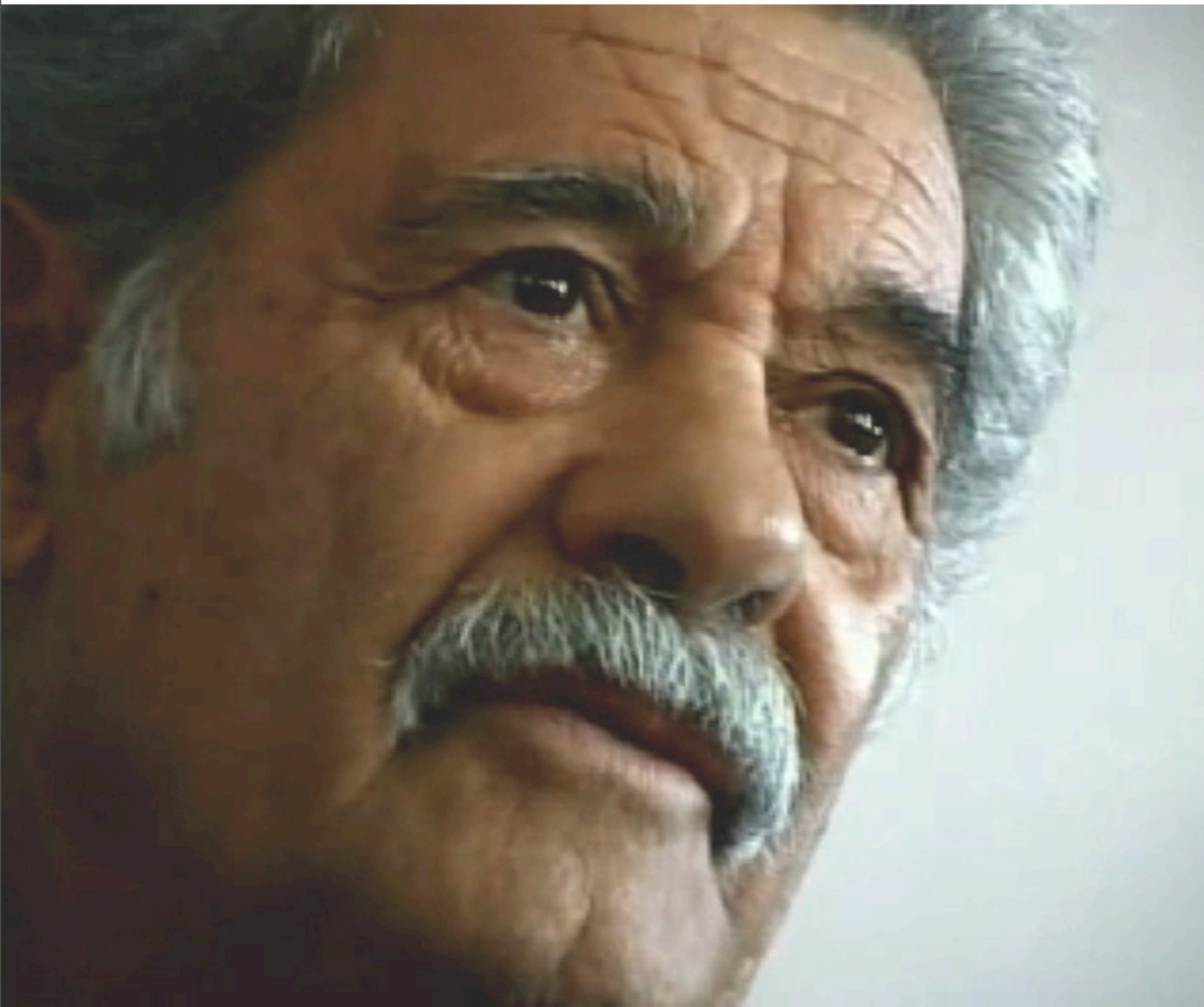


“If you knew me,  
you would know  
my father also.”  
- Jesus (John 8:19)





# “Give Me this Mountain”







# Dad, Abuelo & Me







# Reflecting Daddy







# Joshua 14:6-15

Now the men of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb ... said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back **a report according to my convictions**, but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked **will be your inheritance** and that of your children forever, **because you have followed the LORD** my God wholeheartedly.'

"Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, **eighty-five years old!** I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. **Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised** me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, **the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.**"

Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. ... **Then the land had rest from war.**





# 24 Million

- 24 million US children live with absent fathers
- 20 million live in single-parent homes
- They are our neighbors, attend school with our kids, and worship at our churches. They shop in our local supermarkets, play in our parks, and hang out at our favorite diners.





Whom do they  
emulate?

Whom do they  
celebrate?





# Their Reality

- Roughly 40% of children in father-absent homes have not seen their father within the past year
- 50% have never set foot in their father's home
- 26% of absent fathers live in a different state than their children.

*Source: National Fatherhood Initiative, [www.Fatherhood.org](http://www.Fatherhood.org)*





# Stark Consequences

On average, children of absent dads are **2-3x more likely** than peers who live with married, biological or adoptive parents to:

- be poor
- use drugs
- experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems
- be victims of child abuse
- engage in criminal behavior.





# Let's Change the Odds

“Mentors are needed, but **mentors do not replace a responsible adult who loves you, who disciplines you, who's there when you are afraid at night, who's there to really talk to you about school and work.** That's what young boys need, and we have to figure out a way to get uncles and cousins and other folks re-involved with these young people for long periods of time so these boys have role models on what it means to be a man.”



Geoffrey Canada  
Harlem Children's Zone





# Psalm 68: 4-6

- 4 Sing to God, sing praise to his name,  
extol him who rides on the clouds  
his name is the LORD—  
and rejoice before him.
- 5 **A father to the fatherless, a defender of  
widows**, is God in his holy dwelling.
- 6 God **sets the lonely in families**,  
he leads forth the prisoners with singing;  
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.





# A Father's Guidance

**As a father to fatherless, God provides:**

- Defense (Deut. 10:12-22)
- Food, Money, and Shelter (Deut 14:29, 24:19-22, 26:12-15).
- Companionship (Psalm 68:4-6)
- Family (Psalm 68:4-6)





# F.A.T.H.E.R.I.N.G. the Fatherless

1. **F**rame the issue so it's personal. Allow God to turn your heart toward a real child.
2. **A**sk God for eyes to see and ears to hear the need in your local context.
3. **T**ake the initiative to reach out to the specific child, and his/her family, in creative ways.
4. **H**old onto the relationship for the long-term.





# F.A.T.H.E.R.I.N.G.

5. **Endure** the down-times, misbehavior, and possible resentment that you're not biologically related.

6. **Resist** the urge to preach all the time. Being present and involved goes much farther than having all the right answers.

7. **Invest** in their future by exposing them to and even financing educational and professional opportunities.

8. **Notice** and praise both character and achievements.

9. **Guide** them through life's milestones: school graduations, adolescence, first crushes, weddings, etc.



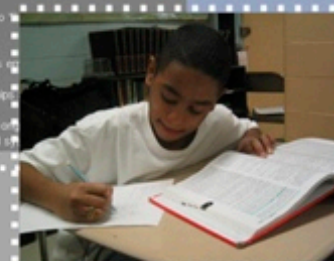


# 2020 VISION

FOR SCHOOLS

## Introducing 20/20 Vision for Schools Transforming Public Education within a Single Generation of Students

[www.2020Schools.net](http://www.2020Schools.net)



## Can you see it? Clearly?

2020 Vision for Schools: Transforming Public Education within a Single Generation of Students  
Posted on January 2, 2008

by Jeremy Del Rio originally published in Tri-State Voice

Youth Pastor Edwin Pacheco is on a mission to save New York City's public schools. But unlike some who prefer a more fire and brimstone approach, Pacheco's primary concern isn't escape from hell, it's God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven," and it responds in real time to the felt needs of real youth in his community.

Corrective Lenses

As part person for the newly announced 2020 Vision for Schools, an adopt-a-school initiative spearheaded by the inter-denominational

1,000 public schools, it would be those schools for meaningful prayer, advocacy, and service?" He strikes an urgent chord, arguing that incoming first graders in September will be the most at-risk in the nation. "We will be the most at-risk in the nation," he says. "We will be the most at-risk in the nation." Pacheco describes the implications of such a failing future. "If a child cannot read, he cannot learn. If a child cannot learn, he cannot succeed. If a child cannot succeed, he cannot live. If a child cannot live, he cannot thrive. If a child cannot thrive, he cannot be a part of the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven."

### Promises... fulfilled.

John Oates of Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice puts it this way. "Churches are not only responsible for the spiritual well being of the individual but also for the redemption of the larger society. As disciples of Jesus we must follow his call to action and realize that personal salvation must lead to an action beyond oneself." Doing so is, "one way in which the faith community can live out the Bible's mandate to do justice and walk in love."

### Students... equipped.

Pacheco attributes his paradigm shift in part to a breakfast the Coalition hosted in 2005 for the NY City's Mayor's Office of Community Development.

One of the presenters shared how many of the 787 youth workers in attendance got paid to do youth ministry. For Pacheco, the Coalition's breakfast was a turning point in his ministry.

### Schools... transformed.

As area director of Student Ventures, the high school ministry of Campus Crusade, Young was one of the few "professionals" at the breakfast and has been one of the architects of 2020. If an outtrained and under-resourced labor force can stand a chance, he reasoned, then non-

after hearing the 2020 Vision concept, Rev. Frost recognized PTT as a unique opportunity to empower local congregations to establish or enhance existing relationships with local schools. Rather than rely on centralized PTT staff to identify and manage the projects as MESA had done in prior years, Rev. Frost offered grants totaling \$100,000 to congregations to work directly with neighborhood schools. Rev. Frost aligned PTT with 2020 and invited the Coalition to help identify local ministries for grants. His theory, "If a church was already praying for a school, then PTT should represent an answer to those prayers. What better way to answer those prayers than to become a resource for congregations that had already articulated specific schools?" Perhaps most radical of all, Rev. Frost designated up to 50% of the grants for non-Baptist ministries in order to avoid in the Coalition's recommendations without regard to denominational affiliation. The result was seven PTT projects in all five boroughs and New Jersey. Some strengthened ongoing relationships between established churches and community schools. Others began new relationships for church plants. Still others provided opportunities for congregations to redouble God's passion for their neighborhoods. All, however, reported opened hearts and minds that produced what Walter Evers of Christian Aid called "rarely clear" connections between schools and their sponsoring churches. Jenna Wolff of Abundant Grace described how the influx of volunteers prompted outsiders to ask who they were and why they kept coming. As word spread, individuals approached them looking for prayer. Pastor Ed Perry of Bethlehem Church described how PTT helped restore confidence in the faith community. For the approach he described a conversation of hope, moving from doubt to a belief in the church's ability to deliver on its promises.





**50-80%**  
of church members  
are directly  
connected  
with schools.

Read the  
**writing**  
on the wall.

**Find out how your congregation  
can transform public schools within  
a single generation of students.**

We promise children that if they stay in school  
they will be equipped to succeed in life.

Yet we have failed to make good on that promise  
for generations of students.

First graders in Fall 2008 will graduate in Spring  
2020. Let's insure for them a hopeful future.

**Visit [www.2020Schools.net](http://www.2020Schools.net)**

*An initiative of the Coalition of Urban Youth Workers*

**2020  
VISION  
FOR SCHOOLS**



7,100 churches.  
1,400 schools.

**You do the  
math.**





# www.2020Schools.net



Transforming public education within a single generation of students.

## Join the 20/20 Facebook Group

Posted on April 14, 2008

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### 2020 Vision Schools

Global

Information

Group Info

Name: 2020 Vision Schools


Type: Organizations - Community Organizations

Description: Announced in January 2008, 20/20 Vision for Schools is an adopt-a-school initiative spearheaded by the Interdenominational Coalition of Urban Youth Workers, a growing association of greater New York faith-based and community youth agencies committed to comprehensive public education reform.

Contact Info

Email: peter@ifcc.net

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## About our Speaker: Evelyn DeJesus

Posted on April 13, 2008

REMINDER

[April 14, 2007 Coalition Meeting](#)

7-9 pm @ King's College (Empire State Building, LL)

UFT executive Evelyn DeJesus joins Principals Union executive [Ada Rosario Dolch](#) reflecting on 20/20 Vision for Schools

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