



COURTESY PHOTO

**Bobby Huntley penned his fifth book, "Mothers Please...," a self-help guide for single mothers raising their son(s). He will have a book-signing and slide show Saturday at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library.**

## A MAN'S BOOK GIVES ADVICE TO SINGLE MOTHERS

By Staci Dennis  
Correspondent

### KEMPSVILLE

Bobby Huntley knows what it's like to grow up without a father in the house.

"My dad left when I was about 9 years old," said Huntley, 50. "He was abusive to my mother and it wasn't a pleasant home life when he was around."

Huntley didn't let a lack of a father figure stop him from pursuing his dreams.

He joined the Marines and eventually landed in Virginia Beach in 1992. He has been an educator with the Virginia Beach School system for eight years and is a pastor at Test of Faith Ministry.

In an effort to help change

## HUNTLEY

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lives, Huntley, of Glenwood, formed The Gentlemen's Club, a youth mentoring group. While meeting with young men, he got to know their families. One mother encouraged Huntley to write a book about his wisdom and advice.

"It took me three years to get to it, but I finally did," he said.

Huntley penned his fifth book, "Mothers Please..." a self-help guide for single mothers raising their sons.

He will be at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library from noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, signing copies of his self-published book as well as presenting a slide show about some of the content.

"I'm not putting single moms down at all," Huntley said. "It's the absent fathers who aren't doing their jobs. This is a tool to help women with their children."

Huntley says some of the mistakes single moms make



**"I'm not putting single moms down at all," Bobby Huntley says of his book (above). "It's the absent fathers who aren't doing their jobs. This is a tool to help women with their children."**

are telling their sons they are the "man of the house." He says that confuses a child into thinking he is really a man, when in fact, he doesn't even understand what that means.

"If a child thinks he is the man of the house and comes

in contact with a real man, there is often a conflict," Huntley said. "They think they can talk to an adult they way they want, and that's not right."

Another problem area Huntley points out is with overprotective mothers. He says moms aren't doing their sons any favors by keeping them "in the nest."

"Kids need to learn to take out the trash, wash their own clothes and take care of themselves," Huntley said. "Moms need to let their little birds fly out of the nest."

The book goes on to provide simple and practical solutions for single mothers.

"There is such a high percentage of black males incarcerated or absent from the home," Huntley said. "We don't want our children to grow up too quickly but we also want them to be able to handle what comes their way and mature into gentlemen."

Staci Dennis, sdennis@cox.net

### going?

**What** Book-signing by Bobby Huntley

**When** noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday

**Where** Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd.

**Info** For more information about Huntley's public events or to schedule a speaking engagement, call 667-8779 or visit [www.bobbyrhuntleyenterprises.com](http://www.bobbyrhuntleyenterprises.com).

= Huntley has a second book-signing and speaking engagement from 1 to 3 p.m. July 24 at Newsome House Museum and Cultural Center in Newport News.