

Another wonderful marriage retreat! Our speakers have all been outstanding. Each one has brought completely different biblical messages and God has honored His truth in each case.

Our speaker's wife this past weekend told us that one of the coaches' wives came to her and said, "We have been struggling in our marriage for five years and tonight in 45 minutes was the first time we came together in an honest discussion. This is a turning point in our marriage." We have a time on Saturday night (mentioned it last week in my email) where couples get alone to discuss questions that the speaker gives which go with his messages. We also have other questions that couples would not ask one another without an opportunity like a retreat. I stand amazed at how God answers our prayers asking Him to convict hearts.

Early Sunday morning I was spending a little quiet time taking in the beauty of DeGray Lake and a coach stopped his walk to visit with me. He said that he looks forward all year to the Coaches Outreach summer marriage retreats. He has been coming for six years. He said that his first CO retreat gave him a whole new meaning to coaching. He said that he leaves the conference each year with a stronger conviction of the importance of his role as a coach. Hearing his statement reminded me that our retreats are not just about helping marriages. We talk a lot about how important coaches are in our society. In fact our speaker gave a wonderful testimony of how coaches raised him since he did not have a father growing up.

Our speaker shared an excerpt from his life that will forever stick in my mind. Pete said that he was very small for his age as a 7th grader and felt lost and lonely when he was in a big, rough, 7th through 9th grade school in Miami, Florida. Walking down the hallway one morning he said one of the coaches stopped in front of him in the middle of the hallway with hundreds of students walking by, got down on one knee, grabbed his shoulders, and said, "I need a wrestler for the 7th grade team. Would you come try out?" Pete, not even knowing what wrestling was, came out for the team. He said that coach changed his whole life. He went on to say how that coach would get down on the mat and cheer him on in all his meets. Brings tears to my eyes.

Yep, coaches are the best home missionaries we have in this country. We send zillions of dollars overseas and rarely know what happens to it. Like I heard Billy Graham say years ago, "We need missionaries for this country!" Maybe your church would help us reach more coaches.

God bless,
Tommy Maxwell