

POINT AFTER

**COACHES
OUTREACH**

ENCOURAGING AND EQUIPPING COACHES AND THEIR SPOUSES WITH BIBLICAL TRUTH

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SPRING
2017

A Whole New Team

by Pete Chiofalo, Interim Executive Director

As many of you already know, we're studying the book of *Acts* over this entire school year—fall and spring. Our theme is entitled, *A Whole New Team*. That title reminds us that, as Jesus' disciples fulfilled his Great Commission, his team changed both inside and out. Last fall, we saw how God changed his team on the *inside*; they became renewed. God's Holy Spirit gave them new wisdom, boldness, and power. This spring we're seeing how God changed his team on the *outside*; they grew numerically, geographically, and racially.

Two thousand years ago, God used new people from all kinds of backgrounds to reach out to others like themselves with his message of the gospel and a renewed life. At CO, we understand some of what the

early church experienced. Today, in and through our ministry, God is opening doors for us as never before. We are literally exploding with growth. In this *Point After*, you'll hear from Robert



Irion and Mike Breeden about the banquet and developing a culture of trust, respectively.

Mark Chalemin will introduce two new team members and allow them to tell you a little about themselves and the ministries God has opened through them at Coaches Outreach.

Ladies first. Anne Ryon,

our newest staff member, (the change in her status came during PA production this week) has been a part of Coaches Outreach since her first Marriage Retreat about 20 years ago. That weekend, she welcomed the

At CO, we understand some of what the early church experienced. Today, in and through our ministry, God is opening doors for us as never before.

comradery she felt with other coaches' wives and it drew her back to our Marriage Retreats every summer since. But, in the spring of 2015, a movement of God impressed on her heart the need to *serve* our coaches' wives. That led to our newest ministry, *The Reach*; a monthly gathering of coaches' wives all across Texas and, soon, across our nation.

Next, you'll meet Tyler Short, our Athlete Study writer. Since the spring of 2015, every semester he takes the regular Coaches study and rewrites it, specifically applying its truths for relevance in the lives of our coaches' student-athletes. His work provides a powerful and easy-to-use tool that allows our coaches to experience what discipleship is all about.

Finally, we want you to meet Jack French, our Field Rep in Alabama. As you'll see, both on the field and off, Jack brings a reputation among coaches second to none. We're honored to have him on our ever-growing team.

Even as we introduce these new team members, we never forget team members like you. Your faithful prayers and donations make it possible for all of us to disciple coaches, spouses, and athletes of conviction.

Celebrating Coaches Banquet

The 16th Annual “Celebrating Coaches” banquet was a huge success. The banquet was held for the 1st time at the Irving Convention Center and we will be back! Certainly, it was an additional pleasure and privilege to speak to everyone about all that the Lord is doing in and through the amazing ministry of Coaches Outreach.

After a delicious dinner, the night opened with a special moment for everyone in attendance; a five-minute video tribute to the work God has done through Tommy Maxwell, our founder. If you were not able to attend, I would encourage you to go to our home page www.coachesoutreach.org, select the “About Us” tab at the top and scroll down to “History” to watch the video. Although this video honors Tommy, it reminds us how our sovereign God desires to use each one of us, insignificant as we are, to accomplish unimaginably great things in his power.

Coach David Hall (Plano West HS) spoke from his heart about the power of our Bible studies in a coach’s life and staff. His wife, Ashley, spoke about her blessing from our newest ministry, *The Reach*, which touches hundreds of coaches’ wives.

Coach John Settle’s (Sunneynvale HS) daughter, Haley, reminded us, in a very touching way, how a coaching dad who walks with the Lord can lead his family into joy and closeness rather than resentment and division. What a blessing to have Haley read her personal reflections!



by *Robert Irion*
Director of
Information and
Planning

Pete Chiofalo shared about the life-changing impact of one wrestling coach in his middle school years. Pete knows, first-hand, why

“Investing in this ministry is a shrewd kingdom deal”

this ministry is so important. Quoting Pete, “When you consider the impact of this ministry, its future potential, the minimal staff, and its visionary board...it’s one of the best investments you can make in the kingdom of God. In short, investing in this ministry is a shrewd ‘kingdom deal.’”

A special “Thank you” to all the coaching couples for representing the ministry at the banquet, the field reps, lay leaders, speakers, Michael Bridges (always amazing), and all of our sponsors. God is good!





Our Expanding Fleet

by Mark Chalemin
Director of Education



In the Navy, every fleet has a flagship. Defined loosely, it is the lead ship in a fleet of vessels, providing the command and control center for the fleet's commander, the flag officer. At Coaches Outreach, our "flagship" is, without question, our Coaches Study. It is the "vessel" into which we pour the most time, money, and energy. It currently serves over 5,000 coaches in about 500 studies. But it doesn't serve alone.

Alongside our flagship vessel, we have two other vessels. They each serve the same mission—to encourage and equip coaches and their spouses with biblical truth—through their own complementary

ministries. One vessel is our Athlete Study, which provides a ministry tool for our coaches to grow beyond their Coaches study, as they disciple their athletes in the truths they've already learned. Our other vessel, more recently launched, we call it, *The Reach*. It is our rapidly-growing ministry to coaches' wives.

As the flag officer, I'd like to introduce you to the captains of these two support vessels; Anne Ryon of *The Reach* and Tyler Short, our Athlete study writer. They'll explain how they joined the CO fleet and how God led them to become "Captains" of their respective ships.

"When Coach spoke, I listened"

By Tyler Short

I first heard about Coaches Outreach while studying at Dallas Seminary. Mark Chalemin had come to my creative writing class to offer an opportunity for students interested in writing curriculum. Mark shared briefly about CO and I was intrigued. Although I had already completed my internship at DTS, I decided to put my name down because I wanted to enhance my writing skills and maybe earn a little much-needed grocery money for me and my wife.



Only later after Mark and I spoke one-on-one, did I really understand the ministry of CO and my part in it. I learned that God uses CO to impact the lives of coaches and their families in incredible ways. So much so, that some of these coaches wanted to start Bible studies with students to share what God had been teaching them through the Coach's Study. Thus, the Athlete's Study was born.

Once I realized that I had a chance to write the Athlete's Study for coaches all over the country to impact the lives of hundreds of high school students, I was hooked. Forget about writing skills and grocery money, I could play a part in helping this ministry shape the next generation through leveraging one of the most special relationships any of us may ever have had for the Gospel of Christ—the relationship between an athlete and their coach.

Playing sports growing up, for good or ill, my coaches were men that I and my teammates aspired to be like. If Coach put in a chaw of tobacco, we'd

all load our cheeks with Big League Chew. If Coach would spit, a salvo of saliva would be launched through the lips of every boy in the dugout. I still remember the lessons of one coach who had a particularly rowdy team—respect, teamwork, pride in the uniform, and a host of others.

I don't know where my coaches were spiritually. But, if any one of them had said, "Hey Tyler, you're coming to my Bible study and you'd better be prepared," I'd have been there, fired up, and ready to go. I'd go, not because I would one day go to seminary and knew from my time in Pampers I would enter full-time ministry, but because when Coach spoke, I listened.

It's that simple. Athletes listen to coaches. What I do with the Athlete's Study is simply give our coaches the words. My goal is to offer biblical truth, directly applicable to the life of high school student-athletes. The content is based on the Coach's Study, which prepares the coaches leading the study with a thorough background for what they see in the Athlete's Study. However, the Athlete's study is not about the *reading*, it's about the *relationship* between that athlete and their coach. It's that *relationship* that God is using to shape the next generation.

For more information about starting an Athlete Study, please email CO at info@coachesoutreach.org.

Tyler Short has been writing the Coaches Outreach Athlete's Study for over two years. After completing his degree at Dallas Seminary, Tyler moved with his wife, Erin, and daughter, Josie, back home to Lexington, Kentucky, where they are expecting another child in September. In addition to his work with CO, he serves as a Connections Associate at Center Point Church of Lexington. His favorite part of writing for CO is that sports provide a great analogy for life and the Bible should guide not only our work, but our play as well.

The Reach

By Anne Ryon, Director of Women's Ministry



In January of 2015, having exhausted a host of ministry-related opportunities, I found myself longing for something deeper. I asked some tough questions about my spiritual condition and determined there must be more to living out my faith while serving others. After prayerfully reviewing my prior involvement in multiple areas of service, I entreated the Lord to reveal what was missing in my life and to direct my steps according to his plans.

In my distress, the Lord impressed upon me a group of individuals I had never considered *servicing*, even though they had had been sitting next to me in football stadiums for most of my adult life. "What about coaches' wives?" That question carried overwhelming intrigue and tremendous excitement!

Soon after the concept began to take root, I visited with Tommy and the staff at CO to brainstorm about the possibilities for our coaches' wives. Through CO's direction, we identified and selected a D/FW leadership team with the intention of piloting 8 to 10 groups, approximately 50 coaches' wives, to meet monthly through the Fall of 2015 and Spring of 2016. This interaction and planning led to an extension of Coaches Outreach to specifically serve coach's wives. We call it, *The Reach*.

A few weeks later, while attending a T Bar M Marriage Retreat, the Lord began to deeply intensify my burden for reaching more coaches' wives. It's a common theme of the New Testament for Jesus to use a physical scenario to illustrate a spiritual principle and that's just what he did with me. During that Retreat, my husband and I went to the Comal River. Due to recent flooding, a rescue team was practicing their techniques with the use of a motorized raft. We watched as one participant jumped off the banks into the water and began floating rapidly downstream, while a raft of 3 rescuers motored upstream, against the current, to reach the individual.

As two rescue members in the raft reached a hand out to the "victim" in the water, the driver would spin the raft using the momentum to safely pull the "victim" into the raft. Throughout our time there, we

watched as each member of the team practiced each role of the rescue scenario. One played the victim in the water floating downstream, one drove the raft, while the remaining two assisted the driver and victim, repeating the scenario over and over so each participant portrayed each role. Watching this scene dramatically unfold, I began considering teams of coaches' wives as a rescue scenario for each one of us.

Many of us have found ourselves floating downstream, needing a hand to reach out and rescue us. Others have encountered the extreme difficulty of floating upstream against a strong current. Yet, countless others are in a secure place longing to reach out to a friend with a trusting hand. Undeniably, most of us have played out each of these scenarios at various times in our pathway as a coach's wife. And, as result, we all have something to contribute, just as a participant of a rescue mission.

Considering this physical scenario in relation to *The Reach*, whatever role a coach's wife may be in, we would love to have her join our team. We currently have over 350 coaches' wives meeting monthly (September, October, November, and February, March, April) in 45 small groups across the state of Texas. However, *The Reach* is more than just pinpointing coaches' wives in one state. Beginning in Fall '17, we will develop and expand our network throughout the nation. It is our mission to intentionally connect coaches' wives to one another while filtering everyday life through God's Word. We are mobilizing a vibrant and unique group of women whose lives will change through community and the application of God's Word.

For more information about joining a Coaches' Wives group, or bringing *The Reach* to your area, please email me at anne@coachesoutreach.org.

Coaches Outreach has been a bedrock ministry to Anne and David's marriage for 20 years. Anne and David, a high school football coach, have resided in the D/FW area for over 25 years. Through several address changes, different team colors, small and big churches, friends left behind as well as new friends acquired, regardless of their locale, Coaches Outreach has remained consistent, serving them through the Summer Marriage Retreats and Bible Studies.

Anne and David have 2 grown children in D/FW. Their son, Caleb, is also a high school football coach and newly married to Ruth, a nurse practitioner. Anne's daughter, Audrey, works for a mission organization and passionately pursues Young Life and photography.

As the Culture Goes, So Goes the Team

The big buzz word today in coaching is “Culture.” After the college football championship, many coaches spoke about how the locker room culture contributed to their success. Although culture isn’t the *only* thing bringing success, it is foundational. But “culture” extends beyond the locker-room to staff, school, family, and nation. With that in mind, “What is your culture like in your work or home?”

One dictionary defines “culture” as “the set of **shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices** that characterizes an institution or organization.” How, then can our relationships transform our culture.

I recently read in a leadership book, “AS THE CULTURE GOES, SO GOES THE COMPANY.” Some even argue that culture trumps *everything*. I disagree since even the most *positive* culture still requires a good strategy for organizational success. Conversely, a *negative* organizational culture can attain *temporary* success but, eventually, its toxic culture will defeat the organization. This raises the relevant question, “How can we develop a positive, transformative culture?”

Experts have identified numerous ingredients to cultivate and maintain a positive culture. This holds true in locker-rooms, marriages, and families. These ingredients include integrity, honesty, transparency, focus, energy/stamina, sensitivity, flexibility, relationships, tolerance, passion, fun, achievement, persistence, ambition, courage, preparation, learners, responsibility, tenacity, vision...and many more. But there is one ingredient I couldn’t find on any list... TRUST! In order to create a strong transformational culture, TRUST must be established. Trust, in any organization, is only as good as the amount of trust between all people involved. That’s what we mean by a “culture” of trust.

Consider how Jesus interacted with his disciples. His every word and action built trust. Everywhere he went and in every relationship he built, he established trust. People flocked to him, because they trusted him. For specifics, let’s look at Jesus’ last days as recorded in Luke 22-24...the last 24-36 hours of his life. After three years with his men, Jesus had developed a relational culture that exemplified trust. To simplify 5 key ingredients related to trust, I’ll use the acronym T.R.U.S.T. T = Truthfulness, R = Respectfulness, U = Understanding, S = Selflessness, and T = Time. Let’s look at each one.

Coaches Outreach helps coaches transform their individual cultures.

T = TRUTHFULNESS spoken toward those around you. In Luke 22:53, in Gethsemane, Jesus spoke honestly with his disciples, inviting them to pray with him. Later, Jesus spoke honestly to Judas, the Chief Priest, and his arresting officers. Are you truthful with friends and foes alike? My first college-level head coach used a phrase I never forgot, “Everything up front. No surprises!” Is this how you operate in all of your relationships?

R = RESPECTFULNESS toward all people. It means caring for and affirming another’s God-given dignity. It won’t humiliate, nor will it allow others to do so.

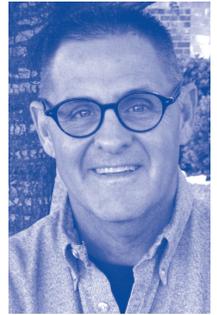
Jesus showed this to Peter after his disowning episodes. Jesus could easily have said, “Because you rejected me, not only once – but three times, I reject you.” Instead, Jesus graciously showed Peter respect even when it was not deserved. Are you respectful in your relationships? Even when facing another’s disloyalty?

U = UNDERSTANDING the authenticity in others. This thoughtfully sees where others are, not where they should be. In the upper room, Peter sincerely told Jesus that he would follow his Master even unto death. Jesus understood Peter to his core. The Lord knew this wouldn’t be the case that night, but *would* be true of Peter in the end. Jesus sees *us* for who we *are*; he sees our heart! Do you see others for who they are?

S = SELFLESSNESS through humbly serving one another. It asks, “Do I put the interests of others first?” “Do I nurture a safe environment?” “Do others feel like they belong?” The disciples argued over who was the greatest (Luke 22:21-27). In the upper room, Jesus responded by teaching them that true greatness *serves*. Jesus then washed their feet and, eventually, died on the cross!

T = TIME spent with those around us. Giving others our most valuable commodity, especially when it is least convenient, shows we care! Jesus habitually gave the disciples his precious time and undivided attention, sharing a meal (Luke 22:14-23) and appearing to them after his resurrection (Luke 24:36-43). Do you give your time to those closest to you?

Coaches Outreach helps coaches transform their individual cultures through Christ-centered, **trusting** relationships, grounded in biblical truth.



by Mike Breeden
Director of Central Outreach

Interview with a Field Rep: Jack French



Tell us about yourself. What's your coaching background?

40 years coaching, now retired.

(Editor's note: Jack's career was a little more exciting than that. His 40 years of coaching included 4 state football championships, 11 Division titles, and 21 "Coach of the Year" recognitions. Jack will tell you he coached at the smallest high school in Mississippi and the largest high school in Alabama. For his efforts, Jack was inducted into the Mississippi Coaches Hall of Fame in 2007.

How did you first hear about Coaches Outreach?

Robert Freeman, our local Field Rep, and Robert Irion came to see me about starting a study at my last school, Baker HS in Mobile, AL. My wife, Karen, and I decided to attend the Summer Marriage Retreat in Opelika, AL that summer which was my final year of coaching.

How has Coaches Outreach impacted you? It has given me a chance to keep in touch with coaches and a chance to serve the Lord, the two things I wanted to do.

Describe how you felt led to become a Field Rep for Coaches Outreach? Humbled, excited and challenged. I had been specifically praying and seeking God's will for the next stage of my life. I truly felt God called me to help Coaches Outreach.

What are some ways you've spread the word about Coaches Outreach in your area?

Making visits and phone calls, text and email and have attended places where I knew I could visit with multiple coaches like clinics and 7 on 7 events.

Describe what God's been up to in your area since you started this ministry. What are some ways you see Him at work.....

....in lives of coaches? The ones who have acted on their first impression and got involved in CO are always glad they did.

....in lives of study leaders? It has been an answer to many of their prayers, that God would give them a ministry.

....in kids/community in general? A little early for me to tell, but I know that the more seeds that are planted, the more crop will come up.

Overall, have you enjoyed being a Field Rep? Would you recommend it to other retired coaches? (If so, why?) I certainly would, I can not think of a better way to use that knowledge of coaching and coaches.

Any last words? CO was the answer to my prayers. I am grateful to the men who were willing to be used by God to bring it to me, and I know others who feel the same way.

For the Refrigerator

We are often asked how someone can pray for the ministry. Here are some major requests for the next 6 months.

April

Bible studies

- For understanding & application of the study:
A Whole New Team: Acts 10-28
- For Education Director, Mark Chalemin, to be guided by the Holy Spirit as he works with Bob Chisholm to complete the new fall study

May

Bible studies – Lay Leaders and coaches

For endurance to finish the study strong

- Funds
Pray the funds will arrive to pay for the Summer Marriage Retreats
- Displaced coaches and coaching families
For peace and guidance during uncertain times

June

Marriage Retreats

For the Holy Spirit to lead and minister in all aspects of the weekend

- June 2-4 – Marriott Grand National – Opelika, AL
- June 9-11 – T-Bar-M Resort – New Braunfels, TX
- June 23-25 – Hilton Garden Inn – Granbury, TX
- June 30-July 2 – The Chancellor Hotel – Fayetteville, AR

July

Marriage Retreats

For the Holy Spirit to lead and minister in all aspects of the weekend

- June 30-July 2 – The Chancellor Hotel – Fayetteville, AR
- July 7-9 – DeGray Lake, Bismarck, AR
- State Coaching Clinics

For the Lord to lead the right coaches to the C.O. booth

- Starting new Bible studies

For guidance and discernment as the Field Reps and staff search for the right Lay Leaders for each potential new study

August

- Bible studies

For encouragement and enthusiasm for coaches and Lay Leaders for the Fall study

- Coaching couples

For protection and peace for their families as the new semester begins

- Lay Leader search

For the patience to wait on God's timing in starting new studies

September

- Coaches and coaching couples

For strength and boldness as they impact thousands of youth in the name of Jesus Christ!

- Wisdom for coaches who are starting the year in new schools

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Honorariums & Memorials, Spring 2017

HONORARIUM:

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Huffines-Plano study
Bill and Karyn Ward
Jeff and Mandy Dixon
Loretta and Jim Goldsmith
David and Ashley Hall
Dan and Janet Chenoweth
Tommy Maxwell & Staff
Vernon and Candy Marlar
Anne Ryon
Randy and Carolyn Allen
Gerald Horn
Kathy Bointy
Sheila Carmane
Kimberly Clark
Patti Ramage

MEMORIAL:

Tanya Baugus
Brad and Cheryl Mayne
Jason and Jennifer Davis
RV Baugus
Chris and Jean Dyer

In Memory of...
Mike Janszen
Larry Lee
Sandra Graves
Gary and Debbie Cosper
Wallace Cook
Todd and Karla Swearengin
Dave Smith and Mike Janszen
Judy Smith

