

# POINT AFTER

Fall 2023

## Mentoring Hearts, Changing Lives

*"Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 1:13*

Coaches Outreach is looking to the **future**. That is why coaches across the country are studying 2 Timothy; a biblical blueprint for mentoring. Tony Dungy defines "mentoring" as a process of building character into the lives of others, modeling and teaching attitudes and behaviors, and creating a constructive legacy to be passed on to **future** generations." There is no better way to secure a certain future than to invest one's faith and life in the next generation.

According to Paul, this is the lifeline of Christianity. It is equally true of coaching.

The longer I live, the better I understand that finishing well is not a given. Paul makes it clear

the path is hard. Very hard. He states plainly it requires the kind of commitment easily seen in soldiers, athletes and farmers. The qualities that characterize the endurance of these folks are best handed down directly – **person to person**. 2 Timothy 2:2 spells the process out succinctly: *"and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."*

There is no stronger example, no louder voice, than the person in your life who has "been there and done that." Timothy, by all accounts, made it to the end and helped others make it to the end because his mentor (Paul) made it to the end. In 2 Timothy 4:7 Paul writes, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*



As I have said many times in the last year, the coaching crisis is real. The fall study points out that "20% of 1st through 5th year coaches – across various sports – are leaving the profession." The finish line for many coaches is getting harder and harder to reach. The need for mentors has never been greater.

Please join us in praying for these men and women. And thank you for your faithful support.

Sincerely,  
Pete



*By: Coach Don Keathley to  
Coach Ron Stillwell (pictured left)*



I wasn't a Christian when I played for Coach Stillwell at Moorpark College. I remember him as calm, fair, honest, and consistent. Coach knew I was partying too much, not doing well in school, and not performing up to my potential, so, we had a "come to Jesus" meeting before I knew who Jesus was. He didn't chew me out. He found a family for me to live with and set up a meeting with a school counselor that forever changed my life.

I've told every class I've taught and every team I've coached what he did for me and what I learned from the counselor that helped me eventually make the honor roll and go on to earn three degrees. God bless you, Coach Stillwell!

### A TRIBUTE

SAVE THE DATE

# COACHES OUTREACH BANQUET

A NIGHT AT THE STAR

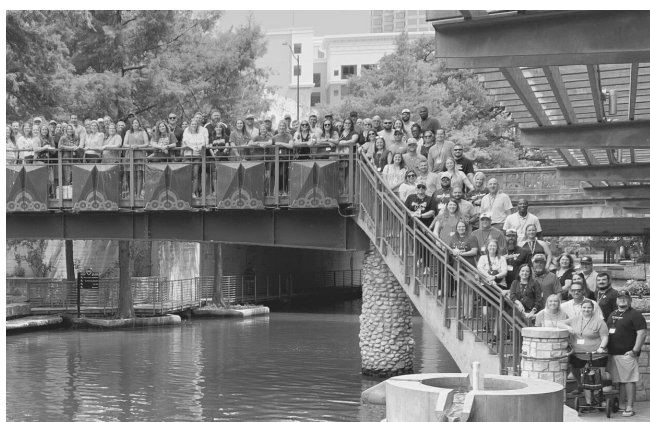
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH



*"Personally, I feel so validated and empowered in my role as a coach's wife in our ministry."*

*"I look forward to paying you back by being a better version of the man, husband, father, and coach God called me to be!"*

*"The last 6 months have been hard, so hard, I questioned if this weekend would be worth it. And let me say by the grace of God we did come. And, it brings tears to my eyes because so many conversations happened and strongholds have been broken."*



## Quotes from *Retreats*



*"I know it is sometimes hard to justify giving to an organization without knowing how the Lord is going to use the contribution, but I can assure you of this; you have helped keep our marriage thriving and supported us in a way that allowed us to focus on each other without distraction."*

# MEET Anthony Criss

*MCIC Director*



Anthony Criss has been involved in Education since 1986, starting his coaching career by working under his dad at Forth Worth, O.D. Wyatt

High School. After 12 seasons as an assistant, he took over as Head Football Coach.

On January 1st, 2000, Coach Criss became the first African-American Head Football Coach/Athletic Coordinator in the history of the Arlington Independent School District, at James Bowie High School. In 2022, Coach Criss was named the "Grant Teaff Coaching Beyond the Game" winner for the Texas High School Coaches Association, and "The Transformational Coach of The Year" for Arlington ISD.

Coach Criss first heard about Coaches Outreach in 2011, when Field Rep Mike Burke walked into his office. Over a decade later, when presented with the opportunity to join our staff, Criss jumped at it. He states, **"The ability to equip and impact coaches was a big attraction for me, as well as the opportunity to work alongside those who share that**

**mindset. This team understands that coaches, through Bible studies and a relationship with Jesus Christ, can then turn around and impact the kids they coach and their community."**

Regarding his role as the new Multi-Cultural Inner City (MCIC) Director for Coaches Outreach, Criss notes, **"I envision the Lord is calling me to help expand the ministry as a former coach and a believer, by impacting others. God's light can shine through me, to other coaches, to the kids, and throughout the state and the country."**

Anthony has been married to the beautiful Patra Criss, for 36 years. They have four beautiful children and 2 grandchildren. Criss has remained in ministry for 35 years as an ordained Baptist Preacher.

Please join Coaches Outreach as we welcome Anthony Criss to the team!

## SIX SUMMER MARRIAGE RETREATS IN 2024

After much thought and discussion, we have added a 6th retreat to the 2024 calendar. Adding a retreat comes with a very small window of opportunity to effectively serve our community. Due to the logistics of a coach's schedule, **we have added a mid-week retreat at our San Antonio location**, before summer workouts begin. We are excited and prayerful that our mid-week date proves successful.

**Please consider helping fund this additional retreat.**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
JUNE		5 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	6 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	7 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	8 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	9 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
JULY					14 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO	15 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
					21 GRANBURY, TEXAS	22 GRANBURY, TEXAS
					28 FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE	29 FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE
						30 FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE
					12 DEGRAY LAKE, ARKANSAS	13 DEGRAY LAKE, ARKANSAS
						14 DEGRAY LAKE, ARKANSAS

## ***FALL 2023 GIFT MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS***

### ***In memory of...***

- **Tanya Baugus** from RV Baugus
- **Brian Brazil** from Dennis Beavers, Stephen Burge, Karen Cummings, Brittany Dinger, Sam & Kathy Harrell, John Koch, David Loerwald, Bill McKown, Dwayne & Kay McMeans, Susan Mitchem, Diana Price, Robbie Robinson, Doug Sheffield, Pam Sisson, Kelsey Sparks, Jeri-Lynn Swenson, James Tune, Mary Witt
- **Dave Smith** from Judy Smith
- **Judy Ellis** from Vernon & Candy Marlar
- **Mike Jansen** from Todd & Karla Swearengin
- **Bennie McBride** from Shane McBride

### ***In honor of...***

- **Tommy & Janice Maxwell** from Jim & Mary Hughey
- **Buddy Thames** from Jeanne Thames
- **Huellen Watson** from Huel Sills
- **Scott Henderson** from Joe Henderson
- **John Dudley** from Stephen Cord
- **Al Barnes** from Seth & Tiffany Carroll

### **FROM OUR FOUNDER**

Scan the QR code and we  
will send you a FREE copy of  
Tommy's new book.

