

POINT AFTER

BILLY GRAHAM ONCE SAID,
"A coach will influence more people in one year than the average person will in an entire lifetime."

At CO, we know that to be true. One coach will impact thousands of students/athletes over the course of his/her career. CO exists to keep coaches strengthened and supported each year of that long journey. These days, the finish line for many coaches is getting harder and harder to reach. This has created a crisis of sorts in the coaching profession. Although I have alluded to it before, it bears repeating: Last year, in Texas alone, 7000 coaches, athletic directors, and trainers left the profession. That is staggering.

This is concerning, to say the least. It's something we hope does not become a trend or have some kind of domino effect – keeping younger coaches out of the profession or seeing more seasoned coaches change careers. We want to

help prevent that from happening. We want to be a counter-force that pushes back against that movement. How do we reverse that?

We ENVISION coaches.

We remind them that they are ministers of God; powerful voices and models for him.

We EQUIP coaches.

We resource them with God's Word; powerful studies designed specifically with them in mind.

Close to 7000 coaches are studying God's Word in 24 states. These studies not only strengthen the heart of each person, but they also create a unifying commitment among the staff. It becomes the perfect setting for more experienced coaches to invest in younger ones. We want to continue to challenge and resource this mentoring process. The future of coaching depends on it.



GUS MALZAHN

Head Coach at the University of Central Florida

Coach Malzahn was the speaker at our banquet this year. His wife, Kristi, shared that they attended a CO Marriage Retreat just as they were beginning their career. Not only did it save their young marriage, she said, *"it was the first time we used the word, 'ministry,' to describe what we are doing as a coaching couple."*

continued inside



Through all the ups and downs of coaching, as well as the changes and challenges that have come over the last few years; that single calling has kept them focused and committed to finishing strong.

At the end of our banquet, we handed every person a single domino. We asked everyone to join us in our efforts to change this recent coaching trend. Reverse Domino Effect is a real thing. Small, but deliberate actions can counteract the negative movement and

create a positive force. We asked each person to write something on the back of the domino. A word, a phrase, or perhaps some call to action, a prayer, or a commitment that, strategically placed, would be a visual reminder of how important they are to this ministry. The response was very encouraging!

I want to challenge you as well.

This time of year we are planning our summer Marriage Retreats.

We will have 5 of them and there are only a few spots left. We already have a long waiting list. It's great news! But the cost for us to host each couple is up by 25%. Please consider helping us fund this powerful and critical part of our long-term investment in coaches and their spouses.

Thank you for partnering with us,
Pete



summer marriage retreats

Santa Fe,
New Mexico
June 2-4



scan to donate

San Antonio,
Texas
June 9-11

Franklin,
Tennessee
June 16-18

Granbury,
Texas
June 23-25

DeGray Lake,
Arkansas
July 7-9



Photography by: Griff Servati

God Bless Mentors!

From Mark Chalemin

As Pete mentioned, our entire nation faces a coaching crisis. For that reason, Coaches Outreach will focus on the mentoring relationship throughout the next school year's playbooks (Fall '23 and Spring '24). Our studies in 2 Timothy and Esther will encourage coaches to mentor and allow others to mentor them. To provide specific, personal encouragement, we're inviting coaches to tell us about those special coaches who shaped them into the kind of coach they are or aspire to become. We've included one such story below.

A TRIBUTE TO COACH KEVIN CHISM

Coach Chism, at Harding University, coached my offensive line from 2014-2018 and he's a big reason why I became a coach. For years, he volunteered, coaching only because he loved football and us.

Off the field, Coach and his wife, Jen, hosted 15-20 offensive linemen every Thursday during the season. Some weeks, they'd serve desserts or dips, but often a full meal...no easy task, especially for a family of 7. What an example of a husband, wife, and family! I knew when I coached, I'd do for my kids what he did for us. Now, every Thursday, my wife and I host my offensive line and serve her locally-famous buffalo chicken dip. No film or game prep, just relaxation, and fellowship. I wouldn't trade those nights for anything.

On the field, Coach Chism was unlike any other coach of mine...mild-tempered, but with extremely high expectations. Unlike many coaches, he was a teacher, not a yeller. In a calm voice, he'd tell you what you did wrong and how to fix it. He never berated anyone.

I entered my first film session, fearing a repeat of high school, where every day I'd feel discouraged. No matter what I had done, I'd get a chewin'. So, especially as a freshman walk-on, I expected the same or worse in college, worrying about what Coach and the guys thought about my mistakes.

Sitting in the back of the room, I waited as the clips rolled. Coach watched mine, then looked at me and said, "I think you know what you did wrong here" and moved on. No yelling, no cussing, no belittling. More impressive, Coach created a culture where the older players in the room, likewise, held each other accountable, but also had each other's backs. I knew I could trust Coach.

I've modeled all my coaching after Coach Chism. I'm not as mild-tempered, but I've learned to speak calmly with players and coaches, even when others don't. After two seasons, I'm seeing the results. We host 30 linemen who are closer than any before them. Off the field, I hope my players know I love them like Coach loved us. On the field, I hope they play without fear because they know their mistakes don't define them.

Thanks, Coach!
Austin Jarrett

Coach Chism (middle), and his linemen, Austin Jarrett (#59, second from the right standing up).



If you would like to give due tribute to a coach that made a difference in your life, please email your tribute (300-400 words), including what you appreciated (possibly in the form of a story), how it impacted you, and a high-resolution picture of that coach (old or current) to Mark Chalemin (mark@coachesoutreach.org). We look forward to reading your story and sharing it with thousands of others.

SPRING 2023 GIFT HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

In memory of...

- Tony Cavalier from Kathy Cavalier
- James Goldsmith from Loretta Goldsmith
- Greg Porter from George & Jean Ainsworth, Dave & Gayle Porter, and Tod Helweg
- Joyce Dippel from Garry & Shelly Dippel
- Chuck Knesel from Sherel Knesel
- Codie Allen from Boddy & Melissa Leidner
- Dave Smith from Judy Smith
- Geoff Jackson from John McGehee and Mike Simpson

In honor of...

- Andy & Tony Cavalier from Kathy Cavalier
- Billy & Paula Russell from Buddy & Jeanne
- Cecil Eager from Jim & Janie Streety
- Dennis Rivers from Michael & Lori Brister
- Ed Ruby from Stephen Norwood
- Jeff & Mandy Dixon from Loretta Goldsmith
- Roosevelt HS Coaches from Ben & Cynthia Freeman
- Coach & Mrs. Scott Smiley from Vernon & Candy Marlar
- Wayde Walker from Larry Bloomquist and Butch & Carolyn Canon

WATCH AN INTERVIEW WITH COACH & KRISTI MALZAHN

