



COACHES HONOR

Spring 2009



I recently read a devotion about Harold Lowe, an officer on the ill-fated Titanic, with 1500 people displaced in the icy Atlantic, only 20 lifeboats were deployed. Many of these boats that were later rescued were only half-filled. These fortunate survivors rowed as rapidly as possible away from the others in the water in fear of being swamped or submerged by the desperate people still in the ocean. But, Officer Lowe commanding boat #14 had a different mindset. He rowed back toward the ship making several trips to pick up as many of the drowning as he possibly could. Lowe knew what life boats are for. They are not to row away from the ugliness and tragedies of life, but to row toward the shipwrecks of others, to extend the hand of Christ for rescue. This is the very message that COACHES HONOR ministry longs to share with the teachers/coaches on the mission fields of their campuses.

Many of today's athletes are overwhelmed and confused by all the mixed messages our culture broadcasts each day, the ongoing emphasis on notoriety and fame in our society. What seems to count is to be known, praised, and admired as a success, a winner. Present-tense accomplishments are the bottom line – whether you are an actor, a musician, an athlete . . . The gospel of Christ teaches that true greatness is being filled with God's grace and humility. One's fulfillment comes without need for the limelight. A Christian coach embraces his calling and he does it with great patience, perseverance, and love. A certain head football coach comes to mind as I prepared this newsletter – Darrell Sutherland at Bartram Trail. After his 2-8 season finish, I asked him how he felt about this year's accomplishments. He said he couldn't have felt better even if he had an 8-2 season. I have included much of that conversation:



“As a coach, people often start a conversation with me by asking how the team is doing and far too often I respond with an answer that centers around our win/loss record, our chances in the playoffs, or last week's score. When I reflect back on this past fall and how many times I mumbled those excuse-laden responses, I'm genuinely saddened by the impression I must have left on the listener. In a program where our mission statement focuses on developing our players as men of character, men built for others, men who will experience the “good success” of multiplying their God-given talents for His glory... I was missing the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful things God was doing for and through our team.



God is good. We had a group of our team leaders travel to Barrow, Alaska to help the young men there develop as student-athletes and young men. It was awesome to watch our guys living out their faith, giving of themselves, and using football as a means to bridge culture gaps and teach valuable life lessons. We attended the FCA team camp this summer and some of our players accepted Jesus as their Savior. Through our weekly character development lessons we discussed integrity, discipline, treating women with respect, loving and serving others . . . and I saw

our guys grow in these areas. This season presented us numerous “teachable moments” in the areas of persevering in the face of resistance, never quitting, honoring commitment . . . and I am so proud of our young men for walking the walk.” – *Darrell Sutherland*

Obviously, Darrell knows what his lifeboat is to be used for. May God continue to be with him on this mission field. Go Bears!

Blessings, Wink

“A friend of mine told me the other day that I should stop working for God. The worker has a job as long as there's money and work. And when the day is over, you go back to your shack. “You're not a worker for God... You're a son. When you're a son, you're an heir. You are never homeless and they never fire you. You don't work for God ... You're his child. He loves you, not for your work, but because you're his son. Try and remember that.” I try to but sometimes I forget. When I forget, I get depressed and worried. When I remember, I run home where it's safe and warm, where there's plenty of food. You think about that.”

– Steve Brown
Key Life Ministries



2009 COACHES HONOR Events

Men's Retreat

May 1-3

Dead Lake Fishing Lodge - Wewahitchka, FL

\$130 per person

Speaker: Pete Gall, author

Pete specializes in stories of desire and pain met by a God who delights in us and is more than willing to do the dirty work of love and restoration in a fallen world.

www.petegall.com



Women's Wild & Wonderful Weekend

May 1-3

Atlantic Beach, FL

\$110 per person

*A time to have
your heart refreshed
by the amazing love of
Jesus!*



Marriage Retreat

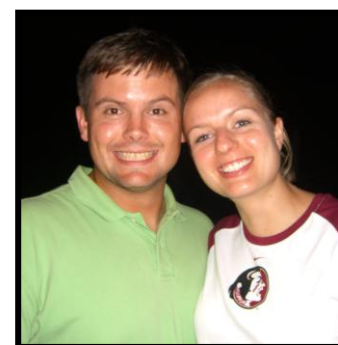
June 5-7

Vilano Beach, FL

\$325 per couple

Speakers: Scott & Linda
Roley

*If you would like to help
sponsor a coach and his/her
spouse, it would be greatly
appreciated.*



Annual Golf Tournament

June 29

Marsh Landing Country Club

Contact: Jason Sweet

(904)860-4062 or jasonsweet10@gmail.com

Come tee it up for the coaches!

**Please fill out the enclosed registration form for the retreats and mail to COACHESHONOR as soon as possible. Golf Tournament forms will be sent at a later date.*