



TEAM FOCUS

Jan/Feb/Mar 2018

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11.

"When I was 11 years old, my father died. I know that there are a lot of young men today with the same needs I had because my father was not available to me. Team Focus seeks to come alongside young men to help them to achieve their ultimate goal; to walk in the destiny God has planned for them." --Mike Gottfried

What Has God Charged You To Do?



Mike Gottfried

Another year begins and I'm a year older. When I was a kid, it seemed the days were long especially in school. I remember when I was young I enjoyed playing outside and didn't want the day to end. One gets older and the days go by quickly.

January has flown by and we are in February already. I love Valentine's Day but it comes and goes so quickly!

I will be traveling this month. Rocky and I will travel to Tulsa, Oklahoma to visit two men who we love and have affected our lives. The first is John Erickson. John was a successful college basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin, a legend in coaching!

After coaching, John ran for the United States Senate and became the hero of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Through coaching and the FCA John has touched so many for Jesus and the plan of God in their lives.

I'm thankful for God putting John in my life for his mentoring and for the tens of thousands he mentored and touched.

God will send people into our lives to touch us and our task is to recognize those God sends. I'm so thankful for John and all he imparted to me. There is a lesson for us....to enjoy each day, appreciate and love where God puts us and love the people He puts in our path.

The second man we will visit is Rondale Boyd. We first met Rondale when he was 12 years old as he joined Team Focus. Rocky mentored him and quickly all of us noticed his leadership traits God had given him. The future for Rondale was so bright. We all have made decisions that we wish we could have back. Rondale, one day got in a car influenced by others, unknowingly they stopped and committed a robbery. Rondale has been in prison because of a bad choice he made getting into that car on that evening.



Pictured is Rondale Boyd with Rocky Alt at the 2006 TF Rally.

Is God through with Rondale? No! God still has a plan for Rondale (Jeremiah 29:11). God is still going to use him as Rondale continues to submit his life to Him.

I saw a TV report last night in Mobile, Alabama that a man was running from the police and he ran into the woods, fell in the water and drowned. The biggest question I had was, "where will he spend eternity?" Will he be in Heaven with the Father? John 3: 16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." My passion is for your eternal future to be secure. "Jesus is the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Follow HIM.

Mike Gottfried

You are Sowing into Fertile Ground

As a supporter of Team Focus, you are sowing into fertile ground. Below are some of the fruit from 2017 made possible through your donations, prayers and support throughout the year, along with seeds that are being planted for 2018. Through your continued support, these will grow into next year's fruit.

2017 FRUIT

- Team Focus graduates still involved with Team Focus are flourishing in many different ways such as joining the military, starting college, graduating from college, opening businesses, public service jobs, getting engaged, married and starting families
- Impactful summer leadership camps, mini camps, outings and gatherings throughout the year in 6 chapters across the country
- Transferred several students to new schools in which they are thriving
- Successful banquets in Mobile, AL and Columbus, OH
- Gave scholarships to graduating seniors
- Over 400 active young men reached

2018 SEEDS

- Inaugural Team Focus Israel Summit for a group of Team Focus members
- Banquets in Mobile, AL with Nick Saban and Columbus, OH with Urban Meyer
- Adding a videographer/historian on staff to document all Team Focus events
- Camps, mini camps, outings and gatherings in each chapter
- New programs and events to raise awareness of Team Focus
- Quarterly alumni newsletter created by Ryan Garofalo
- Leadership Council of members in each chapter
- Increase recruitment of active members
- New chapters opening



Raising Up Champions for Tomorrow



Appalachian State U. took home the victory over the U. of Toledo during the Dollar General Annual Bowl Game December 23, 2017 at the Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, AL.



The Dollar General Bowl's Art Contest and Scholarship Banquet was held as part of the Bowl's activities where three Team Focus members were presented scholarships. Pictured (left to right) is Joe Gottfried who presented the Johnny Gottfried Scholarship, Demetrius Reynolds (Johnny Gottfried Scholarship recipient), Romerius Caples (Gus Shopoff Scholarship recipient), Jakarl Moore (Johnny Gottfried Scholarship recipient) and Murray Cape who presented the Gus Shopoff Scholarship. Pictured in the 2nd picture with the scholarship recipients is Team Focus Mobile Director Mike Doriot. **CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

2017 CHAMPION OF LIFE HONOREES

Dollar General Bowl Mayor's Luncheon December 22, 2017



Since its inception in 1999, the Dollar General Bowl has given numerous Champion of Life awards. Honorees have achieved great success in their chosen field through dedication and hard work. They have overcome the many obstacles that have stood in the path of success and have given a great deal back to the community and country.

This year, among the honored guests were our special guest Pastor David Forbes (Columbus, Ohio) and our very own Team Focus Ohio Chapter Director Rocky Alt. Coach Bobby Bowden, a supporter of Team Focus, was also honored at the Mayor's Luncheon. Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2017 Champion of Life Honorees!

Pictured are the 2017 Champion of Life Honorees: Business person Monique Rogers; Member of the Appalachian State Community Julia Adams; American Attorney and College Sports Executive Michael Slive; Football and Baseball Player (Mobile County Training School and Alabama A&M University) Cleon Jones; Coach of the Florida State U. (FSU) team for over three decades (1976-2009) Bobby Bowden; Columbus, Ohio Pastor and Bishop Dr. David Forbes, Jr.; College Football Coach and Team Focus Director Paul (Rocky) Alt. Not pictured is: NFL Football Player Robert Brazile; University of Toledo Athletic Department (team doctor) for over the past three-plus decades Dr. Roger Kruse. **CONGRATULATIONS CHAMPION OF LIFE HONOREES!**



Team Focus was fortunate to be one of the five charities Dollar General chose to honor in November with a check presentation. Team Focus Co-Founder Mickey Gottfried (pictured far right) accepted the gift on behalf of Team Focus. **THANK YOU DOLLAR GENERAL!**

2017 Dollar General Bowl Activities

Team Focus Mobile Alum - Josh Washington

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A PRODUCT OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT!!!



Despite popular belief, no matter where you come from, or what you've been through, it doesn't automatically determine the path in which your life will continue.

Although the experiences and people that we associate with daily may influence our behavior, they don't necessarily make you who you are or what you may become. Individual decisions made daily determine that outcome. Take myself for

example. I was born in 1993, my dad died in 1994, leaving my mom to raise two boys (ages 1 and 3) alone. Rough start right? Look up the statistics of children raised without fathers/father figures in the home and let me know what you think.

I also grew up in the down the bay (DTB) area of Mobile, AL living in South Bay apartments and spent a good amount of my childhood hanging around Queen's Court Projects and various other areas of Prichard, AL. Do a quick Google search of the demographics of these areas and continue reading. The story doesn't end here though, this is just the beginning. Fast forward to age 9, the age I became a Team Focus member in 2002. A true blessing in disguise. I didn't see it coming then but Team Focus would continue to have a huge impact on my life even up until now at age 24.

Don't get me wrong my home life wasn't completely in shambles but Team Focus allowed me to live my life on an even

better level. I began attending summer camps, making new friends, and learning lessons that will stick with me until my final days.

Team Focus got me into a private school, assisted me with obtaining my full ride scholarship to the University of South Alabama, and even played a major role in my decision to become a career firefighter.

I also recently started my own personal training business (Rabid Skull Personal Training) of which Team Focus is a big supporter. All of this said not for a pity party or praise, but to clarify that no matter what you go through, things will always get better as long as you keep pushing forward to overcome your adversities. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A PRODUCT OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT!!!**

Josh Washington

Team Focus Mobile had an awesome time celebrating the Christmas holiday with all of our Team Focus members, alumni, family and friends! We had a special guest speaker from the great State of Ohio come and spend the evening with us. Pastor David Forbes, along with his wife Dr. Tracy Forbes, spoke to the Team Focus members and their moms/guardians. Pastor Forbes spoke about the spiritual order of our every day lives and how we should manage ourselves accordingly. **THANK YOU DRS. DAVID AND TRACY FORBES!**



Pictured (L to R) is Alum Ryan Garofalo with Fiancé Brianna Chandeysson, Alum Austin Garofalo, Madalene Garofalo (mother), Cameron Garofalo (current member of TF Mobile) and Megan Garofalo (sister). Alum Dylan Garofalo was not in attendance.



Pictured is Team Focus Alum Philip Talbot and his mother Nancy Talbot. Philip has been a part of Team Focus since 2004. Thanks for helping us celebrate the 2017 Christmas holiday.



Mentoring is Making a Difference

Team Focus Mobile Alum - Mario Butler



Golden Nuggets for a Lifetime

The seeds sewn into my life through Team Focus continue to produce a bountiful harvest. It was through Team Focus leadership camps that I learned the importance of note taking. At the age of 8 I learned the value of absorbing golden nuggets (Coach Mike's reference for pieces of knowledge, wisdom, and revelation) and recording them. Golden nuggets are timeless, and so when we get into the habit of recording them, we create a pathway to have golden nuggets

for a lifetime, that we can continually gain deeper revelation from. The notetaking skills developed through Team Focus are benefiting me greatly as I pursue my Masters in Public Administration.

Not only are the notetaking skills benefiting me, but they have also put me in a position to help my classmates. On a few different occasions I've had classmates observe my detailed notetaking and ask to borrow my notes when they miss a class. Through this experience I learned a principle: no matter where you are in life - there are opportunities to lead, and become an invaluable asset to those around you. The notetaking skills developed through Team Focus have helped me gain influence and become a leader in the classroom.

To anyone who is struggling in the classroom I would challenge you to take better notes. As a result of taking better notes I believe that you will find yourself: 1) more engaged in class 2) better prepared for tests, quizzes, and

writing assignments 3) achieving a higher GPA (grade point average). As you move forward in 2018 remember: (1) seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness all these things (needs and the desires of your heart God has placed within you) shall be added unto you [Matthew 6:33] (2) in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths [Proverbs 3:6].

Without Jesus we have nothing

Mario Butler



Pictured is Mario speaking at a Team Focus fundraising banquet in Mobile, Alabama.

L'Arche Mobile and Community and Team Focus

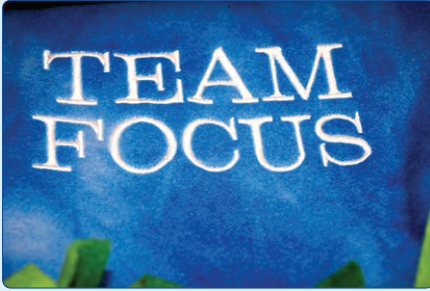


L'Arche Mobile brought together the community this year for the Martin Luther King holiday. Local businesses, churches, schools and organizations came together as a community to clean up the city and walk for a great cause. Team Focus joined alongside them hand-in-hand and got the job done! It's not always about what we can do for ourselves, but what we can do for others!

Pictured holding the banner is Team Focus Receptionist Deloris Washington and Team Focus Executive Assistant Sarah Thornton.

Visit us on our Team Focus website: www.teamfocususa.org

Ohio Winter Activities



Team Focus Ohio enjoyed a great event at its annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 16. The group of 58 Team Focus members, 23 volunteers and guests enjoyed two great speakers: David Specht (president of Waterworks Company) and Dr. David Forbes (pastor of Columbus Christian Center). Afterwards, we enjoyed a catered lunch followed by bowling and an appearance by Santa Claus bearing gifts for all. This year's graduating seniors were honored with a special Team Focus blanket (pictured). We were also graced by eight Team Focus alumni members attending. It was a great gathering!

--Rocky Alt, Director

Dr. David Forbes, Pastor of Columbus Christian Center spoke at the Ohio Christmas Party and also at the Mobile, AL Christmas Party (as pictured).

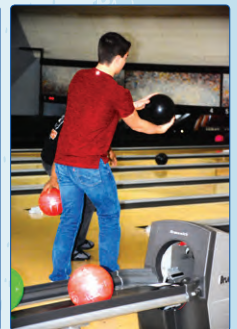


Pictured with the TF young men is David Specht of Waterworks.



Pictured is Chris Sieve speaking to the young men.

**Thank You Team Focus Ohio Speakers,
Sponsors and Volunteers.**
We couldn't do all that we do without you!



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Team Focus Ohio Chapter



We Honor God Through our Godly Character!



Sue and I were blessed to attend two Team Focus Ohio members' basketball games. First was the Marion Ridgedale High School Basketball game on Friday, January 26 to watch Ashton Bigler. Although Ridgedale lost, Ashton played a very good game with scoring 16 points. Team Focus is proud of Ashton.....he hustled and played hard on defense also. Great effort Ashton!

The second game we attended was the Galion High School Basketball game on Saturday, February 3 to watch James Burkholder. We were also proud of James' great efforts.

Great job to both of you!



--Rocky Alt, Ohio Chapter Director

LETTER FROM A TEAM FOCUS MOM

Rocky,

I just want to tell you again that you are the most caring and supportive man I know. You have always been there when I would call because my son Dominic would be acting up. You always had sometime to talk to him and still to this day, I am so thankful for your program and for the wonderful things you do for the young men of Team Focus that you have touched with your caring heart. I pray you continue to do what you do for a long time!

You are one great man that was always there for my son to talk him through the bad times and even the good! Thank you once again Rocky and Team Focus!

Sincerely,

Angela Gray
Team Focus Ohio Mom



Pictured is Team Focus Ohio's own speaker/volunteer...Pastor and Bishop Dr. David Forbes, Jr. with Coach of the Florida State U. (FSU) team for over three decades (1976-2009) Bobby Bowden. Both of these men were celebrated as 2017 Champion of Life Honorees at the Mayor's Luncheon on December 22, 2017 which is part of the Dollar General Bowl activities in Mobile, Alabama. Congratulations!



At the Ohio Christmas party Team Focus Ohio was presented a check for \$4,300 from the Ashland Community Golf Classic.

Pictured (L to R) is Kip Matteson, Tournament Director; Rocky Alt, TF Ohio Director; Zane Gross, Tournament Sponsor; and Jim Cutright, Ashland County Community Foundation Director.

Talking Points with Pastor Rey Dempsey

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!



Team Focus members, do you have loved ones or friends who seem beyond the reach of help? ***Pray for the impossible!***

Do you have a temptation that's been there for months or years that you've been unable to overcome? Have you a physical condition beyond the reach of human skill? ***Pray for the impossible!***

Do you have trials and difficulties in your path, too hard for you and too difficult for any human power to remove? ***Pray for the impossible!***

Nothing is too hard for God, so ***Pray for the impossible!*** (Mathew 19:26)

According to the Bible, there is no promise that is too hard for the Lord to fulfill. (Jeremiah 32:17) There is no prayer too hard for the Lord to answer. (Genesis 18:14) There is no problem too hard for the Lord to solve. (Mathew 11:28-30) (Luke 4:18)

Please know that there is nothing too hard for the Lord!

Love you all,
Rey Dempsey

Team Focus Kentucky Chapter



We had our Christmas party at Champs Entertainment Center in Lexington on December 30. Kentucky Team Focus members from Morehead and surrounding areas, along with two from Lexington joined the Georgetown Team Focus members for a fun-filled day. We had a great time eating, roller skating, playing a few laser games and Putt Putt Golf.



TF Kentucky member Glen Covington is a junior in high school and is the starting defense back, starting WR and returns kickoffs and punts. He has been a starter for three years. Pictured is Glen with the 6A Regional Championship trophy. Glen also played varsity basketball and baseball as a freshman and 10th grader. He is a starter this year on the basketball team. GREAT JOB GLEN!



I recently had a gathering with some of the Rowan County middle school Team Focus young men. I look forward to gathering all of the Kentucky Team Focus young men for some outings in February.

Bill Baldridge, Director

Thank You Coach Calipari for Supporting the Kentucky Chapter!



Raising Up Champions!

Team Focus Las Vegas Christmas Gathering



The Team Focus Las Vegas Christmas gathering was very intimate. Chef David and Richard cooked us a nice meal and then I shared the responsibilities of a father. I shared the sacrifices I am making helping my son reach his dreams and how they may need to sacrifice for their kids in the future. We had a question and answer time and shared the Father's love for all of us.

--**Nerses Kopalyan**, Director

Team Focus Austin, Texas Chapter



Team Focus Texas Chapter recently participated in Missions Sunday. All our outreach ministries set up tables in the Atrium. A representative from each mission told the vision and calling of each outreach. This year I explained what Team Focus is and does in the Austin area. Last year I asked Rodney Hill (Team Focus Texas Alum) to do this for me.

I had nine men potentially volunteer to help. I was able to send a letter out to the congregation asking for designated offerings. Life Austin has given donations to Team Focus for the past three years.

As an Elder of Life Austin Church, I deeply appreciate the dedication to support Team Focus (prayer, time, treasure and volunteers) from Life Austin Church.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR TEAM FOCUS.

A.L. "Buzz" Carruth
Director



Team Focus Austin, Texas has five seniors this year.....the most ever in one year: Cameron Wilkins, Scale Igiehon, Brandon Kendrick-Ferguson, Alexis Lobaina and Dylon Desai. These are great young men. Four of them are exceptional football athletes at Del Valle High School, Austin. I am honored to serve Del Valle athletics as FCA Character Coach and have been honored to be on the sideline with these guys. I have been able to fuss at them, cheer for them and pray with them and their mothers when they got hurt.

Pictured is Buzz Carruth, Director; #44 Brandon Kendrick-Ferguson; #25 Cameron Wilkins and #88 Alexis Lobaina.

Team Focus Las Vegas and Austin, Texas Chapters

Manners Highlights for Leaders



Greetings to all of you handsome, mannerly young men of Team Focus! My husband and I witnessed a scary case of road rage the other day. We were walking in a parking lot just ready to cross the street when we heard a loud horn honking repeatedly. We stopped in our tracks as one car stopped right in front of us at the curb while the car that had been honking raced up beside it and proceeded to scream obscenities at the humiliated driver who had probably been distracted and done something she shouldn't have. Then the angry person,

still screaming obscenities, sped away. We just stood for a moment in disbelief but I was ready to call 911.

The highway sign clearly shows that the left lane is ending and you need to merge so you put on your blinker and merge right as soon as you are able but many cars race up the left lane to get to the front of the line and then crowd in.

Many of you will be or are already driving and will experience many of these same things....racing, rude, and distracted drivers. What should our response be? I hate to admit that my first response is usually anger and disbelief that people can be so self-absorbed and totally disregard the safety of others! But it's what we do in these situations that define who we are.

We need to resist anger and extend grace. We need to remember that Jesus lives in us if we have accepted Him and by His Holy Spirit, He will prompt us to do what is right. James 1:19 & 20 says, "My

dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."

I'm so thankful that God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love! Exodus 34:6

Remember what I always say, "Manners are not what you do, but manners are who you are!"

Love to all of you,
Mrs. Jody aka Miss Manners



Pictured (L to R) is Jody with volunteers Mary Ann Legan and Becky Schreck.



Thanks to Threaded Fasteners for the generous donation to Team Focus from their golf tournament in October. They are part of the "Team" and we appreciate all of them!



Team Focus Mentors are Raising Up Champions

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATES:

Thursday, April 19, 2018

**Team Focus Ohio 6th Annual Fundraising Banquet
with Keynote Speaker Coach Urban Meyer
and Honoree Coach Fred Martinelli
at Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center
1630 Schrock Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229
For more information email: sue@teamfocususa.org**

TEAM FOCUS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TRIP TO ISRAEL

**Only
94
Days**

From March 1, 2018 there are only 94 days until the Team Focus Leadership Summit travel to Israel.

Twelve Team Focus young men have been selected to join members of the Leadership Team on a fact-finding mission in the Holy Land. This 10-day tour to Israel from June 12-22, 2018 will be structured a teaching tour to educate the young men on Israel and its history through first-hand exposure and interaction with Israelis.

June 2018

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Please prayerfully consider supporting this great cause. If it is on your heart to give to this mission, know that you will be sowing into good soil. Team Focus will appreciate any amount and all funds received will go directly to financing this Leadership Summit. We especially appreciate your prayer support! For further information, please contact Mike at 251-635-1515 or email Sarah: saraht1428@gmail.com



Mike Gottfried and Team Focus Alum/Historian-Videographer/ Assistant to Founder Aaron Graham, attended the basketball game at Rupp Arena where Patrick Adams, former Mobile Chapter Director was the surprise referee at the game as the Wildcats beat MS State 78-65. Patrick did a great job that night under the pressure of Rupp Arena. Way to stay focused Pat!



John Calipari
Kentucky Wildcats Head Basketball Coach

Kentucky Head Basketball Coach John Calipari has been a huge support to Team Focus. He is truly all about changing lives! Go Wildcats!

Team Focus Mobile, Ohio, Texas, Kentucky, Florida and Nevada

Working Together with a Plan for the Fatherless...



Fuse Project honored Team Focus with a grant this past year to help support the vision of Team Focus. To thank them, we went by their office and presented them with a gift of thanks from our Team Focus members who wanted to show their appreciation! The members signed their framed camp photo and wrote a thank you card to give to them.

THANK YOU AGAIN FUSE PROJECT FOR BELIEVING IN US!

"God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually. Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. An amazing thing happens when we offer praise and thanksgiving to God. When we give God enjoyment, our own hearts are filled with joy." --William Law



The Sieve Family



Bob and Linda Sebo

TEAM FOCUS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL DONOR FOR YOUR HEARTFELT GIVING. YOU HAVE TRULY BLESSED THE FATHERLESS!
THANKS FOR GIVING



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