

# COACHES HONOR



***Some might say that I live my life between my legs.*** That for the most part is true. I spend more time on television with my rear end on the screen than most super models. People may

not know my name but they do get the pleasure of seeing my hind quarters every Sunday in the fall. I am a professional long snapper. Sure, I get to play

***"I get to live my life and earn my living in the insignificant moments."***

in the NFL besides some of the worlds greatest and most famous athletes, yet, at the end of the day most people who watch the game will never know my name. The job description comes with the awareness that I will never have my name called by an announcer for doing my job well. For game-winning field goals, routine ones and even punts, no one ever thinks about the snap; it is merely an after thought. I live my life and earn my living in the insignificant moments.

Football is the only real job and life that I have ever known (if you do not include a paper route when I was young). The game of football was how I defined myself. Its so easy to define ourselves by what we have accomplished, by our wins and losses, by how beautiful our home is or even

***"God decided to rip the thing that I defined myself by and replace it with Himself."***

by how others perceive us through our jobs. Football and life told me lies for the better part of a decade. It has taken me 12 seasons, 4 teams, and 6 head coaches to see this is not the life that the Gospel offers.

I would have never written my story this way, although I never imagined something so wonderful. Two years ago my life was in perfect order and running in the perfect direction, so I thought. Entering my ninth NFL season with the Jaguars I had everything that I could ever ask for; however, God had plans to do something bigger and greater in my life. I can now see all the little moves and tiny details that God has orchestrated in my life over the past few years to prepare me for this grand adventure with the Atlanta Falcons. God chose to rip the thing that I had defined myself by and replace it with Himself. I saw myself as "Jaguar Joe". Everything I did was to protect that image, whether it was a community event, attending church meetings or Bible studies. I was blind to the way that God saw me and deaf to the name that He called me. Deep down I believed that I was in control and that if I just did things good enough or religious enough I would be blessed on my adventure of life. Poppa God had to remove the scales from my eyes. He spiritually touched my hip and gave me a limp so I would have a constant reminder of how much He loves me.

***"Our marriage has been deepened, and a closer, more intimate relationship with my Rescuer all happened because I was fired from being 'Jaguar Joe'."***

Is getting fired from a job that you love a reminder of God's love? I know that it is. The game of football has become fresh and new over the last two years. The love for the game that was slowly washed away from my years in Jacksonville was renewed. God has taken my family hundreds of miles away to a new home in Atlanta for the greatest season of my NFL career. Our marriage has been deepened, and a closer, more intimate relationship with my Rescuer all happened because I was fired from being "Jaguar Joe".

You need to know, every great adventure in my life was not something I planned for; getting married (when we did), having the twins, and now changing jobs. The great events found me. It

seems the more I planned something or tried to control things, the less exciting it would turn out. Also, the moments that I thought were insignificant, were actually monumental moments. It is amazing how God works. Just when we think we have Him figured out He peels back another layer and shows us how much more He really loves us. I have found when I follow God and allow His plan to have total control, things get wonderfully crazy.

I am slowly learning that God is in control of every aspect of my life and that He loves me not because of how I play, but because I am His child. I have done nothing to deserve His love and I can do nothing to lose His love.

***"It is freeing to know that I am totally and absolutely loved... Not because I was good enough or prayed enough, but simply because I am His son."***

I have heard this message for the last 7 years from every COACHES HONOR event that I have attended. To be honest I thought I really knew the lesson of the Gospel, I thought I knew about the Life Jesus offers. I was totally wrong. It was Wink, Reina and the COACHES HONOR family like Ray Cortese and Scotty Smith, that didn't fill my heart with the Gospel but made me hungry for it. It is hard to imagine my life now without the refreshing message of the Gospel. It is freeing to know that I am totally and absolutely loved and that I have been called on this great adventure, not because I was good enough or prayed enough, but simply because I am His son. It is so rare in life to find something so beautifully simple. COACHES HONOR has made me hungry and crave the Gospel. I have become addicted. If you long for this hunger and want your heart to crave the Gospel, why not attend a CH Bible study or sign up for a retreat? I promise you will not go home feeling full and fulfilled but you will go home starving for more of the precious, sweet Gospel of Jesus Christ.

— Joe Zelenka



# 2011 COACHES HONOR Events

## Women's Wild & Wonderful Weekend

April 15-17

Atlantic Beach, FL — Cost: \$115

Darlene Smith & Elaine Husband will be speaking and Diana Beach Batarseh will be sharing her music .

**Bring a friend & come to the party!**



## Marriage Retreat

June 10-12

St. Augustine, FL — Cost: \$325 per couple

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



## Haiti Mission Trip

May 7-14 @ Mission of Hope

Please be praying for our group of men and women going down to serve, work, and minister with the people of Haiti.

If you would like more info on the trip on how you can help or be a part of this trip, please contact Jake at 904-338-5265

or [jacobckimball@gmail.com](mailto:jacobckimball@gmail.com)



## Annual Golf Tournament

June 27 @ Marsh Landing Country Club

Contact: Jason Sweet

(904) 860-4062 or [jasonsweet10@gmail.com](mailto:jasonsweet10@gmail.com)

**Come tee it up for the coaches!**

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