

## THE PRIVILEGE OF TOUCHING LIVES



MARION, OHIO – Pat Street was an athlete. Mostly baseball, cross country and track. In fact, during his senior year at River Valley High School, he was on the state championship cross country team. That was 1967. Unfortunately, upon graduation he discovered firsthand the raging war in Vietnam.

“I didn’t want to get drafted so I joined the Marine Corps,” he said.

In 1969, as he and his team crossed a valley, a hand grenade exploded above his head. Somehow, Street was unscathed by the shrapnel. But the blast took its toll.

“I just remember I was in shock,” he recalled.

He was hospitalized and 4 days later, was sent back to the States with battle fatigue and shell shock.

He tried to get on with his life. He married his high school sweetheart on Valentine’s Day, 1971. But, he conceded, “By that November we were ready for divorce, primarily because of my drinking and drugs. I was totally lost. My thought at that time was, ‘God, you leave me alone and I’ll leave You alone.’”

Then, he and his wife answered an alter call at a church in Waldo.

“Bob Swanger was the first man I ever heard share a personal testimony of Jesus Christ,” he conceded. “That certainly changed our lives.”

With his newfound faith, in 1972 the Lord called him into ministry. He went to seminary and eventually ended up at a church in Niles, Ohio.

“I felt called into the public schools,” he said. “I volunteered as a cross country and track coach. And that’s when I was introduced to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.”

In time, he returned to his hometown of Marion and pastored Salem Evangelical Church. That was 21 years ago. He’s been there ever since.

“At the same time,” he said, “I started working with FCA at River Valley. What a marvelous privilege to go back to the school where I graduated, this time as an asset by touching kids’ lives.”

He now holds chapels with all the varsity sports teams as the River Valley High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle Coach.

“I always tell them, ‘This is totally voluntary. But I think if you stay, you’re going to get something out of it.’ And no one has walked out of my chapels. It’s been exciting.”

“The Holy Spirit has led me to speak directly to their character,” he continued. “He said, ‘I want you to put a quote on a 3X5 card and under the quote I want you to put a Scripture and under that I want you to put a workout.’”

An example, he explained, would be a quote by former Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight: “Everybody wants to win, but few will prepare to win.” The corresponding Scripture would be 1 Corinthians 9:24: Run in such a way that you win the prize. And the workout, he said, would be the acronym WIN.

“W stands for, whatever you do, do your best. If you only give 90 percent in practice, chances are you’ll only give 90 percent when it really counts.”

“I stands for invest your time, your talent and give it unto the Lord so He gets the glory. If you’re just spending time, you’re wasting time. Invest your time. What you get out of practice is what you put into practice.”

N, he said, stands for “never give up, give over or give in. In other words, walk, play, live disciplined and determined and you will succeed, and God will get the glory.”

“I can’t tell you about the impact,” Street concluded. “I leave the results to the Spirit of God. I just know I’ve had the privilege of touching a lot of kids and coaches.”

“The girls love it,” responded Tim Chiles, the girls’ basketball coach at River Valley HS. “He’s so positive. He really cares for the kids and they really respond to that.”

“He has a tremendous impact on the athletes,” echoed the school’s head football coach, Doug Green. “He’s a real driving force. He’s done a tremendous job for us.”

For more about Pastor J. Patrick Street, known simply as “Coach” to many, and his Time-Out Sports Ministries, Inc., log on [www.timeoutsports.org](http://www.timeoutsports.org).

Shaping Talent focuses on the influences that lead athletes to succeed. The people who helped them. Their work ethic. How and why they turned something they like into something they do. In other words, how God shaped their growth. If you have a suggestion for a future profile, contact Rye D’Orazio at Central Ohio Fellowship of Christian Athletes at 614-682-6551 or email [rdorazio@fca.org](mailto:rdorazio@fca.org).