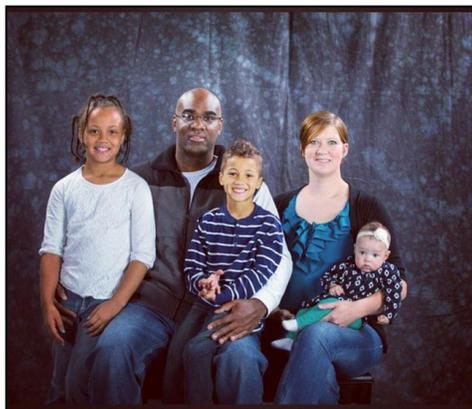


Heart of a Coach – December 2014



Name: Cory Jenkins

Hometown: Rock Island, IL

Alma Mater: University of Northern Iowa

Degree(s): BA of Liberal Studies, currently working on Masters in Athletic Administration and Coaching from Concordia University - Irvine

Coaches: Boys Basketball at AIB



List your chosen attribute: Love

What is your personal definition of this word?

To me love means genuinely caring about a person along with their well-being and feelings.

What are some of your favorite quotes from other people about this word?

“A new command I give you love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another.” - Jesus

“I have decided to stick with Love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Loving others always costs us something and requires effort. And you have to decide to do it on purpose. You can’t wait for a feeling to motivate you.” Joyce Meyer

What is your favorite Biblical passage that deals with this characteristic?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – “⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Why did you choose that particular passage?

It best describes what I try to do in my daily life. God calls us to love one another, His greatest commandment. Love is deep, it’s more than being in love. Love is having compassion and caring for others.

Please give an application/example of this word in your life.

Becoming a coach is a perfect example of love. I have a chance to show athletes love and really show them that I care about them. I have the opportunity to not only show them my love, but God’s love. When troubles and adversity hit I try to walk alongside them and help them get through it. I want to impact the players in a way that they know God’s love exists. The Bible teaches us to love one another like God loves us. I know that God hasn’t turned His back on me and I want to show that to my athletes. Our guys come from very diverse backgrounds, single parents, raised by their grandparents, traditional households and I have

the opportunity to make a positive impact in their lives. I coach because I want to show them the love of God and I believe that coaching is my calling.

How do you apply this word in your sport?

I have an open door policy where the guys can come to me with anything. I believe that basketball is a great tool to teach life lessons and to show the love of God. I use this to make sure that they guys understand that I truly, genuinely care about them and I want them to know that not only will I help them athletically, but in life also. To walk with them through life, to be a shoulder to cry on, to be there for them. When you really love the athletes they become your sons. What I would do for my players is exactly what I would do for my own son.

How did you become involved in FCA?

When I started at AIB 4 years ago, athletics was new to the college. The head men's basketball coach at the time spoke about getting a branch of FCA started at AIB and being a believer myself, I felt that was a great idea. In order to get FCA going they needed a sponsor and I felt God calling me to step up, so I did. I wish I would have been involved in an organization like FCA when I was in college. If I was part of a Christ centered organization I believe I could have stayed on the straight and narrow and that is another reason I believe it was important for FCA to be at AIB. I wanted to give athletes an outlet, somewhere to go when they felt they were being led astray. FCA gives them the opportunity to surround themselves with other Christian athletes.

How active within FCA were/are you?

I didn't get involved with FCA until we brought the organization to AIB several years ago. I am now the staff sponsor for our Huddle. We have weekly meetings and I meet with the leadership team twice a month. We are currently working on holding a weeknight service on campus. Our Huddle also volunteers at Hoover High School. We feed and serve the athletes before home basketball games. Also, I have the opportunity to deliver the pep talk/message to the team after they eat.

What is your athletic experience? (Where?)

I played college basketball at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA. After UNI I played overseas for 7 years. I was blessed to get the opportunity to play in Costa Rica, China, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany and Romania.

What is your coaching experience? (Where?)

I was the assistant coach at AIB for 2 years and I am currently starting my 2nd year as the head coach at AIB. Last summer I had the opportunity to coach an Athletes in Action team in Puerto Rico.