

# Heart of a Coach – March 2014



**Name:** Katie Gravert

**Hometown:** Albia, IA

**Alma Mater:** University of Northern Iowa

**Degree(s):** BA in K-12 Physical Education, Secondary Health Education, and Coaching Endorsement.

**Coaches:** Jr. High Volleyball and Softball, and High School Basketball at Greene County Schools

**List your chosen attribute:** Influential/Impact

## **What is your personal definition of this word?**

The ability to invest in a student athlete's life and have an effect on their character, development, and their overall life.

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

"You can never really live anyone else's life, not even your child's. The influence you exert is through your own life, and what you've become yourself."

Eleanor Roosevelt

"A life isn't significant except for its impact on other lives."

Jackie Robinson

"Don't worry about your platform, worry about your impact"

Tony Dungy

## **What are your favorite Biblical passages that deals with this characteristic?**

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Titus 2:6-8

"In the same way, encourage the young men (*and Women*) to live wisely. And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us."

## **Why did you choose these particular passages?**

I chose these passages because they both relate to being an influence in other lives. Jesus sent out his disciples into their mission field and instructed them to *teach* all nations to observe all that He had commanded. My mission field is my school, my players, and my students. God has called me to teach them to observe His ways through influence and being a solid example.

In the Titus 2 passage, Paul tells us the same to encourage our young men and women to live wisely and to be an example to them in doing good works of every kind. Billy Graham once said "A coach can influence more lives in a single year than most people can in a lifetime" and I want to use this opportunity I have before me to advance the kingdom.

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

Coaching has given me an amazing platform to influence and impact high school and junior high girls. So many girls are influenced by the media to be, dress, and act a certain way that is not respecting themselves. I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to build relationships with some of my athletes that go beyond the topics of our sports but push into the real core of life. I have had a number of my girls in my office asking and seeking approval and advice. This has given me to opportunity to show them that they are loved, worthy, and wanted. I know that the life that God has led me to live will show and impact these girls to know there is more than what the world is telling them but to live a life pleasing to their creator. Being able to start an FCA at Coon Rapids-Bayard was a great platform for my athletes to see what a coach with a Christ centered life can act and look like. My prayer is that I have a positive impact on each athlete I come into contact with and that they see a glimpse of Jesus through my influence.

### **How do you apply this word in your sport?**

This word not only applies to my sport but also to my life. Being an influence and showing good character is something that I have always strived to achieve. We are called to be Christ like and others will know him through us. As a player and a coach I always tried and still try to this day to not only teach my players the skills of the game but also how to live a life of honor and praise to the One True King. I strive to do that through my example on and off the court or field.

### **How did you become involved in FCA?**

I have been involved in FCA for my whole life! My dad, Gary Gravert (South Central Iowa FCA Area Rep and Albia Huddle Leader) has had a huddle that has met in our home since before I was born. I remember going to FCA meetings and retreats with the big kids since I was young. Being involved in FCA has been one of the greatest things. Through FCA and my wonderful family I was able to come to know Christ as my Savior and was taught how to truly live a Christ centered life by the influence of all those around me and I also was fortunate enough to have met some of my best friends through FCA.

### **How active within FCA were/are you?**

I have been blessed to have FCA in my life in an influential way. I was also a huddle captain in high school at Albia HS. Also attended and served as a Huddle Leader numerous times at the State retreats and FCA Pella Sports Camp. I recently started a huddle at my former school Coon Rapids-Bayard and look forward to whatever God has in store for me at Greene County Schools.

### **What is your athletic experience? (Where?)**

While in High School at Albia High School I played Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, and a few years of Soccer.

### **What is your coaching experience? (Where?)**

My coaching career started in college at Jesup High School as the freshman volleyball coach while I studied at UNI in Cedar Falls ('09). I was also the freshman softball coach at Albia High School for 2 season ('10-'11). When I received my first teaching job at Coon Rapids-Bayard Schools I was the assistant high school volleyball coach and the assistant high school basketball coach along with junior high basketball coach ('11-'13). I now am teaching and coaching in Jefferson Iowa at Greene County School as the Junior High PE teacher along with coaching responsibilities of junior high Volleyball, assistant high school basketball, and junior high softball ('13-present).

