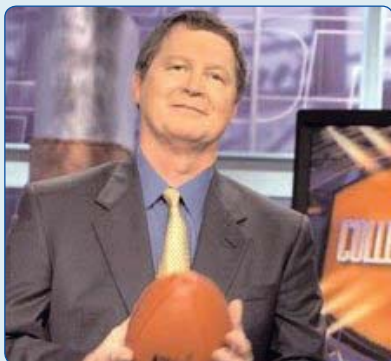




TEAM FOCUS

Jan/Feb/Mar 2017

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.



Mike Gottfried

Happy New Year to Everyone!

This year Team Focus will be celebrating 17 years of Mentoring and Raising Up Champions for Tomorrow to over 5,000 young men across the country. Team Focus was founded in 2000 and the first camp was held in Mobile, AL in 2001.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you (i.e. donors, staff members, volunteers, mothers, grandmothers and guardians) for 17 years of hope for the future working together with a plan for these fatherless young men.

Your participation has been and continues to be vital to the growth and sustainability of Team Focus. God has blessed us with each of you to support the efforts to fill the father gap. We thank you from the bottom of our heart!

My love to all of you. I bless you with a teachable and disciplined spirit and with the wisdom to learn from those people God puts in your life. I'm really looking forward to help/guide you in 2017!

I have been watching the hearings for the new Trump administration. I believe Donald Trump, in the office of the President deserves the support of all Americans. Jeff Sessions who I know personally, is a man of the highest Godly principles. Senator Sessions has been a supporter of Team Focus and always takes his personal time to speak, meet the young men and give advice to any Team Focus members. Our Nation is better with Jeff Sessions as Attorney General.

I traveled to Baton Rouge, LA and met with Coach Dale Brown (former LSU Basketball Coach). Coach Brown is a wealth of knowledge and has a story that every young man in Team Focus needs to hear.

Dale's mom raised him above a store in a small apartment. She taught him more with her actions. He told me of several times she would walk to shop for food and return with groceries. She would count what she bought and twice put her coat back on to take 47 cents back to the store that over payed her. I will ask Coach Brown to speak to TF this summer.

Finally, I completed a year of journaling. Every day in 2016 at night, I would note my thoughts,

days activities and my prayers. Now I'm reviewing each month and I am able to see all the answers to my prayers.

Consider to begin journaling and see how God will speak to you!

Mike Gottfried



THESE TEAM FOCUS BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING THE TEAM FOCUS OFFICE AT (251) 635-1515

Following is an excerpt from Mike Gottfried's book: "The Home Team":

We need to be what God has called us to be—loving leaders in our home! Love is essential to family life. I believe the following are four keys to help parents show love to their children:

AFFIRMATION—ATTENTION—AFFECTION—ACCOUNTABILITY

Booklets in This Series: The Team Focus Family Resource Series is designed to encourage, equip, and energize families for the challenges they face in today's world.

- Swim to the Buoy** by Coach John Calipari (Why everyone needs the safety of a mentor)
- The Home Team** by Coach Mike Gottfried (How to build a strong family of teammates)
- The Ultimate Secret** by Coach Rey Dempsey (The secret to unlocking successful relationships)
- Power Prayer for the Family** by Beth Alves (Powerful prayers to transform your family and loved ones)
- Daily Manners** by Jody Varga (Everyday etiquette opens doors and shows you care about others!)
- Stop the Hurt** by Danny White (How bullying affects all of us, and what to do to restore dignity)

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, April 20, 2017:
Tuesday, April 25, 2017:

Team Focus Ohio 5th Annual Fundraising Banquet - with Speaker AJ Hawk
Team Focus Alabama 10th Annual Fundraising Banquet - with Speaker Nick Saban



Guiding Young Men to the Ultimate Victory

Pictured is the Troy, Alabama football team that was in town for the Dollar General Bowl. Some of the players visited Team Focus to talk to the Mobile Chapter members and answer questions.

**THANK YOU
TROY FOOTBALL TEAM!**



CONGRATULATIONS PARIS!

Pictured is Paris Coleman (Team Focus Mobile alumni member) at a 2014 camp. Paris has been selected by Jackson State U. to speak at the Psychology Conference in Atlanta in March 2017. This is a great honor for him.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Pictured is Team Focus Mobile Member Rush Watson, IV who recently was selected as "Student of the Month" at Phillips Prep out of approximately 250 students. The Optimist Club presented the award at a recent luncheon.

CONGRATULATIONS RUSH!



MOBILE TEAM FOCUS MOMS

The Team Focus Mobile Moms focused on Breast Cancer Awareness in October. They hosted a speaker from Franklin Primary who spoke about the importance of early detection at the monthly meeting. Also, several Team Focus moms and guardians gathered in Downtown Mobile to walk in the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk on October 29, 2016. There, they celebrated Team Focus Mom and breast cancer survivor Angela Brown, along with countless others who have been affected by this terrible disease.

Team Focus Mobile, Alabama Chapter

Raising Up Champions for Tomorrow



Team Focus Texas Chapter

We were blessed and honored on Sunday, October 16 to have Team Focus Alumni Rodney Hill join me at our Church Life Austin. Our church partners with Team Focus as a mission for the fatherless of our community.

Rodney was an incredible spokesman and example for what the Team Focus program represents. As a result, we had many mothers inquire regarding their sons and also men who would like to get involved with the program as volunteers.



Buzz Carruth, Area Representative

Team Focus Texas was recently awarded with a \$5,000 check from the Life Austin Church. Pictured is Buzz Carruth with George Oakes.

THANK YOU LIFE AUSTIN CHURCH for your generous donation!



Team Focus Texas: 22 youth, 6 adult coaches and 5 friends of the Austin Chapter went to the Austin Spurs (San Antonio Spurs NBA Development Team) game Saturday, November 19th. We had a great time enjoying a great game. The game went into overtime at 99 all. The Spurs game winning 3 point shot was literally a buzzer beater. The Team Focus boys went crazy as the last second shot hit nothing but net!!

Team Focus Texas also went to Fort Hood on December 3rd. We enjoyed the tour of the US Army's First Calvary Helicopter Corp and the 3rd Armored Division show off M1 Abrams Tanks.

Buzz Carruth, Area Representative

Team Focus Las Vegas, Nevada Chapter



In October, recording artist "AP9" shared his life story: from near death to success at the Team Focus Las Vegas Wisdom Center.



Pictured is Nerses Kopalyan with Team Focus Las Vegas member Jovany Leal.

Pictured with Nerses Kopalyan is Team Focus Las Vegas Member Louis Fletcher celebrating his 13th birthday over sandwiches...happy birthday Louis!



Pictured is Daniel Woodbury (TF Las Vegas' first college graduate) with Nerses Kopalyan, TF Las Vegas Director.

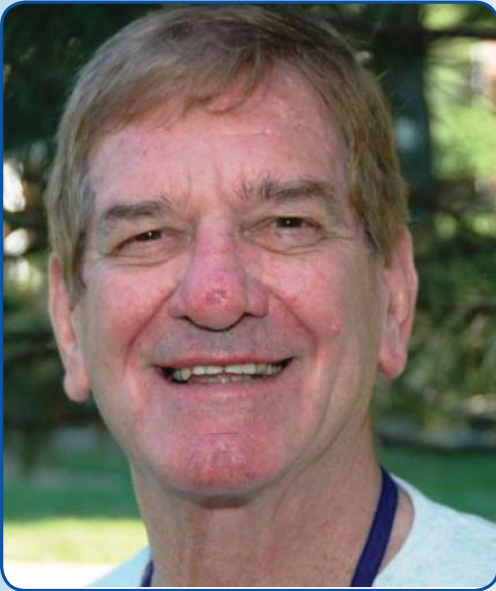
Daniel and Nerses were recently spending quality time together over coffee and tea.





Talking Points with Pastor Rey Dempsey

An Important Message for You in 2017:



"ATTITUDE"

Our attitude is the primary force that will determine whether we succeed or fail. Our attitude determines our approach to life. Do you feel your world is treating you well?

If your ATTITUDE toward the world is excellent, you will receive excellent results. If you feel so-so about the world, your response from the world will be average. Feel badly about your world and you will seem to have only negative feedback from life. Look around you. Analyze the conversation of people who lead unhappy, unfulfilled lives. You will find they are crying out against a society which they feel is out to get them and to give them a lifetime of trouble, misery and bad luck. This discontent has been built by their own hands. This change cannot come from others - it must come from us.

We are individually responsible for our view of life. The Bible says, *"whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."* --Galatians 6:7

Our attitude and action toward life helps determine what happens to us. Because of a bad attitude many people may not be given a job. Many other jobs have been lost, promotions missed. Those in sports having a bad attitude could miss a chance to get to play.

I encourage each of you to check out "how you feel you are doing with having a good attitude." A positive attitude can help make the difference!

Love you all,
Rey Dempsey



Pictured left to right: Mike Gottfried, TF Member Tyler Lyons and Pastor Rey Dempsey recently met for lunch.



Pictured is Mike Gottfried who recently spoke to the Texas State University girls' basketball team with the Assistant Coach Rodney Hill (TF Alumni Member). The Texas State U. girls' basketball team was in Mobile playing against the University of South Alabama girls' basketball team.

Raising Up Champions for Tomorrow



Scott County (Kentucky) Regional Champs moved on to the state playoffs. Freshman Brendon Johnson participated in the first undefeated freshman team.

Senior Marvin Davis was the starting defensive corner. Other Team Focus young men that were on the team were Sophomores JJ Williams and Javion Jackson; Zach Webb was a senior qualifying for state and Sophomore (number 14) Glen Covington (pictured) was the starting defensive corner and wide receiver. He intercepted a pass on the 2 yard line to save the game with only 10 seconds left on the clock. He also caught a touchdown pass. Great Job!

Bath County Senior Zack Martin's team (see picture of Zack) won the region qualifying for the State Cross Country Track Meet. (See Page 7 for more Kentucky Chapter news.)



CONGRATULATIONS KENTUCKY TEAM FOCUS MEMBERS!
BILL BALDRIDGE, DIRECTOR

The Calipari Foundation

In the December 2016 "TOPS in Lexington" magazine, The Calipari Foundation was featured. Coach Calipari and his wife, Ellen, created the foundation so that they would have a local, formalized vehicle through which they could focus their giving efforts. Mentioned as one of the foundation's recipients in this article was Team Focus (see picture of Coach John Calipari with Mike Gottfried and Team Focus Alumni Member Jesse Williams).

"TCF has been busy here in central Kentucky, too. One of the foundation's important efforts has been supporting a local chapter of Team Focus, an organization founded by Mike Gottfried and his wife, Mickey. Team Focus provides role models and mentors for young men without a father figure in their lives, aiming to help them develop as leaders.

Gottfried first met Calipari at the University of Kansas in the early '80s. At the time, Gottfried was the Jayhawks head football coach and Calipari was an assistant basketball coach. Sort of.

"I love the story of John working the KU basketball camp right out of college," said Gottfried. "He worked 18 hours a day. At the end of the camp, Head Coach Ted Owens was so impressed with John that he offered him a volunteer coaching job—he would be able to coach, but he would also have to serve the players three meals a day."

"So John served, and he worked his way up the coaching ladder."

And even though the adjective preceding "Coach in Calipari's title has long since changed from "volunteer", Gottfried remains impressed with Calipari's heart to serve.

"A few years back on Father's Day, John came out to our Team Focus camp and spent a good part of his day mentoring, teaching, and having fun with more than 40 young men from Kentucky without fathers," said Gottfried. "He told them to 'swim to the buoy'—if someone will mentor you, run and swim to him or her."



Team Focus Kentucky Chapter



Guiding Young Men to the Ultimate Victory

Team Focus Ohio Chapter



Team Focus Ohio held their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at the Kroc Center in Ashland, Ohio. There were 57 members in attendance along with 17 volunteers and 4 guests. A professional Canadian Football League quarterback Trevor Harris was the speaker. Shawn and Chris Cunix presented each Team Focus member with a gift card. Thank you Shawn and Chris for your generosity. After a delicious lunch, we went to Luray Lanes where we bowled and Santa Clause handed out more gifts to our members. Five seniors were presented with a Team Focus embroidered blanket.....an Ohio tradition!

Please keep TF alumni member Calvin Chism and TF current member Zion Chism and their family in your prayers as their mother Willette Crawford passed away unexpectedly on January 13, 2017.

Cars, Wine and a Great Cause

Team Focus Ohio held its very first Wine Tasting Fundraiser event on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at The Toy Barn in Dublin, Ohio.

Approximately 85 people were in attendance and everyone received a wine glass to take home with them which was engraved with the Team Focus logo. We had delicious food and the room was filled with some exclusive cars to admire, wonderful fellowship and music that was played by a harpist.



THANK YOU SHAWN AND CHRIS CUNIX AND EVERYONE AT THE TOY BARN FOR HOSTING THIS SPECIAL EVENT AND FOR ALL YOU DO FOR TEAM FOCUS!



Rocky and Sue Alt were blessed to spend some time with Team Focus Ohio member Elijah Samuels while in Charlotte, North Carolina recently.

Elijah was the "Camper of the Week" at the 2016 Ohio Summer Leadership Camp.

Working Together with a Plan for the Fatherless...



Team Focus Kentucky held their 2016 Christmas party at Champs Entertainment Center in Lexington, KY where they had lunch, played laser tag, miniature golf and skated. It was a fun-filled day!

"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



P.O. Box 91626
Mobile, AL 36691

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOBILE, AL
PERMIT #1635

Questions?.....Need Something?.....Want to Say Hi?

Paul (Rocky) Alt, Director of Programs/Ohio Director. ohioteamfocus@gmail.com
Sue Alt, Dir. Human Resources/Newsletter Editor. hrteamfocus@gmail.com
Bill Baldrige, Director-Lexington, KY. kentuckyteamfocus@gmail.com
Buzz Carruth, Area Rep.-Austin, TX buzz724@gmail.com
Pastor Rey Dempsey, VP Program Services reydempsey@comporium.net
Steve Dickson, Area Rep. Vol.-Jacksonville, FL Steve.Dickson82@gmail.com
Nerses Kopalyan, Director-Las Vegas, NV nevadateamfocus@gmail.com
Laura McGehee, Bookkeeper bookkeeperteamfocus@gmail.com
Sarah Thornton, Executive Administrator saraht1428@gmail.com
Deloris Washington, Receptionist receptionteamfocus@gmail.com
Danny White, Director-Mobile, AL. mobileteamfocus@gmail.com

Mike Gottfried, President & Co-Founder • Mickey Gottfried, Co-Founder

(251) 635-1515 [VISIT US ONLINE www.teamfocususa.org](http://www.teamfocususa.org)
(877) 635-0010 (Team Focus Office) [Toll Free](tel:8776350010)

“Like” Team Focus on Facebook and “Follow Us” on Twitter @TeamFocus_USA