

# Heart of a Coach – June 2011



**Name:** Matthew R. Ramthun

**Hometown:** Graduated from Charles City in 1998, currently lives in Norwalk

**Alma Mater:** Simpson College

**Degrees:** BA Liberal Arts and Elementary Education--endorsements in reading, math, and coaching

**List your chosen attribute:** Faithfulness

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

Being faithful means others can count on you and trust that you will be there no matter what.

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

- “Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”  
- Mother Teresa of Calcutta
- “Faithful friends are gifts from heaven: Whoever finds one has found a treasure.”  
- anonymous
- “A faithful friend is a strong defense: and he that hath found one hath found a treasure.”  
- Ecclesiastes 6:14 (King Solomon)

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

My favorite faithfulness story is of Moses on the hill holding the staff of God while his people were at war. Exodus 17:8-16.

**Why did you choose that particular passage?**

This story has powerful imagery of a man protecting his people by being an instrument of the Lord. When I think of faithfulness I think of Moses and his long-suffering devotion to the Israelites to the Promised Land. He was faithful to his people and to God through so many trials and tests of endurance. Visualizing him on top of the mountain with his hands raised to God as his people fought the Amalekite Army is a powerful display of faithful leadership and servanthood.

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

Friends and family know I am a loyal person and know if they ask me to be a part of something; I will be “all in”.

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

My position on the team now is as coach and huddle leader. Faithfulness is often an overlooked attribute in God and in mankind. To be faithful, one does what is required and you are there to support if you are needed. God is supremely faithful in his grace and comfort. I try to be faithful in my dedication to my athletes and huddle members by consistently working hard for them in practice and as a middle school huddle leader I provide dependable and authentic guidance. Supporting my kids on and off the field by attending important events in their lives lets them know I am always there for them.

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

A couple of friends invited me to an FCA meeting when I was at Simpson College, so I went with them. I really enjoyed the fellowship and activities we did. I started to build some positive relationships and developed some strong leadership qualities I maintain today. It was there that I made the decision to become a huddle leader as soon as I could.

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

I participated for two years at Simpson. I started the Norwalk Middle School Huddle in 2003 and have been facilitating that ever since.

**What is your athletic experience?**

I played quarterback at Simpson College for two years. I played football, basketball, track, and baseball in high school.

**What is your coaching experience?**

Assistant Varsity Football Coach-Norwalk High School (8 years)

Assistant Varsity Boys Track Coach-Norwalk High School (8 years)