

The
MACSA

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Mid-Atlantic Christian Schools Association

Serving Schools That Serve the Savior

Spring 2006

God's Favorite Play



The Sacrifice that Gets Us Home

By: Phil Tuttle

I've prepared a lot of messages, but this was one of the hardest. What do you tell a group of thirteen-year-old baseball players on a weekend morning when they're focused on a tournament final that afternoon? What do you tell their parents and siblings, many of whom made the long road trip without any thought of hearing an impromptu devotional?

But since my son Philip was the only guy on the team with a preacher-father, I got tapped to deliver a biblical-but-not-too-churchy message. That requires a lot of wisdom, and I didn't know where to start. So I prayed. And the answer came back better than I could have hoped.

I had been thinking about a simple parable and, with the help of my daughter Emily's insights, fleshed it out before the big day. When the morning came, every ballplayer, every parent, and every sibling who had made the trip was there. The boys were all in uniform, seated in the front, thinking of the clutch hits, well-timed stolen bases, and incredible catches they would soon make. They had big, heroic dreams. So I began my parable with a big question: What is God's favorite play?

Silence. No one had an answer, so I offered my opinion: "I think God's favorite play would have to be the bunt."

"Cause it's not being selfish," one of the boys suggested.

"True, but I think there's more to it than that," I said. "What do we call it when someone bunts?"

"A sacrifice."

"Right, a sacrifice. And look at the language we use for it. You can 'lay down' a bunt, and you can 'give yourself up' for the team. The reason the bunt is probably God's favorite play is because that's exactly what Jesus did for us. He laid Himself down and He gave Himself up. John 15:13 tells us, 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.' Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice."

*John
15:13*

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I looked at one of the boys whose reputation for avoiding bunts had become a humorous part of team lore. "Why do you hate them so much?" I asked.

"It's a wimpy thing to do," he said.

"That's what most people think. It makes us look weak. It goes against our nature. Even Jesus tried to shake off the bunt sign the night before He was crucified, but what did He do in the end? He did what was best for the team."

I went on to explain the gospel and then brought the point home—literally. "What's the ultimate goal of a bunt?"

"To move the runner," several said in unison.

And I think God's favorite play is the bunt.

That's the play He called to make it possible - for whoever is willing to believe - to make it home safely."

"Really?" I asked.
"What good does it do to just move a runner? What's the real goal?"

"To get him home."

"That's right. And to get him home how?"

"Safely," they answered.

Phil Tuttle was the Thursday keyote speaker at the November 2005 MACSA Convention.

It was starting to sink in.

"One last question," I told them. "What's the worst thing that can happen if you're the one who makes the sacrifice?"

"That the idiot on third base doesn't move," said one.

"That's right. And there are only two reasons that could happen," I suggested. "First, he wouldn't break for home if he hadn't seen the sign. You can't ever say now that you haven't seen God's bunt sign, because I've just explained why Jesus sacrificed Himself for you. And reason number two is if the runner didn't really believe his teammate would follow through on the sign. The question is, then, do you really believe Jesus would make that sacrifice for you?"

There was a long silence. No one moved.

"I think God has enjoyed watching you guys play this weekend," I continued. "And I think His favorite play is the bunt. That's the play He called to make it possible—for whoever is willing to believe—to make it home safely."

Later that afternoon, our boys did whatever it took to make it around to home. But I have a hunch that some of them may have already done that earlier in the day—and they didn't even have to slide.

See you at the 2006 MACSA Convention November 8-10, 2006

Lancaster Host, Lancaster, PA

Theme: Fulfilling the Good Work of God

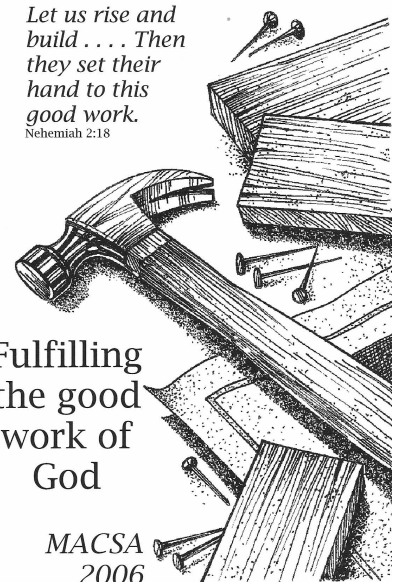
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jay Kessler

Dr. Jay Kessler is the President Emeritus of Taylor University and the author of 23 books, including *Emotionally Healthy Teenagers*, *Growing Pains*, *Family Forum*, *Restoring A Loving Marriage*, *Grand parenting - The Agony and the Ecstasy*, *Challenges for the College Bound*, and *Being Holy, Being Human*. In addition, he has authored numerous magazine articles for publications, including *Christianity Today*, *Eternity*, *Moody Monthly*, *Today's Christian Woman*, and *Sunday Digest*.

Let us rise and build . . . Then they set their hand to this good work.
Nehemiah 2:18

Fulfilling
the good
work of
God

MACSA
2006





“Never lend books, for no one ever returns them; the only books I have in my library are books that other folks have lent to me.”

Anatole France

Recommended by MACSA Administrators

- ◆ *Humility: True Greatness* by C.J. Mahaney
- ◆ *Lead Like Jesus* by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges
- ◆ *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

Don't forget to check out this resource

- ◆ *The Unsullied Teacher*. <http://colossians2.com/teach>

A blog for teachers in Christian Schools with emphasis on teachers just starting out.

Moderated by Mark Strohm, Jr. – Elementary Principal, Delaware County Christian School



Discover Christian Schools

Article Submitted by Hamilton Strategies

For decades, parents have struggled with questions over whether or not a decidedly Christian education is the right choice for their child. With ever more options facing parents today over what type of education is right for their child, the questions can seem endless.

To serve parents, school leaders, and others with answers to those questions is a new resource called *DiscoverChristianSchools.com*. This is the newest communications initiative designed to assist parents in making the most informed decisions about their children's education. www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com is a website that connects schools and parents together, and imparts the most current and reliable resources available where Christian education is concerned.

Tim Sierer, Vice President of MACSA and one of the founders of *DiscoverChristianSchools.com*, states, “In over two decades of working in the field of education, I've been asked virtually every question imaginable by parents, regarding the quality of a Christian education for their children. . . . *DiscoverChristianSchools.com* aims to provide these answers and put parents' minds at ease.” There is also a school locator feature that will direct parents to Christian schools in their area.

Every parent knows that the type of education their child receives will determine the blueprint for the remainder of that child's life. That's why *DiscoverChristianSchools.com* believes that making the right educational decision for a child should be more than a casual decision or mere “happstance.” *DiscoverChristianSchools.com* is designed to provide Christian parents with a variety of resources, including links to articles from a variety of sources regarding Christian education, and an FAQ page. In addition, there is an entire section just for schools. Schools can benefit from participating in this new Christian education initiative as there is a very extensive marketing and public relations campaign that is in place to help parents choose Christian education at your school. For more information, log onto www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com or call Harold Naylor at 610-872-7600.

MACSA Student Activities
Ken Howard, Student Activities Coordinator



Bible Quizzing

Black Rock Retreat Results
March 8-10, 2006

Junior High AA

- 1st PCS – Torches
- 2nd Weavertown
- 3rd Pequea – Torches

Junior High A

- 1st Gehmans – Followers
- 2nd Shade Valley – Cedars
- 3rd LAWS

Junior High BB

- 1st Linville Hill
- 2nd Rockville – Gold
- 3rd Lambs Road

Junior High B

- 1st Greenwood
- 2nd Gehmans
- 3rd Cumberland Christian – Believers

Junior High C

- 1st York – Blue
- 2nd Greenwood – Flames
- 3rd York – White

Senior High A

- 1st Pequea – Kinsman
- 2nd Pequea – Sons
- 3rd Faith – Torches

Senior High B

- 1st Manheim – Truth
- 2nd Terre Hill – Torches
- 3rd Rockville – Fire

Senior High C

- 1st Delaware County Christian
- 2nd Greenwood – Torches
- 3rd York – Ice Cubes

Spelling Bee

Mt. Calvary
Christian School
March 17, 2006



5/6th Grade

- 1st Evan Watson, Belleville Mennonite
- 2nd Annie Lowenthal, Chalutzim Academy
- 3rd Meredith Lashley, Perry Hall Christian

7/8th Grade

- 1st Austin Beiler, Linville Hill Mennonite
- 2nd Rachel Kennel, West Fallowfield Christian
- 3rd Dawn Mellinger, Ephrata Mennonite

Team Results (5-8 grades)

- 1st Belleville Mennonite
- 1st West Fallowfield Christian
- 3rd Kraybill Mennonite

Track Meets



Shippensburg State
Univeristy
May 2 and 3, 2006

Check the MACSA
Website for track results.

Go to: www.macsaonline.org and click on the
Student Activities Link.



The quiz passage for 2006-2007 is Acts 1-8.
Check the MACSA website for the
Bible Quiz-a-Thon schedule
as well as the *Finish the Verse* list.