

Keith sends out an E-devotional to about 1,300 coaches and friends. If you would like to receive his E-devotions, contact Keith at his E-mail Address: [keith@scorebaseball.org](mailto:keith@scorebaseball.org)

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### The Accidental Grinch



The year is 1956, the location is a small house on a graveled road about half a mile from the highway. There's electricity but no plumbing or running water in this tiny, rural Kentucky home.

I'm five years old and my brother is seven. We sleep in the same bed. This particular morning, he is the first to wake up and yell, "It's Christmas!"

We both bolt out of bed; Tom is bigger and faster. We race to the Christmas tree; and in my haste, I clumsily stumble into the prized gift Santa left for my brother—a drum. Now, there's a big gaping hole in the much-anticipated instrument. I am the Grinch who stole my brother's Christmas. His excitement and joy is gone.

Children have always had trouble containing their excitement especially on Christmas morning; but as adults, we should always focus on keeping "the main thing, the main thing." The ancient men from the east were much more mature and, well, wiser. Before they presented their gifts to the Christ child, Matthew tells us that they bowed down and worshipped. They understood, to a degree, that the star led them to a magnificent Treasure, the King of the universe, the Creator of all that is.

Sometimes, I get the giving and receiving before the worship and the joy. Join me this Christmas in being overjoyed in worshipping the Greatest Gift to humanity: Christ our Savior.

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced...  
when they came into the house,  
they saw the young Child with Mary and fell down  
and worshipped Him.  
They presented unto Him gifts:  
gold, frankincense and myrrh.  
Matthew 2: 10-11*



*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given  
Isaiah 9:6*

*Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.  
Romans 7: 21*

Many years ago, we were adopted by a local barn cat that we eventually pampered, fed, housed, nourished and loved. He is a large, beautiful tabby colored cat; I even had him neutered so he wouldn't fight—he always seems to get the worse end of a catfight. We named him Meowgy because it just seemed to fit. He is a great mouser, but he cannot be trusted.

Meowgy stays outside most of the time. But, as the weather gets cooler, he's allowed inside more. He is quite a character and will throw himself at our feet purring and rubbing his huge head against our ankles. But, if we don't watch him, he is likely to take a nasty nibble out of an exposed toe. He'll climb up in our laps on cold nights; but if he falls asleep and we pet him, he'll quickly sink his sharp teeth into our exposed skin. It seems like we are constantly fussing at him. I suppose it's his way of letting us know that he is still in control.

What is so baffling is doesn't he know how much we love him? We house him when it's cold; we feed him when he's hungry. Why doesn't he appreciate all we do for him? Why does he return to his old fighting ways when all we offer him is unconditional love?

But, I must admit that sometimes I copy Meowgy's rebellious actions. I find excuses not to walk as God instructs. I'm often too busy to read my Bible; I lose my patience when someone does not do what I want him to do; sometimes, I even find it hard to forgive.

Paul cried out to the Lord: "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate, I do." (Romans 7:15) His confession is an honest cry that could apply to most of us. Sometimes we are weak and struggle with our walk; sometimes we don't think He hears our prayers, and often we don't even know how to pray. But we must remember that Jesus loves us and is there to keep us from falling back our old ways. "... the Spirit helps us in our weakness." We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him..." (Romans 7:27-28)

We have adopted a lively rescue dog that loves to taunt Meowgy, and we are amazed that Meowgy hasn't torn into Lucy who is not much bigger than him. Perhaps Meowgy has finally met his match; but, unfortunately, I doubt he will truly leave his ole grumpy cat habits.

Although Meowgy looks sweet and playful, he refuses to totally accept the role of a domesticated house cat. Lucy feels it's her duty to keep Meowgy humble.



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 **SCORE International is a non-profit mission ministry. Our goal is to introduce baseball coaches and players to short-term mission work. We need a strong "Home Team" to become the financial backbone for our walk with SCORE. If you are not already a member of our "Home-Team", would you consider providing financial and prayer support on a regular basis?**

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This past summer, Keith recruited a college/H.S. team to compete and serve for a week in the Dominican Republic.

*"I do all this for the sake of the Gospel,*

*that I may share in its blessings."*



Bagdad Baptist Church

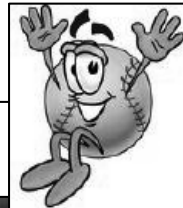
This year we had 25 ladies attending the Dominican Republic Baseball Outreach Nov 6-10<sup>th</sup>. We spent time doing Christmas crafts with children from Emmanuel 's (elementary school) and Pasitos de Jesus (a girls' home) and we enjoyed shopping, relaxing and socializing at the Lily House.

A small church in Bagdad, KY sent 15 eager workers to help us spread Jesus' love and compassion.

Each morning, while we women worked our mission trips, the 160 American men conducted free baseball clinics and shared God's Word with the campers. Over 5,000 Dominicans heard the Gospel during this short mission trip.

In the afternoons, many took non-perishables to various small sugar cane village or visited other orphanages.

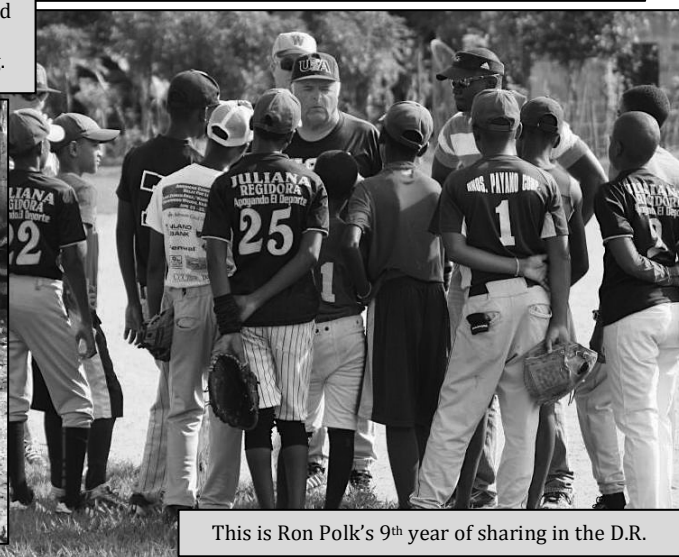
We came back to the states very tired but also very blessed.



Feeding a village



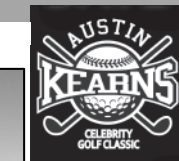
The free Baseball Clinics conducted each morning.



This is Ron Polk's 9<sup>th</sup> year of sharing in the D.R.

*When you give to the needy,  
do not let your left hand know  
what your right hand is doing...*  
Matthew 6:3

1 Corinthians 9:23



The Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Austin Kearns Celebrity Golf Classic was another fun day. A-Keith and Austin have worked together for 12 years on this fundraiser. B-Marilyn Swaim was a true trooper, again. C-The winning team was (L-R) Jimmy Rose, (Keith), (Austin), Ron Oester, Craig Snipp & Sean Coughlan

### Get in the Game Dinner

- 1- UK Head Baseball Coach, Nick Mingione, was the featured speaker at the Get in the Game Dinner Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 2- Asbury Head Baseball, Coach Manny Cervantes, brought his family, (L-R) Jami, Mia and Jacob, to the celebrations.
- 3-Dave Baker was once again the entertaining MC for this event. He's a Pro!
- 4-Max Appel (in middle) accepted the 2016 Doug Flynn Kentucky First Award for selfless service by long time friends Doug Flynn and Keith.



### Opportunities to Share Christ

(a small synopsis of Keith's upcoming activities)

- Dec 9-10—Baseball Country Coaching Clinic in Tuscaloosa, AL
- Dec 19—SCORE Fundraiser at Chipotle Restaurant in Lexington, KY
- Dec 20—Fury Baseball Clinic in Chattanooga, TN
- Jan 4-8—ABCA Coaches Clinic and SCORE/FCA Breakfast
- Feb 10—First Pitch Banquet at Univ. of the Cumberland
- Feb 19-20—SCORE Fundraiser in Tampa, FL
- Feb 21—Warner Univ. Chapel in Lake Wales, FL
- Feb 27—Collins H.S. leadoff Dinner in Shelbyville, KY



*Sing to Him a new song;  
play skillfully,  
and shout for joy.*  
Psalm 33:3

### Please Pray For:

- \*\*Bill Miller, Head baseball Coach at PRP H.S.—Cancer
- \*\*Steve Tompkins, Former Coach at Trinity H.S.—Cancer
- \*\*Bill Hollowatty, Former Head Coach at Eastern Conn.—Cancer
- \*\*Danny McDonald, Trainer at St. X H.S.—Cancer
- \*\*George Rawlings, Rawlings Foundation—Cancer
- \*\*Mike Cassity, WKU Assit. Football Coach—Cancer
- \*\*Terry Mobley, Former V.P at U.K.—complications from back surgery
- \*\*Bud Daniel, former Head Baseball Coach at Wyoming & WWII Marine Fighter Pilot—health issues
- \*\*John Butler, Former UK Assit. Baseball coach—the passing of his mother
- \*\*Norm DeBriyn, former Head Coach at Arkansas—passing of his son
- \*\*Trey Bailey, Dir. of Ministries at SCORE International—the passing of his mother
- \*\*Sherry Jones, dear friend and neighbor—a blood clot in her leg

