



## RIVER VALLEY FCA CLIPBOARD

**VOLUME 10**

**OCTOBER 2007**

**ISSUE 6**

### Lessons From Row 16

**READY:** "Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform."

-Romans 4:20-21

**SET:** When the Kansas City Chiefs played their season home opener against the Minnesota Vikings, I was blessed to be able to go to the game and enjoy seats just 16 rows up from the field. Not only was this my first time at an NFL game, but also my first time in the loud and rowdy Arrowhead Stadium.

From opening kickoff, however, I discovered a trend. No matter how the Chiefs did on the field, no matter what play was called, regardless of its success or failure, most Chiefs fans around our section thought they could be a better coach. Through all four quarters they barked and complained. If Chiefs Head Coach Herman Edwards didn't like his quarterback on the field, there were plenty of armchair quarterbacks to choose from in the stands. By the time the game was over, however, the Chiefs had earned their first victory of the season. And I walked away with two lessons...

Have you ever been on a team and doubted your coach? Have you ever joined in with teammates in criticism? Maybe ask the question, "What in the world are you doing?" only to follow that with, "If I was coach..."

Athletes, the coach is the head of the team. You might



not like what he or she is doing. You might disagree with some of their approaches or reasoning, but you have to respect and trust they are capable of leading your team. In my seven years of high school and college varsity athletics I've personally witnessed a team's success hang in the balance as athletes didn't believe in their coach.

Just as athletes doubt their coaches, we too, often doubt God, His plans and His purpose. Ever catch yourself saying, "What in the world are You doing, God?" Life has the ability to present us with a variety of moments where we can choose to believe God is capable of leading us or doubt He's even in the game.

If you're an athlete, trust and respect your coach. Stand up and show your teammates, parents and administrators your coach deserves it. And if you find yourself doubting God, be reminded today that He is always in the game. His recruiting, practices, play calling, substitutions and decisions are in your best interest. He will lead you to victory.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Danny Burns is the Manager of Online Ministry at FCA's national headquarters in Kansas City, Mo. After serving as a Huddle Leader and varsity distance runner at Northwest Missouri State University, he now has a passion for using the internet to inform, empower and equip coaches and athletes to grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ. He, his wife, Ashley, and their dog, Tweak, reside in Independence, Mo.



**NEED TO TALK?**

**CALL COACH STREET**

**360-3354**

**OR**

**E-MAIL**

**streetfca@hotmail.com**



## Eating My Own Words

**READY:** "Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."  
-Proverbs 18:21

**SET:** Almost daily, without fail, someone will ask when I return from one of my barefoot runs: "So, how was it?" My usual response is: "WONDERFUL!" It really doesn't matter what the weather, or how I'm feeling, or any number of things--the truth is that 99.9 percent of every run is wonderful! After all, I get a chance to feel the ground and experience all the sensations of the run whereas most shod runners can only guess what is under their feet. They don't get the opportunity to touch the various surfaces they traverse with the bottom of their soles.

For me, the 0.01 percent of any difficulty or any negative part is not even worth talking about in light of the wonderful 99.9 percent of the run. For me to even mention the heat, or a rock that I stepped on that gave me a moment of pain, or maybe a goat-head sticker that I step on is not even worth bringing up. In a nutshell, what I dwell and focus on both in my thinking and my speech will color the way I feel about myself,

and also the way others perceive me. So, I figured out a long time ago that it is best to focus and speak positively whenever possible.

Several years ago when reading Proverbs, I was struck by a certain verse that deals with the tongue and its power. Proverbs 18:21 states: "Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." What this means to me is that I am confronted with two choices each time I open my mouth: am I going to say something positive about someone and be kind and uplifting; or am I going to tear someone down or speak negatively about any given person, place or thing? The second part of this verse implies the consequences of my choice. It implies that I will "reap what I sow" and furthermore that I will be forced to eat the fruit of this conversational harvest! (Who would have ever thought that every time we open our mouths that we would literally be eating our own words?)

The Scripture has much to say about the tongue and its power. This relatively small appendage has the power to heal and to crush at the same time, depending on how it is used (Proverbs 15:4). James the brother of our Lord stated that ". . .no man can tame the tongue . . . it is a restless evil full of poison." James was right in his assessment, that no man can control the tongue, yet the Lord Jesus is He who died not only to sanctify the tongue but all parts of the body for His glory. All He asks is that we turn our body, soul and spirits over to His loving care, and He will begin that wonderful transformation of not only how we speak, but how we think and feel toward ourselves and others.

This begs a question: what kind of aftertaste do our words leave in our mouths? Do we feel uplifted after our casual encounters with others, or do we feel "slimed" and regretful of words spoken hastily. The Lord Jesus wants us all to feel refreshed and uplifted by our conversational encounters with one another. It is very simply our choice to experience a time of feeling physically, emotionally and spiritually drained, or to be lifted up to soar with our Lord on the power of life-giving words.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Barefoot Rick is an accomplished barefoot marathoner, having completed 30 barefoot marathons in the past four years. He has run thousands of miles barefoot and speaks to athletes and church groups throughout the Kansas City area while raising donations for the homeless. Barefoot Rick publishes a weekly column on his website at [barefootrunner.org](http://barefootrunner.org) entitled "The Bare Soul."



Check It Out!!!!!!

[www.timeoutsports.org](http://www.timeoutsports.org)

Coach Street's website -

Tell your friends!

