

Bi-weekly, Keith sends out an E-devotional to about 1,000 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 Final Game

After Elvis Presley reached "the top" and was known world-wide as "the King," a reporter asked him, "How does it feel to have fame, wealth and basically anything you want?" Elvis answered, "Alone."

After spending 25 years as the head baseball coach at the University of Kentucky, I had just finished coaching my last home game. We had won, but there was a sadness and loneliness I had never felt before. Most of my family was there, many friends were there. One friend, Emmett Carney, had driven all the way down from Indianapolis on a week-night just to be with me as I coached my last home game. The media was certainly there. As always, I gathered my team together in the outfield before addressing the media; then I went to the dugout to field questions from the press.

Halfway through the interviews, I couldn't help but think, "In a few minutes I'm going to pick up my clipboard and fungo bat and walk through the gate to the locker room for the last time." I thought, "Maybe my sons will walk out with me like they did when they were little boys. That would keep me from being alone and feeling sad."

The last question was asked, and as I took the final step out of the dugout, I looked down the right field line and saw my entire team and coaching staff waiting for me! It brought a smile to my face to think that someone thought enough of me to tell their teammates, "Let's don't let Coach walk of here for the last time, alone."

Someday, I will make a much greater transition and a longer journey. I will cross the chasm from this temporary life to eternal life. Once again, I will not be alone. If we have trusted Christ as our Savior, He will take us by our right hand and lead us. It reminds me of an old song we use to sing at our little country church when I was a boy called "I Won't Have to Cross Jordan Alone." Moses brings this comfort and assurance to us in Deuteronomy 31:6b: "The Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."



Our sons were raised on the UK baseball field. One of our last family pictures was taken at the UK field. Tyler (L) was a H.S. senior and Austin was a sophomore UK baseball player (1999)

**"Loneliness is the most terrible poverty."**  
 Mother Teresa of Calcutta



**"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him"**  
 Psalm 37:7

**"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity."**  
 Albert Einstein

It is finally my favorite time of the year: Spring. Baseball season begins, my long awaited perennials finally decorate the pale Kentucky landscape and budding tree blossoms grace the previous winter dormant limbs. Kentucky springs never repeat themselves and always offer a plethora of temperatures, but just watching the grass turning a healthy green hue gives everyone patience to endure the short but few unpleasant coolish days.

When Keith was coaching at UK, his free time to help me prepare our land for spring was limited; but since his transition from coaching to ministry, he has more time for yard work and I have happily delegated many tasks back to him. Our first task in the spring is to drive our riding mower into town for its annual tune-up; and it's always a bit scary wondering what we will find that took refuge in the mower's storage shed during the winter months. I had noticed a couple of large buzzards circling our shed area for the past few days, but none landed so we figured a field mouse must have died in the small barn. Were we ever wrong! When Keith removed the protective tarp and started the mower, a horrendous smell permeated the fresh spring air; and the corpse of a huge and partially decaying possum grotesquely dropped from under the raised mowing bed. Moving the mower was only half the work, and much to Keith's chagrin, he knew it was his job to transplant the rotting body. I climbed up a ladder fearing the worse as my hero bravely shoveled and disposed of the repulsively decomposing possum carcass. Immediately after removing the rotting body, we both ran to the house still gagging and shuddering and scrubbed our hands for at least 10 minutes in the hottest water possible.

Sometimes we have to handle issues that demand strength and courage. Being a parent is a blessing, but sometimes the daily demands of parenthood often make us forget God's gift to us. Being a coach's wife can be rewarding, but sometimes the demands of wins and losses makes us forget God's provisions for us. Being a Christian gives us the opportunity to enlarge our family of godly friends, but sometimes friends disappoint us and make us forget Jesus' example of forgiveness he showed us.

The Bible gives us many promises and lessons. We are promised strength in **Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength." We are told how to overcome weakness and defeat: "Look to the LORD and His Strength; seek His Face always." (**1 Chronicles 16:11**) And specifically as women, we are taught how to prepare ourselves for difficulties. "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." (**Proverbs 31:25**)

Our first difficult task of the Spring season has been handled successfully; but that does not guarantee that the rest of the season will not offer more challenges for us to handle. But isn't that what makes life so interesting?

It was a task not just anyone could handle; yet, it had to be done; and luckily, I wasn't the one who had to do it! Now, we are ready to face the challenges of spring!

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." Anais Nin

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## Save the Date August 29th, 2011



What: Keith Madison Golf Classic & Silent/Live Auction  
 When: Monday August 29th--noon  
 Where: Lake Forest Country Club, Louisville, KY  
 Why: To benefit SCORE International Baseball Ministry  
 Hosted by: Dan McDonnell- Univ. Louisville Baseball Head Coach

Official website: [www.keithmadisongolfclassic.com](http://www.keithmadisongolfclassic.com)

## Save the Date October 10th, 2011



What: Austin Kearns Celebrity Golf Classic & Silent/Live Auction  
 When: Monday October 10th--noon  
 Where: Greenbrier Golf & Country Club, Lexington, KY  
 Why: To benefit SCORE International Baseball Ministry  
 Hosted by: Austin Kearns-Indians

Official website: [www.austinkearnscelebritygolfclassic.com](http://www.austinkearnscelebritygolfclassic.com)

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

### Please contact Keith

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Even the youngest Dominican baseball player seems to instinctively master the skill of hitting. Boys ages 7-18 come to the November camps to learn more about the game of baseball; and they also hear the sharing of God's Word.





## Spring Training in Florida

March 10th-13th—Dan Lewis and Keith led a small group of men on the inaugural "Keith Madison's Spring Training Trip" in Tampa, FL. It was a short trip that included great fellowship, a message from SCORE's Director, John Zeller, prior to watching the Braves play the Yankees on Friday and then watching the Phillies host the Rays on Sunday.

(Left) One of Keith's former pitchers, **Joe Blanton** (Phillies) spent some time talking to the group, signing autographs and posing for many photos. It was a good weekend for the SCORE International ministry.



(L) Before the Phillies/Braves game, **Gio Librena** (Rays' chaplain) shared a devotional on the beach.

(R) **John Zeller** (SCORE Executive Director) gave his devotional in the stands after a game.



(R) Feb 6th, Keith addressed 300 men at the Immanuel Baptist Church (Lebanon, TN) Men's Superbowl Breakfast; then he shared his testimony during both Sunday services. (L-R) Pastor John Hunn, Keith and Woody Hunt, Head Baseball Coach Cumberland Univ. found time to discuss the game of baseball.



*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14*

## Sharing the Word in College Dugouts



The 2010 SCORE International College Baseball Team

This spring, many college coaches invited Keith to share his faith with their teams; he was also encouraged to invited players to join the SCORE International college team that will compete against some of the top Dominican baseball players. After competition on the fields, they will also experience the blessings of serving in a third-world country. This year's trip is August 8th-13th.



(L) Gary Henderson enters his 3rd year as the Head Coach for the Univ. of Kentucky; he has helped transform the pitching staff into one of the nation's best.

(R) David Jarvis enters his 14th season of coaching at Belmont; his Bruin baseball team competes at the top of the Atlantic Sun Conference.



(L) Former UK Baseball player, Matt Bragga, is the Head Coach at TennTech Univ. His father is his assistant Coach. Matt was the 2010 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year.



(R) Another former UK player, Jan Weisberg-BirminghamSouthern-Jan was 2010 Alabama College Coach of the Year. BSU is currently ranked #10 in the Nation.



(L) Rusty Stroupe has been the Head Coach at Gardner Web for 6 years. He also has a heart for missions and finds time to write a weekly column for the local paper.



(R) Dan McDonald- Univ of Louisville- is in his 4th season as Head Coach; he was Coach of the Year in 2007 and he led his team to NCAA appearances in 2008, 2009 and 2010.



Eric Saar (former UK player of Keith's) and his wife, Beth, hosted a fundraising luncheon for Keith at the Pine Tree Country Club in Birmingham, AL Feb 1st. Pictured above (l-r) Katie & John Zeller, Pastor Chris Burns, Keith & Sharon, and Beth and Eric Saar.

*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. Luke 12: 48*

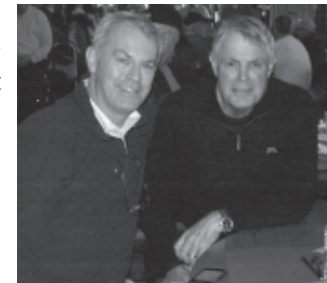
## The Passing of the Baton

Ron Bishop transferred the leadership of SCORE to new Executive Director John Zeller March 10th in Tampa, FL. Although Ron has stepped down from his position as Director, he has not retired from SCORE International and he will continue to speak to all about Jesus Christ.

SCORE International is excited to present a new logo; and it was unveiled at the John Zeller's acceptance banquet in Tampa. "We are excited about the new look," said John. "We chose this logo because it represents our motto that you've got to go, and it encompasses **all** the ministries of SCORE International."



March 11th SCORE International held a Celebrity Golf Classic fund raiser at the Eagles Golf Club in Tampa, FL with Lou Pinniella as the host. Keith enjoyed spending time talking baseball with Lou.



Special friend, Cheryl Barker, celebrated the "Passing of the Baton" in Tampa with the Madisons. Cheryl's son, Bill, played outfield for Keith at UK in 1979-81; and Skip (her late husband) introduced Keith to SCORE International by inviting Keith on the first mission trip he had ever taken.

## Opportunities to Share Christ (A small synopsis of Keith's speaking engagements)

- \*Jan 20-21st —Spoke to 200 high school coaches at the Georgia Dugout Club
- \*Jan 26—Met with ministry leaders (hosted by the River Foundation) in Somerset, KY & discussed partnering to serve Christ in Appalachia.
- \*Jan 28-29th—Spoke to coaches at the BaseballCON Clinic in Louisville
- \*Jan 31st —Spoke to the Birmingham-Southern baseball team
- \*Feb 4th—Met with current UK head baseball coach, Gary Henderson
- \*March 6th—Spoke to over 300 men at Super Bowl Breakfast at Lebanon, TN Immanuel Baptist Church
- \*March 11th—Shared a devotional message to the SCORE International board and spoke at a golf tournament...a fund raiser for SCORE
- \*Feb 23rd—Spoke to a Middle School Baseball team in Winchester, KY
- \*March 1st—Spoke to the University of Kentucky baseball team
- \*March 3rd—Spoke to the campus FCA group at Covenant College near Chattanooga
- \*March 5th—Spoke at a Coaches Mentoring Conference near Atlanta
- \*March 19th—Spoke to Birmingham-Southern College Baseball team
- \*March 20th—Spoke to Univ. of Louisville Baseball team
- \*March 20th—Spoke to Birmingham-Southern baseball team in Danville, KY
- \*March 25-26th—Spoke at Coaches' Mentoring Conference in N.C.
- \*March 25th—Spoke to Gardner Webb Univ baseball team
- \*March 29th—Spoke to Tennessee Tech baseball team
- \*March 30th—Spoke to North Laurel H.S. baseball team—London, KY
- \*April 1st—Spoke to Belmont Univ baseball team—Nashville, TN
- \*April 2nd—Spoke to Jacksonville Univ baseball team—Nashville, TN

