



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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November 2021 Edition

“17 INCHES”

I read this story some time ago. Though, I was not present and because of space, I’ve shortened it some but considering all the biblical & political distractions and divisions going on in our world today, I thought it timely to share in our newsletter.

The Opryland Hotel hosted the annual *American Baseball Coaches Association* meeting back in 1996 in Nashville, Tennessee. Among the several guest speakers lined up for this event was a noted older, somewhat famous coach named John Scolinos. Coach Scolinos, at that time, was a 78-year-old, former college baseball coach that had retired five years prior.

After his introduction, Coach Scolinos appeared on stage, and to the surprise of everyone, he had “Home Plate” on a rope wrapped around his neck. He began his speech without even mentioning the obvious plate around his neck. However, about twenty minutes into his speech, Coach Scolinos said, “*You’re probably all wondering why I’m wearing home plate around my neck...*” then he said, “I may be old, but I’m not crazy. I just want to share with you baseball people some of my life lessons and what I’ve learned about home plate in my 78 years.”

Coach Scolinos asked the Little League coaches in the room. “*Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?*” Someone offered, “Seventeen inches?”, more of a question than answer.

“That’s right,” Then he asked. “How about in Babe Ruth’s day?” Another answered, “Seventeen inches?” “That’s right,” said Scolinos. “*Now, how about you high school, college & major league coaches, how wide is home plate?*” Again, a quick answer of, “Seventeen inches!”

“SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!” he confirmed, his voice bellowing off the walls. “*And what do they do with a Big-League pitcher who can’t throw the ball over seventeen inches?*” Pause. “*They send him Home!*” he hollered, drawing raucous laughter. “*What they don’t do is this: they don’t say, ‘Ah, that’s okay, Jimmy. If you can’t hit a seventeen-inch target? We’ll make it eighteen inches or nineteen inches. We’ll make it twenty inches, so you have a better chance of hitting it. If you can’t hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.’*”

The Coach Scolinos said, “*Coaches... what do we do when your best player shows up late to practice? or when our team rules forbid facial hair, and a guy shows up unshaven? What if he gets caught drinking? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him? Do we widen home plate?*” The chuckles began to fade as crowd of coaches grew quiet, the old coach’s message began to unfold. He turned the plate toward himself and, using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the crowd, point up, a house was drawn, complete with a door and two windows. “*This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline, we don’t teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We just widen the plate!*”

Pausing again, he pointed to the top of the house. He added a small American flag. “*This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast, and teachers have been stripped of the tools they need to be successful, and to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?*”



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Silence. He replaced the flag with a Cross. *“And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young children, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. Our church leaders are widening home plate for themselves! And we allow it.”*

“And the same is true with our government. Our so-called representatives make rules for us that don’t apply to themselves. They take bribes from lobbyists and foreign countries. They no longer serve us. And we allow them to widen home plate! We see our country falling into a dark abyss while we just watch.”

“If I am lucky,” Coach Scolinos concluded, “you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: “If we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; there is but one thing to look forward to ...” With that, he held home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside, “...We have dark days ahead!” **“Don’t widen the plate!”**

*In Christ’s service,
Bro. Bobby*

CHURCH NEWS!

East Cadiz Baptist Church was able to warm the hearts of approximately 110 people by giving them coats and blankets on two Wednesday evenings in October. Men, women, teenagers and children received something to keep them warm this winter along with a gospel presentation. What a wonderful blessing!



November Calendar Of Events

- 7– Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11– Veteran’s Day
- 15– KBC Pastor’s Conference
- 16– KBC Annual Meeting (Elizabethtown)
- 25– Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
- 26– Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	0	
Blue Spring	1,567.51	
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	973.05	
Canton	903.36	250.00
Cerulean	373.00	
Crossroads	0	
Delmont	450.04	
Donaldson Creek	789.91	
East Cadiz	608.22	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	590.30	
Locust Grove	734.00	
Maple Grove	400.00	
New Hope	176.79	
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	443.96	
Ponderosa	473.36	
Rock Front	200.00	
Rocky Ridge	297.00	
South Union	150.15	
Wallonia	0	
Misc. Income	600.00	1,940.48
Total	10,180.65	2,190.48

Interest NOW Acc.	3.52	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mev Fredenburg Assoc. Missions Fund		1,940.48

Subtotals	10,184.17	2,190.48
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Total income		\$12,374.65
Monthly expense		\$11,096.21

Regular Fund	
Beginning Balance	44,032.11
Interest Received	3.52
Gifts	10,205.61
Trans– Contingency Fund	(100.00)
Trans– OMC	
Trans– Building Maintenance Fund	(100.00)
Trans– Mev Fredenburg Fund	
Expense Checks Written	(9,982.28)
Ending Balance	\$44,058.96

Treasurer: Louise Fuller 10/25/21



*Calvin Bryant– 11/6
Steve Holland– 11/20
Hayla Swaw– 11/22
Ronnie Sivells– 11/24*