

I was intrigued by Diana Hansen's article in last week's Mission Center Update. I read about Gerald the giraffe to my grandkids too, when they were little people. But time has passed and Nick is now 14 yrs. old and Lucy is 12 yrs. old. I was recently on a book hunt to give them a book when we see them here in Calif. They are sports minded so I thought I would find a book about a coach with integrity, principles AND a Christian. I believed I hit winners but I wanted to read the books before I gave them to Nick and Lucy. The book begins in the 1920's and the person I was intrigued by was the Father of the Coach.

He was a farmer with four sons, they had lost two little girls. They worked hard but never had a lot. The Father made a practice of reading poetry and the Bible in the evenings to the family. On the occasion of the son's eighth grade graduation (the son who would be the Coach), he was given a \$2 bill and a small card. On one side of the card was a poem by Henry Van Dyke:

*Four Things a Man Must Learn to Do - If he would make his life more true: To think without confusion clearly, To love his fellow-man sincerely, To act from honest motives purely, To trust in God and heaven securely.*

On the reverse side of the card was a list of Seven Rules:

1. Be true to yourself
2. Help others
3. Make each day your masterpiece
4. Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible
5. Make friendship a fine art
6. Build a shelter against a rainy day by the life you live
7. Pray for guidance and counsel and give thanks for your blessings each day.

The son and future coach embraced the card and kept it with him his whole life almost to the age of 100 years. The Coach lived his beliefs that had been taught by the Father. The seven rules would be learned by all those he coached - because he lived them. The Coach would be chosen as the #1 coach on the list of 100 greatest coaches of all time. When you read the books you will understand that Coach John Wooden, of PAC 12 and UCLA fame, was a man of integrity, principles and a Christian. I hope Nick and Lucy embrace his Pyramid of Success and remember one of his quotes:

*Talent is God given - be humble, Fame is man-given - be thankful, Conceit is self-given - be careful.*

From Wink