

## COACHES

We witnessed the salvation moment of 12 of these coaches

### YOUTH

**Tony Britt**  
Former Kent St FB / Kent

**Rob Eggers**  
Former Indiana BB/ Indy

**Andy McCollum**  
Former NFL / St. Louis area

**Alan Mitchell**  
Former NFL / Streetsboro

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Barry Chamberlain**  
Texas - Basketball

**Jeff Gough**  
Hudson FB

**Jeff Hildebrand**  
WRA football

**Stephen Laird**  
Streetsboro BB

**Scott Meech**  
Smithville BB

**Keith Nelmon**  
Cuy. Falls Track

**Tony Overton**  
Glenville FB

**Ryan Riggs**  
Wrestling

**Josh Timmons**  
Middlefield Cardinal BB

**Jared Villars**  
SVSM Wrest.

**Brandon Wallace**  
Akron Ellet

**Jason Wallace**  
Akron Coventry BB

### COLLEGE

**Matt Futch**  
Radford U Asst BB

**Brady Hoke**  
U. of Michigan Head FB

**Gregg Marshall**  
Wichita St. Head BB

**Willie McGee**  
Chowan U BB

**Jerome Moss**  
Akron U/Wayne BB

**Tony Stockman**  
Ohio Christian U Head BB

**Zach Spiker**  
Army (West Point) Head BB

**Brian Walsh**  
Xavier U Asst BB

**Brandon Weems**  
Oakland U. Asst BB

### PRO

**Rich Dauer**  
MLB/Minor manager

**Greg Schiano**  
(Formerly) Tampa Bay Bucs

**Wyatt Toregas**  
Pittsburgh Pirates

### OLYMPIC

**Nate Reinking**  
British Olympic Basketball



## SHAWN AND MOLLY LAZARUS

Shawn has been an associate director with TEAM JAM for over 7 years now. He has been a chaplain of the Akron Aeros (AA, Indians), initiates ministry to the Michigan U. FB team, mentors local HS athletes, and initiates speaking opportunities with HS football teams in Ohio and neighboring states. He and Molly also team up, along with their 5 children, to direct Safety City in Canal Fulton for kindergarten students. All this is done while he travels in his private business as an energy performance sub-contractor. He also continues ministry among peers, employees, local workers and TEAM JAM athletes he works with during these trips, significantly impacting their spiritual growth

Additionally, Shawn and Molly succeeded in finding a larger home and property in which they can host and use to impact other families. The large property has potential similar to that which Kevin Sunde transformed his property to be used for. Having witnessed the many ways Kevin has unselfishly shared his home and grounds with the community has long been a model for Shawn and other athletes that have benefited from observing.

**“SUCCESS” IS THE UNSELFISH USE OF ALL RESOURCES TO HONOR GOD AND INVEST IN OTHERS.**

## PRO BASEBALL

John completed his eleventh year as chaplain for the Cleveland Indians minor league teams, this season and Shawn his seventh.. This year, John, Shawn and Al Schierbaum (state director of FCA) teamed up to minister to the Akron Rubber Ducks (formerly the Akron Aeros). We have access to most all the Indians draft picks and continue relationships thru their rise in the organization. This long term consistency has allowed us to witness these young men grow spiritually, infiltrate the major leagues, change careers, become coaches, and even better, return to their communities and coach, work, or invest in young people. Some of these are **Josh Holden, Cody Strait, Drew Sutton, Wyatt Toregas, Ben Zobrist**. Though most of these men are still growing toward spiritual maturity (as many of us are!), there have been significant steps made by all of them. Current and past Cleveland Indians include: **Jamey Carroll, Trevor Crowe, Chris Gimenez, Tony Sipp, Drew Sutton, Josh Tomlin, and Wyatt Toregas**.

Because of Baseball Chapel, we now have relationships with over 190 current and former minor league players including 12 that are still in the majors, and 15 professional coaches. We have begun focusing more of our baseball efforts on those who are assimilating back into their communities than those who are actively playing because of the need for direction, encouragement and substantial opportunity to use their influence

## FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS

The core of our ministry support comes from four churches. Their combined support equals \$11,000. West Hill Baptist (Akron) has faithfully supported the longest (since 1991). Medina First Baptist has been our most generous supporter, since 1994. Hope Community (Hudson) supports us generously and is the home church of the Saucier's, and Maranatha Bible Church (Green) has very generously supported Shawn's ministry when requested and is the where the Lazarus family worships. Faith Baptist (Streetsboro) frequently allows us to use their church gym for outreach. These churches have been at the center of many of our greatest moments.

## FINANCES

Early on, one of our goals was to secure full time financial support for staffing, especially for John. However, seeing that John had flexible hours at his employment that provided ministry opportunities, he chose to minister during the daylight hours and "fit" his full time occupation in on the "side". For 24 years John has "fit in" work as a Juvenile Corrections Officer. Shawn "fits in" his "C-3 Crew" construction company. Dante Booker "fits in" his fireman/paramedic career. Jason Wallace works full time in management at First Energy, and Brandon Wallace is a supervisor at Coca-Cola.

Though that was never our ideal plan, its replicable !!! Anyone can follow our model of serving God through your occupation, your family, and with your passions in your own communities. And soon TEAM JAM ministry will enjoy an influx of energy when John's retires from the detention center in July of 2016. Normal night time sleep patterns will be possible for the first time since 1990. .

Meanwhile, TEAM JAM's staff still serve without compensation. Our annual expenses are approximately \$25-30,000. Donations are used strictly to help us access and communicate with those we minister to. Please note that TEAM JAM participants are compensated when they make special appearances at events by additional honorariums by those individual organizations that are in addition to our primary outreach efforts..

## TEAM JAM WANTS TO VISIT YOUR CHURCH / EVENT / OR ORGANIZATION!!

We would like to help assist YOU and YOUR people in YOUR environment. By first meeting with you and/or your leadership, we believe we can act as a consultant in observing strengths and opportunities that already exist in your church and your community and help you to immediately take advantage of them.

We believe in ministering in simple, direct, inexpensive ways. We believe that Christ is the key ingredient in our efforts to make the greatest long lasting impact **From there**, we can provide an immediate influx of "staffing", energy and encouragement alongside you and your people. It begins simply with what you believe is your greatest need to minister more effectively. Then, as you observe the following steps, consider what we are ABLE to do to support what you are READY to do:

1. **Call John Saucier** at 330.352.4231. Get a more detailed description. of how we can help you.
2. **Invite John Saucier, Shawn Lazarus and/or Dante Booker** to meet with you and/or your leadership team. Our interview will help us assess hidden ministry opportunities as well as assist you in making your current efforts more productive.
3. **Share and pray about** your dreams/vision over the phone so we can research resources and ideas that may assist you.

When considering the costs of employing staff in today's economy, we believe **we are your most budget friendly option for the short term .....and the long term .....while training your entire church body (and the community) how to be your "staff", on a daily basis. All this can be done in exchange for negating our expenses to spend extended time ministering WITH you.**

These are some of the services that TEAM JAM can put at your fingertips:

Local school ministry,  
**Athletic teams,**  
Ministry to gov't leaders,  
**Involvement in community,**  
Outreach to "at-risk" youth,  
**Detention home outreach,**  
College Campus ministry,  
**Outreach events,**  
Counseling difficult situations  
**Empowering Executives**  
Camps (in the community  
and/or at church facilities)  
**Special speakers**



Feb., 2014 – when Johnny Saucier (with his mom Pam) reported to leave for Basic Training. John is now in the Ohio National Guard and ROTC.. He is one of four TEAM JAM athletes who entered our Armed Services over the past year.

## OTHER STUFF!

John's involvement in the lives of his own four children provide similar outreach opportunities. These include youth basketball, indoor and outdoor girls soccer, middle school track, high school track, Hope Community church's "Sports Plus" program and the church's AWANA program.

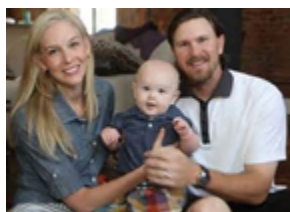
### DAVE SPOHN – Hudson HS



Dave is a Hudson HS teacher, president of his teachers union, a former coach, and helps lead the Hudson HS Leadership Conference. Dave is a faithful believer who found a way, AGAIN, for John to talk to speak and impact the 125 students who attended.

## Drew and Staci Sutton Feature

This story is shared as told in *The Providence Journal* by Tim Britton. Drew and his wife Staci, vulnerably share how they dealt with baseball, the isolation baseball caused, and their loss of their newborn daughter in July 2011.



Stacey and Drew Sutton son Ryder.  
Photo by Mary Murphy



Drew visits with our Cleveland area athletes

PAWTUCKET — It's about 2 ½ hours before the first pitch on a Wednesday night at McCoy Stadium, and infielder Drew Sutton is spending time with his family. His wife of 3½ years, Staci, stands serenely by the railing in one of the boxes down the left-field line as Drew showcases son Ryder, days shy of turning 8 months, around the field.

Even without the long brown hair Staci wishes that Drew would cut, Ryder looks more like his dad every day. He has the same blue eyes and the same face, especially when he smiles. He's also got a habit already of staring hard at you, for about three seconds, and then cracking up in laughter.

"I don't know that I've ever been with a couple that's happier as parents than Staci and Drew," says Carol Grant, who hosted the Suttons in Providence in 2011.

There's a good reason why. Drew Sutton's first Father's Day is a year later than he expected. The worst moment of Drew and Staci Sutton's life was supposed to be the best. It was that moment you get to clutch your baby to your chest for the first time, when the "Is this really happening?" idea becomes reified and real, when a lifelong dream for two people becomes true.

That's what it was supposed to be for Drew, a guy described by Yawn as "built to be a dad — a big, giant kid himself." That's what it was supposed to be for Staci, a woman for whom being a mom felt like a life calling. But in July 2011, Drew and Staci didn't get to hold their daughter Karsyn until 22 hours after she had been born. Until minutes after she had passed away.

"There's nothing that I can say that can explain how we felt," Drew says. "Just hopeless, empty and angry. Frustrated. Lost."

The trouble had started at 27 weeks, late May, shortly after Drew had been called up to the Red Sox — with an ultrasound at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. It was Staci's first ultrasound with Dr. Rafik Mansour, and it was supposed to be routine. Instead, it revealed a black spot of fluid on Karsyn's lung, about the size of a peanut. The doctors weren't too worried. Staci was.

"You know how teenagers feel they're just invincible?" she says. "That's kind of how I felt my pregnancy was. And then that happened."

Staci's checkups were weekly in June. In early July, the doctors tapped Karsyn's lung to remove the fluid, which surprised them by returning the next morning.

"It was not just fluid," Mansour explained. "It was a certain type of fluid that has a little bit of fat in it. We did not know exactly where that originated from and why it happened."

Even then, the prevailing thoughts from Drew and Staci were positive. At the very least, Karsyn would be easier to treat out of the womb than in. She might need to spend a few weeks, maybe even months, in the hospital after she was born. They understood that.

On July 23, Drew was with the PawSox in Buffalo when he got the call from Staci. Her water broke, she said. You need to get here now. Drew got to the hospital about five minutes after Karsyn was born.

"She comes out, she's screaming and yelling," Staci remembers. "The prettiest sound I ever heard. Instant tears. It was one of the best moments of my life."

"We're unbelievably excited that she's here and she's aware and awake," says Drew.

Her name is Karsyn. Staci had always liked masculine names for girls, and they had first scrawled out the unorthodox spelling on a napkin at an Olive Garden that spring. Karsyn was quickly whisked away to the neonatal intensive care unit where her lungs could be monitored, as expected. Drew and Staci visited her late that night while she was on a breathing stabilizer in an incubator.

"She's kind of laying there, having help breathing. And I say something, and she instantly looks up, like she knows my voice. She knows me," Staci says. This is the first time she cries when telling the story.

"I put my hand in there, and she grabbed my finger. That's the first time you really start to feel like a dad," says Drew. "She was here."

Early the next morning, the Suttons were woken by the news that Karsyn's lung had collapsed. Drew and Staci rushed down to the NICU, only to watch helplessly as doctors tried whatever they could to save their daughter's life. They prepped Karsyn for one last procedure, one last try to help her breathe on her own.

"She just crashed," says Drew. "It just turned into chaos." The doctors at one of the nation's most prestigious hospitals couldn't stabilize Karsyn.

"The best minds of the whole department, we're all scratching our heads trying to figure out a way of getting any better outcome," Mansour said. "Nobody could."

Born on July 23, Karsyn Estelle Sutton passed away on July 24. One day later, Drew and Staci walked out of the hospital, the two of them never lonelier.

"I felt cheated," says Staci. "I had never felt that anger. ... And I told God that I hated him. I told God I hated him."

The weeks and months after Karsyn's death were dark.

The Tampa Bay Rays' Ben Zobrist, Drew's best friend in baseball since they met in rookie ball seven years earlier, remembers the call he got from Drew the night Karsyn died.

"There weren't a lot of words," Zobrist said. "Just tears."

"When you deal with these things," said Yawn, who himself lost twins late in a pregnancy, "there's really no playbook. It's extraordinary pain."

Drew threw himself back into baseball (when) called up again by the Red Sox on July 26, two days after the death of his newborn daughter. He found himself playing third base that night, his mind numb. He admits the game helped him suppress his emotions for a time. Staci couldn't do that.

"I was not the same person," she says. "I didn't want to be around anybody. The whole time, I was, 'I just want to be with Karsyn. I want to be in heaven with my daughter.'"

The two saw only one solution: to try again. The doctors told Staci to wait six months. Having never discerned a reason for Karsyn's health problems, they couldn't assure her that the same thing wouldn't happen again. One doctor even told the Suttons there was a 25-percent chance it would happen again — a statement that, nearly two years later, still makes their blood boil.

"When you get to that amount of pain in your life," Drew says, "death doesn't seem like that big of a deal. It's such a deep hole that you're in, such a dark place. All the things you were hoping for were just taken away from you." (continued on next page)

## NUMBERS

<b>Discipleship Goals</b>	
12	= 28
70	= 79
120	= 114
500	= 120
<b>Pro Baseball</b>	= 190
<b>Pro Football</b>	= 50+
<b>Pro Basketball</b>	= 30
<b>All Pros/All Sports</b>	= 335
<b>Educators</b>	= 31
<b>Youth Coaches</b>	= 42
<b>High School Coaches</b>	= 87
<b>HS Football Chapels</b>	= 510
<b>Military</b>	= 25
<b>Adult Prisoners</b>	= 10
<b>Juvenile Offenders</b>	= 24,200+

## EDITOR'S NOTES ON THE SUTTON STORY

Almost 10 years ago, a former college classmate of John's, **Dave Cunningham**, told John of recently drafted **Ben Zobrist**. Ben was the son of another pastor in Illinois and was going to be playing in the Houston Astros system (baseball).

Since John was a chaplain in the same league as Ben's farm team, a meeting was set for when his New York city area based team would visit Ohio – but it was the same weekend that John was traveling out of the country. The opportunity seemed lost . . .

...However, Ben's "Tri-City" team and John's "Mahoning Valley" team both had a chance to meet again in the championship finals!! At Mahoning needed a long winning streak and both teams had to win their initial playoff series....and that's EXACTLY what happened - so John and Ben finally met at Chapel .

One year later, Ben and John met again over a post game dinner. Ben brought a friend a long - **Drew Sutton**. John and Drew met often after that; at Spring Training, in the minors, as a guest speaker at a church retreat for the first time, Shawn Lazarus visited them in Nashville, John visited in Cincinnati during his first major league season, when Drew ended up with Cleveland, after he met Stacy, at their wedding, and now with Ryder! **In August, they welcomed their second child, son Beckett.!**

*(part 2 of the Sutton story)* "I had to try again," Staci says. "That meant maybe losing another child. but I wasn't able to completely move on without trying again."

They waited until January, when Staci became pregnant with a boy. That wasn't the only difference in this pregnancy. Staci dyed her blond hair dark. She ate organic foods and took different vitamins. She stayed home in Dallas, away from Drew, for the length of the baseball season. She didn't buy anything for seven months. She couldn't bear the thought of having to return another pair of unused New Balance sneakers.

"I wouldn't let myself get emotionally attached," she says. "I was still waiting for those words, that something's not right."

"For us, there was no 'out of the woods,'" says Drew. "We had our baby in front of us, and then she was gone. It was a long, long wait to see if he was going to be healthy."

Away from his wife for the first time since they had been set up by a teammate after the 2008 season, Drew endured the longest season of his life, playing for 3 different organizations.

"I probably thought more about quitting baseball than I have in one season," he confides. In the final two months of her pregnancy, Staci's fear abated enough to allow her to decorate a nautically themed nursery for their son. He would be named Ryder, since Drew wouldn't let her name him Ryden, after her favorite country band. That fall, with Ryder's due date a week away, Staci underwent another Caesarean section to deliver him on Oct. 8. This time, they got to hold their newborn right away.

"They handed him right to me," Drew says, "basically saying, 'He's good.'"

"It was just kind of surreal," says Staci. "I have this beautiful healthy little boy, and he's coming home with me. He was just the most amazing perfect thing. I've never been happier."

"It was a long wait for Ryder to get here," Drew says. "A long, long wait."

You can see right through the clear water of the Llano River to its rocky bottom. On some land Staci's family owns on the river — a little west of Austin, a lot north of San Antonio — there's a pair of tiny waterfalls that come together. Karsyn Falls, they call it now, after the Suttons spread (her) ashes there. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about her," says Drew. "What she would look like right now, what she'd be doing."

**"I know she was only here for 22 hours, but I pray that her life has an impact on somebody," Staci says. "I may never know what it is or if it even happens, but that's my prayer. "I know one day I will see her again. My faith in Christ, I will see her again."**

Drew and Staci are better parents because of what they went through, they say. They acknowledge they appreciate Ryder more than they may have appreciated Karsyn had she been born healthy.

They are stronger people now, too, welded together by a hardship they only could have endured together.

"Pain is still pain," Drew says, "and there's only one way to get through pain, and that's to go through it."

They're back at McCoy, and with Ryder giggling in his arms, Drew isn't worried about that night's game with Charlotte, or how Jose Iglesias' emergence affects his chances of playing in the majors this season, or about going 0-for-4 the previous night. It's been a while since Drew Sutton has worried about an 0-for-4. He's happy to be home for a few more days and that the upcoming road trip is only four games and not the usual eight. Ryder won't change too much while he's gone.

So Drew's spinning Ryder around on his shoulders, and Staci mentions how she and her sisters have talked informally about a pregnancy pact, of all trying together at the same time. January, they're thinking.

"Maybe we'll have another daughter," she says, her voice simultaneously tinged with hope and a little nostalgia. She raises her voice a little in Drew's direction. "January?"

With Ryder in his arms, Drew looks at Staci. He stares hard at her, about three seconds' worth, then cracks up laughing.

## "KODAK" MOMENTS of 2014



(Left) Back in the day, **Alan Mitchell** was a starting receiver for the U. of Michigan and Bo Schembechler. He is now helping John direct the Streetsboro School's youth basketball program. **Derrick Tarver** and **Dante Booker** (on right), met up recently at Akron U. Derrick recently retired after 8 years as a pro basketball player in Europe. He played for TEAM JAM in high school and at Akron U.



**Greg Lewis** (First Baptist Christian) asked John to accept his award for him when he was named to Winthrop U's sports hall of fame in the Spring since he was still playing professionally in South America. Dante (who introduced Greg to John), and **Steve Sorenson** joined John in representing Greg, since they both played basketball with Greg for TEAM JAM. Steve now runs his own business (Sorenson Solutions in Charlotte and is originally from Hudson, Ohio.



**Jake Coyle** that John was crazy for pursuing him onto the ice in 2004 in his street shoes at our Hockey Camp practice. . But on that ice he prayed to make Christ His Savior. This past July, John officiated the wedding ceremony for Jake and Megan..(On Right), Former SVSM HS stars **Anthony Anderson** and **Romeo Travis** meet with John in August before Romeo left to play pro ball in Russia .Romeo is holding an Action Bible for his daughter.



**Chris Dennis** asked for help in mid-August in getting 3 students to college. All 3 students wanted to also play basketball. John / Chris did not compromise, insisting that they attend Christian college. All 3 agreed and all 3 colleges were generous with their financial aid packages (80% loan free aid for 2 of them). **Brandon Tucker** (above) is at Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville, Fla., **Desmond Hodoh** is at Bethel College (Ind), and **Larry** is at Ohio Christian U.