

Tuesday, July 26, 2005
Morning Devotion
By Mark Royer,
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I would like to dedicate this devotion to our head coach, Ken Barsa, who has been the coach of SPY Swimming for 28 years, and is retiring after this meet.

I think I speak for all of us when I say that we are truly thankful to be here today. We have worked hard to reach this level in our Swimming careers. However, we all know that it was not just our hard work that got us this far. We have been blessed with coaches, parents, volunteers, and team members who have supported us. The mission of the YMCA is to nurture our bodies, our minds, and our souls. What we have gotten from swimming has been much more than just great coaching and great athletics. We have learned from the examples before us to have mental discipline and focus. But most importantly, swimming has shown us that we should live our lives in service to others. This is what our faith teaches us, that we serve God by serving others. Our coaches, parents and volunteers are generous with their time and energy in their service to others. One especially stands out. Our head coach Ken Barsa has given 28 years of service to the swimming community. He has been a role-model for thousands of youth over the years. Ken Barsa earned the leadership of the YMCA Coaches Association on the national level for three years. He has built the SPY swimming program into a community where former swimmers return to coach and where parents continue as volunteers even after their swimmers have graduated. I have seen that I should give back because we have been so blessed with role models with Ken Barsa. I know what a blessing swimming has been to my life and to my community, and I am thankful to God, for blessing our lives with those we serve, and for those who serve us.

Let us pray.

Loving God, thank you for giving us the opportunity to be here today. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to always live our lives in your care and in your service. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.