

Tuesday Morning Devotions

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Fourteen years ago I swam my first race. During this week I may be swimming my last competitive races ever as I will be leaving for college in three weeks. Looking back on that race when I was four years old and the hundreds of races that followed over the years, I recognize the impact that swimming has had on my life. Yes, swimming has taught me dedication, commitment and perseverance. But more important to me than the best times achieved or numerous cuts made are the people that I have met through the sport. The people surrounding my swimming experience are really what have made it so important and influential in my life: Teammates, friends, coaches, parents, role models.

I don't remember every training set I have ever swam. But I do remember the people in the lanes surrounding me, and the coaches that have supported me. Whether it be hearing my teammate in the lane next to me yelling to keep going on a hard set, or my coach sitting and listening to me vent about my hectic day before practice, or the other parents of teammates who willingly adopt every swimmer as their own, the people in swimming have shaped and formed my experience in the sport.

My teammates have become some of my best friends and my coach one of the most influential role model in my life. Looking back on my fourteen years as a swimmer and many as a Y swimmer I am grateful for the experiences and lessons learned, and most important for all the people that have touched my life through the sport.

Now let us bow our heads and pray.

Dear Lord, Thank You for the incredible opportunity to attend and compete at this meet. Please watch over all the all the athletes and give us the grace and strength to perform to our full potential. Thank You for the people that have touched our lives: our teammates for their friendship and encouragement, our parents for their sacrifice and generosity and our coaches for training us and for teaching us. Thank You for the numerous gifts You have given us to see the fullness of Your love.

Amen.