

Dear Coach Brian and Coach Frank,

Thank you both for your work with Joshua and your words of encouragement this past week.

Particularly the Offensive Skills Camp this weekend was excellent, and probably was the best Basketball Skills education he has ever received. It was exactly what I was hoping for for him. I can see after these two sessions that it really is "all about the footwork." I think this experience alone will make him a better player. When we got home Saturday afternoon, Joshua disappeared for a while. When I looked outside, there he was already shooting hoops in the driveway utilizing the skills he had learned.

Coach Frank, I really think you are a preacher, and you do it with a basketball! As I mentioned to you on Saturday, although I am a Presbyterian Pastor, I attended a Catholic High School (Bishop Walsh High School in Cumberland, MD -- home of the nationally known Alhambra Catholic Invitational Basketball Tournament). Attending the chapel services on a daily basis and having a fine religious education played a formative roll in my call to the ministry.

At an even younger age, my first exposure to religious education and basketball came through a Sunday School Basketball League in West Virginia. This was an early introduction to two loves I would hold for life -- religious education and basketball. I Still remember my coach and Sunday School teacher to this day.

I have seen many young people reached for Christ through basketball, and it has played a tremendous role in my life.

If I were to build a new church today, I would begin with a multipurpose building suitable for both basketball and worship.

Anyway, just wanted to write to say thank you, and I look forward to seeing you in California when we move back there in four years or so

when Joshua graduates from high school. Hopefully I can come and watch De La Salle play. Maybe as the time gets closer we can ask you about colleges and basketball programs that would be a good match for Joshua.

California is near and dear to our hearts. My wife grew up in Orange County and attended San Francisco Theological Seminary in Marin County. Together we started a new church in Elk Grove (near Sacramento) in 1995. So I think before too long we will find our way back home -- perhaps Orange Ct or the San Diego area.

Anyway, that's a little bit about me and our family. I really appreciate the way you run the camp as mentors and men of faith. I hope this email address is good for both of you. If not, Brian maybe you can forward this to Coach Frank. It is a pleasure to see you both again, and I wish we weren't so far away so Joshua could work more with your program. I don't know if you remember, but Joshua won the Cindy Lowe Most Inspirational Player Award in 2009, and he never forgot that. It is still on his desk to this day. That meant a lot to him. Thanks again to you and your staff.

We will look forward to seeing you next summer, and even more so when we move to California permanently.  
Until then, may God's blessings and grace guide you.

Grace & Peace,

Jeffrey Cochran-Carney  
(Josh's Dad)