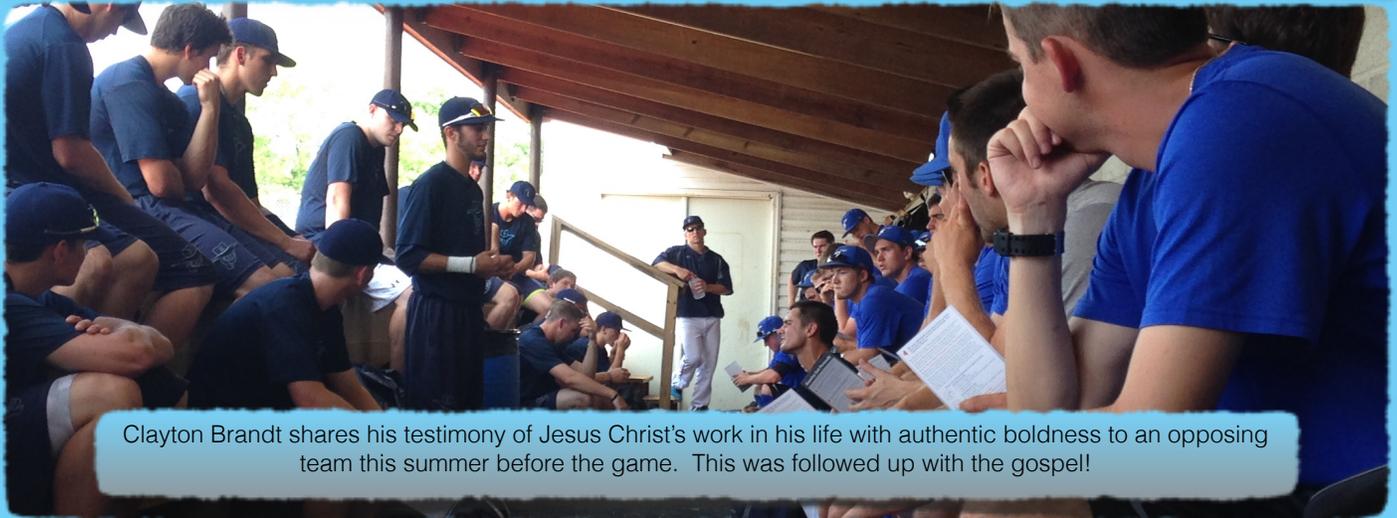




"FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES TO THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO TO THE GREEK." ROMANS 1:16 ESV



Clayton Brandt shares his testimony of Jesus Christ's work in his life with authentic boldness to an opposing team this summer before the game. This was followed up with the gospel!

Unashamed Savior

Shame can bring incredible terror into the one in whom it covers. Have you ever been ashamed of something? Think about how it made you feel, act, react or not act. Shame can be paralyzing. Guilt says, "You did something wrong." Shame goes after your identity and says, "You are wrong!" Shame cuts to the core of who we are. Many things can bring shame in our life. I would love to tell you more about how Jesus has taken me from places of shame in my life to places of honor but you will have to ask me.

In our culture we are taught: that it is wrong to believe in an absolute truth, we are labeled as intolerant, as narrow minded, we are shamed by our culture for believing in Jesus. He was the one who for the joy set before Him (us) endured the cross and scorned the shame (Hebrews 12:2)...Jesus is a shame-rejecter. He didn't let the shame of mocking, betrayal, hanging naked on the cross attack His identity, He rejected it.

This summer 800 hundred athletes all over the world were taken steps of learning to be unashamed of the gospel and share with other athletes in respective sports. I helped coach our Xenia Scouts Baseball team here in Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. For our college guys they took big steps of growth that said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel..." They shared their testimony and the gospel with about 200 college baseball players and coaches during our 42 game schedule. It wasn't easy but they are learning what the gospel is, how it applies to their life and to begin dialogues in dugouts with their peers. What a hope that the life transforming good news that Jesus can take them

from shame of our sin to the honor of being forgiven, cleansed and a child of God. Thank you for your prayers and financial support! Twenty-five men received deeply and gave it away to two hundred! How might Jesus be calling you to be unashamed of the gospel?

Unashamed Sanctifier

I have been on a personal journey with shame my whole life, learning how to reject it and let Jesus define my identity and not my imperfections or other people's view of me. It is quite a difficult task when you throw in sin, a fallen world, embarrassing events and the power of Satan and his demons.

Shame entered this world early in life right after Adam and Eve sinned they saw that they were naked and they were ashamed (Gen. 2:25, 3:7) so they covered themselves with fig leaves. God later replaced their fig leaves with a proper sacrifice. Since the beginning we have been trying to cover our shame with fig leaves and God has been trying to free us from the stain of sin and power of shame from it. In Jesus Christ he has provided an ultimate covering for our shame.

This summer my role for the team was to be an assistant coach, help drive one of three vans and throw batting practice. You would be surprised how much ministry can take place with such basic responsibilities. My van in which we traveled to 22 road games in became known as the "T-Grove van." We had a great time of getting to know one another, theology talks, Bible readings, fun games and they even taught me to enjoy some country music.

On our drive home I shared about how Jesus took me from shame to honor in my salvation story (How Jesus won my heart) but I ended up double clicking on the word shame and shared some of the sanctification process of how Jesus met me in the most shameful places of my life where I thought no one would ever love me. I took a really big risk. I had spent two months with these guys and developed good relationships with them. The timing was right and each guy began to open up and share some of the shameful things in their life. The Spirit of God was helping my guys take off their fig leaves and experience a community that loved them. It was a precious van ride home. We forgot how badly the loss of the game was because of the power of vulnerability and truth on our van ride home. Thank you for praying and being a ministry partner because I get to teach guys how to share the gospel and how to apply it to their lives. The shame and honor lens has power both in salvation and in sanctification.

We have someone who can take us from shame to honor. Jesus humbled Himself by leaving a place of honor at the right hand of the Father, to come down from heaven to earth and free us from shame. He lived a life of touching the untouchable lepers, hanging out with outcasts, adulterers, thieves, & liars. Jesus offered unconditional love that transformed them from places shame to honor. Then He died on the cross for our sins and scorned or rejected the shame. He overcame death and rose from the grave to a place of Honor. He went from the shame of the cross to the highest honor. Jesus understands shame and how to overcome. I have learned to trust him with my shame. What areas of shame in your life do you need to give Jesus permission to enter into?

He was unashamed to take my sins and asks me to be unashamed of His good news!

Nicholas Taylor Hargrove



Jordan Stading of University of Houston takes a step toward being unashamed as he shares the gospel!



T-Grove Van

SHOUT OUTS TO JESUS!

- Moved back in with the Uszynski family! (Slip N Slide with Maria & Jack see pic)
- 200 College Baseball Players heard a personal testimony and the gospel with an opportunity to give their life to Jesus Christ through the Xenia Scouts Team!
- My Next Generation Leadership presentation to our Executive Leadership Team is August 20. We have been working on increasing AIA's ability to reach "Every Athlete" Through Diversity"
- Thank you Jesus for four new team members for the SportLinc Team that I lead.
- Praise God for the increased SportLinc Budget!
- Need of \$800 a month of personal financial support (hook a brother up!)
- Prayer for me to get rested in September
- I became an uncle to Tommy David Cowan on Aug 2nd
- I should be home soon to visit, I would love to see some of you in Colorado.



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF SEEING CHRIST-FOLLOWERS ON EVERY TEAM, IN EVERY SPORT, IN EVERY NATION!"



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