



**SPORT OFFICIALS
SURRENDERED**

**WELCOME TO
REF CONFERENCE 2021**

THE AMAZING
Race

**WORSHIP BY:
JOSHUA KOCH MUSIC**



AUGUST 14, 2021
GRACE CHAPEL
ENGLEWOOD, CO

Welcome Message from S.O.S. founders Dan & Alicia DiFolco –

"Are You Ready?" "Start your engines!" "On your mark, get set..." "3..2...1" Have you heard these? I am sure you have, we all come from a sports background. We all know what comes next: "Go!" The start of a race is no doubt a full experience and one that doesn't just include race day. It is a process that requires training and absolute sacrifice if we want to accomplish the goal. This theme is right from the "Sunday School" playbook and comes from Paul's illustrative writings on running the race. Throughout the Holy Book we get several glimpses and comparisons of physical activity as it relates to our journey with The Way! I believe we all get IT, that the journey of life in every sense of the way feels like a race, especially in today's culture. Both Church and Secular Culture has formulated their own paths and speak out about the realities of the "Race" as we all are coming to the end faster than any of us will ever care to admit it. But those who have experienced the grace, love, power, and transformation of our Trinitarian God can fully understand better than anyone that when it comes down to it, there are only two races to be run: The "Rat Race" and the "Amazing Race."

Today, we gather because we all share one thing in common: all of our races have begun. The moment you and I took our first breath, the clock began to start ticking down. The end began to get closer and closer. I'm only 28 years old and yet there are days or moments where I absolutely feel it and see it, which means undeniably I am not alone in this feeling. "It," however is not the same to all of us. "It" is a fill in the blank for what the end of the race holds and represents to you. "It" is determined by what you've sacrificed, surrendered, focused and prioritized your training and preparation for. "It" has been your overall consumption of your mind, body and soul since you've been breathing. Yes, "it" will reveal what race you have been running.

What my experience has been since surrendering to The Way would be what some would call "mystical" in a sense. It has been an unexplainable experience that has tied in so beautifully with the professional and habitual practices of Refereeing. I am talking about the self-reflection that has happened, the constant self-critique and opening of oneself up to other's constructive feedback. The most effective review has always seemed to lead to more questions than answers. Seeking and knocking. That is why our goal today isn't to tell you what race you are running. We are not here to tell you that you are right or wrong. No, the prayer for all of us today is to enter into the seeking process.

It's an invitation not a demand, just as the "Amazing Race" is. Our team has dedicated a lot of prayer and preparation into today knowing that the decision and prioritizing doesn't belong to any one other than the self.

The outcome of today could look a lot different for a lot of us. I can illustrate it like this:

Some will walk into a gym, headphones on, all the right gear, pumped up and will walk around the gym a few times, spark a few conversations, pick up a few weights and hit a quick set of bicep curls then do a 10 minute low intensity walk on the treadmill, spark a few more conversations, barely breaking a sweat and then leave. While those who are deeply focused on an inner experience remain, most of the time quiet and in their own zone. Deeply concentrating, deeply seeking change, transformation and preparation for something greater than their current selves. So what type of training are you doing today?

Today, while we are so grateful you are here, we hold a deeper hope and expectancy of what will be available to you. It's greater than seeing old buddies and taking another referee focused trip. What we know will be available to you today is the opportunity to experience renewal, motivation, and a fresh wind. Our team has dedicated hours upon hours preparing a place for all of us to "Pit Stop" in our races and join together to enjoy a time of worshiping what matters more than anything else- Our Heavenly Father. Our team has prepared a place where all who are tired and burdened can come trade out their yoke for Jesus' whose "yoke is easy and burden is light." We prepared a place where you can take a moment and sit at the well and drink the living water with family and eat the bread of life in communion with others from around the country.

This year's conference has been a collaboration effort by many who have a deep love and passion for the transformative power of our Trinitarian God! God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit is alive and at work all around you, guiding you, preparing the way for you, and protecting you along this wild awe-inspiring race. While that race may feel more like a climb up Mt. Everest two times over for some of you, rather than a quiet stroll among still waters and green pastures, we are excited to pause with you and refuel. We pause in order to slow down, listen, and be still in the presence of the renewing breath of God. We pause to remind ourselves that the "Amazing Race" has the most brilliant prize, one of now and not yet! So take a seat, catch your breath, put your phone down and stop running. Take a seat next to Jesus, and prepare your mind, body and soul for a move of the Spirit!

I leave you with this prayer for you to pray today:

Living God, Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, All that is Seen and Unseen I come to rest in you today. May you take my mind and clear it, my body and rest it, and my soul and refresh it. You know the race I have been running and you know the leg of the race I am pausing from right now. Only you know what I need before I need it. So today I pause along with my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus to allow you to speak, to guide or redirect, ultimately for Your Glory Alone. Instill in me a lens of reflection for myself alone, for your glory alone. As the great spiritual director Walter Adams beautiful reminded us: "to walk with Jesus is to walk with a slow, unhurried pace because hurry is the death of prayer and only impedes and spoils our work, it never advances it." So Adonai, the Great I am, slow us down today so much so we can hear even the most beautiful and intimate whisper of your love. Amen!

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Dan and Alicia DiFolco



2021 SPEAKERS



CHIP SIMMONS

Chip was born and raised in Philadelphia, and has worked in the Phillies Baseball organization for 22 years. He served as Asst. Chaplain for the Philadelphia 76ers and Eagles for 2-1/2 years. He came on staff as Urban Director for FCA in Philadelphia in 1997, and moved to Colorado in 2001 to be FCA Urban Director in Denver. From 2001-08, Chip was the chaplain for the Colorado Crush, John Elway's arena football team. From 2007-10, he was also the chaplain for the University of Colorado football team. Chip has also done chapel services for the San Diego Chargers as well as many college teams; such as, Temple, William and Mary, Bowling Green, Nebraska, and Western State (Gunnison). After the Game Ministries was born out of a heart Chip has for professional and collegiate athletes. After the Game Ministries gives former athletes the tools and support needed to manage the game of life beyond the playing field through Bible studies, mentorship and discipleship.

JERRY SCHEMEL

Jerry grew up in Madison, SD, with his six siblings. He attended Washburn University in Topeka, KS where he played on the baseball team. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Communications in 1982, Jerry went to law school at Washburn University School of Law and earned his Juris Doctor in 1985. He has been both an assistant baseball coach and head coach, at the college level. He spent 10 seasons as a radio broadcaster for the Colorado Rockies, after 18 seasons in the same role with the Denver Nuggets. He and his wife of 34 years, Diane, live in Littleton, CO. They have two grown children, Maggie (DeRose) and Ryan.



DOUG SIRMANS

Doug is a prominent NCAA Men's Basketball Referee and works in many different conferences, to include: Big 12, Conference USA, MVC, SEC, American Athletic, Sunbelt, ACC, and the A-10. He has also worked 17 NCAA Tournaments to include 6 Sweet 16's, 7 Elite 8's, 7 Final Fours, and worked the National Championship Game in 2018. The other 6 appearances were National Semi-Final games. Outside of refereeing, Doug is married to his lovely wife, Tiv, and has 2 step children and 4 grandchildren.

JIM GROSHONG

Jim has a heart of pure gold and has served as a pastor for 30 years in Galispell, Montana and Seattle, Washington. He has traveled on numerous evangelical missions trips to Singapore, Philippines, Melasia, Mexico, Canada, and many other places. He has been married to his lovely wife, Millie, for 59 years and are both still madly in love! Jim has also been a high school basketball referee for many years and has a heart for the officiating community. He loves to help train new referees any time he can.



REF CON HOSTS

NATE & JESSICA HARRIS

Nate is an NCAA Men's Basketball Referee and works in many different conferences within the Western Officiating Consortium, such as: PAC-12, Mountain West, West Coast, Big Sky, WAC and Big West Conference. He has also been selected to work several conference tournaments and 3 NCAA Tournaments.

Nate and Jessica just celebrated their 15 year wedding anniversary and have two children, Grayson (10) and Rylee (6). They live together in Spokane, WA.

Jessica is a stay at home mom. Together, Nate and Jessica host MND, a Monday night devotional for sports officials across the world. In their free time they love to spend time with their kiddos on the water, soaking up the sun.



If you would like to join our MND prayer calls, please e-mail us at njharris1020@gmail.com, and we'll add you to our mailing list!



This is Jho from the Philippines. It seems to me that I was trying so hard to present a ministry to the referees to churches and sports organizations in the Philippines. I've always felt I was the only one doing this kind of ministry. And then I met Pat Fraher, and I got introduced to S.O.S. I immediately got excited about working with them, but the pandemic did not allow me to do that. When I heard about REF Con, I rushed into doing something

like that here in the Philippines, and with the help of Dan and Pat, we did REF Con Philippines last February 9, 2021. That was the first event for the officials here. Most of the events are for athletes and coaches, and, having that event was like heaven for us Christian officials in the Philippines. Everybody was so excited! The referees reached out and said, "at last, something for the referees". After, REF Con umpires have begun incorporating devotions into their zoom meetings. Today, we keep inviting people to guide us in devotion before discussing the rules of basketball. I am very thankful for SOS and Refcon because it has been used as a means to introduce a "referee ministry" to the churches here in the Philippines.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



ESPECIALLY TO OUR HOST PARTNER

Grace Chapel

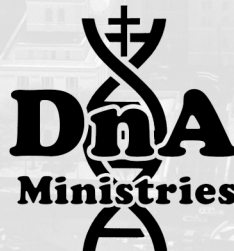


We'd also like to say **THANK YOU** to our friends who have given financially as well!

Anthony Gregory
 Alijah Gregory
 Bob & Carol Donaldson
 Lauren DiFolco
 Stacey Thomas
 Ed & Trudy Rush
 Debbie & Stan Williamson
 Vickie & Jay Hultberg
 Pat & Teresa Fraher
 Rose & Vince Kollar
 Joel & Emmalee Haywood
 Pat & Teresa Fraher
 Dave & Lisa DiFolco-Frizell
 Nate & Jessica Harris
 Pam & Brian Chamberlain
 Mike & Debbie Haywood
 Brian & Leanna DeHerrera

JD & Jenny Collins
 Doug Sirmons
 Ron & Sharon Nagasawa
 Will Gaelthe
 Randy Chamberlain
 Steve Chamberlain
 Nick Donaldson
 Wendy Avila
 Steve & Judy Lentz
 Jane & Vern Wagner
 Jessica Navarre
 Mike & Pam Curnow
 Larry & Lynn DiFolco
 Penny & Wayne Whitaker
 Linda Flores
 Tim Taylor
 Boyd & Arla Pickens

Jacob Petz
 Alika Arisumi
 Joe Fraher
 Jake Olivero
 Sutton Simon
 Omar Travieso





FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE ...

Please join us at the Breckinridge Brewery and Ale & Game House for some fellowship and appetizers!

**Food and drinks, other than appetizers will not be provided

**200 Inverness Drive W
Suite 100
Englewood, CO 80112**



REFCON *Store*

GET YOUR GEAR HERE!

sportofficialssurrendered.org/refcon



BAJA MISSIONS TRIP 2022

Sport Officials Surrendered (S.O.S) is very pleased to continue partnership with Baja Christian Ministries (B.C.M.), including the announcement of plans for our 2nd upcoming missions trip!

S.O.S. will be sending a team to Baja California, Mexico to join with the B.C.M. team for five days of serving through building projects, and participation in discipleship ministry and community evangelism. Sport officials and your spouses are welcome. Children aged 14 and older are welcome to accompany their parents as well.

B.C.M. is a multi-faceted outreach ministry with a mission to serve the spiritual and physical needs of the poor through the engagement of short-term mission teams in Baja California, Mexico. Physical needs of those living in inadequate housing conditions are met through their 'Casa de Dios' (House of God) house-building program, and their 'One Million Disciples' discipleship program meets the spiritual needs and builds strong faith foundations for those in the Baja peninsula.

A goal of B.C.M. is to evangelize and disciple one million souls and build 10,000 homes, church buildings and other projects.

For more information on how to sign-up for our Baja Missions Trip 2022, please visit: sportofficialssurrendered.org/bajamissions



SPORT OFFICIALS SURRENDERED
A FELLOWSHIP OF SPORT OFFICIALS

(360) 970-3116
2229 N Airport Rd Apt 2
Ellensburg, Washington 98926