

moments of integrity

JACOB MORRIS

March - April 2017

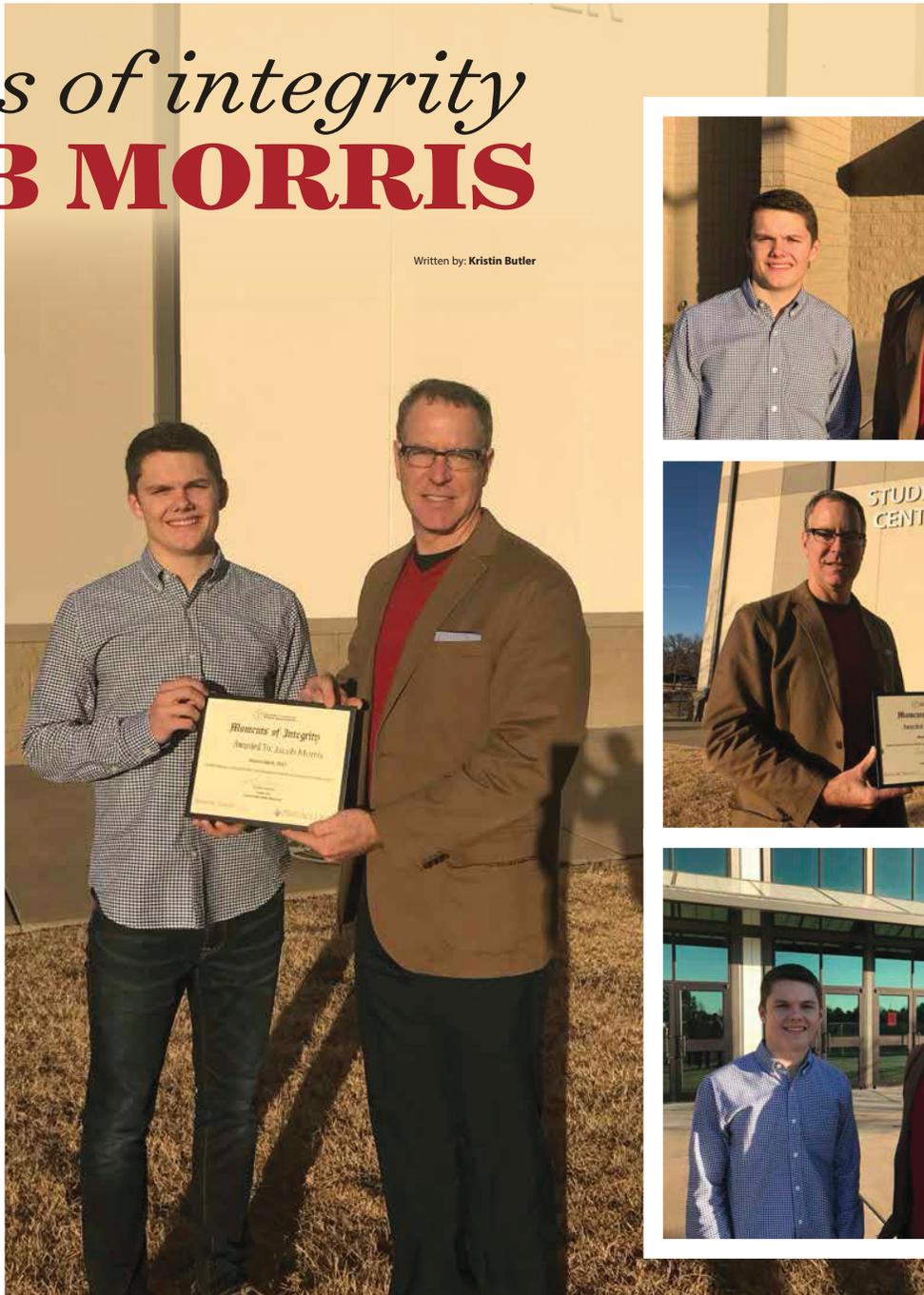
Acts of integrity do not ask for applause. But that itself gives good reason to recognize those who do have the honorable quality. Integrity Capital founder Brandon Simmons is always on the lookout for displays of integrity. He has seen it in athletes through their sport, and students through their academics. Recently, he recognized it in Jacob Morris, as he passionately spoke to his church about evangelism. Brandon was impressed by all aspects of Jacob's time on stage, and said he could just tell, "This is a young man that has some character and some integrity."

As a junior in high school, Jacob has an understanding of what integrity means. In Jacob's words, integrity is "a sign of maturity. Seeing things that need to be done and doing them. Not thinking out of your own selfish ambition. Going out of your way to do the right thing." Jacob has consciously set out to act with integrity day to day. He has especially shown this with his involvement in his church at Fellowship.

Jacob acknowledged that his character, and the person he is today, is partly due to the positive influences in his life. Someone who has impacted his life greatly for many years is his cell group leader, Joe Calora. "He's been with me since third grade," Jacob said. "He's been pouring into our lives since I was little. He really built... a good foundation of how we should be living our lives; outlook on life should be what we should be doing. And now I've been disciplined by him for I think two years now, so we're really close. Almost every day, teaching me new things about life and how to deal with stuff."

Brandon referenced the bible verse, "To whom much has been given, much is expected in return." The verse reflects the influence Joe has had on Jacob's life, and how, in turn, Jacob desires to do the same for others. "I learned that small group leaders like these guys are good

Written by: Kristin Butler



kids and athletes



people," Jacob said. "These are the people you aspire to be. So I really wanted to put on that role, not to put myself on a pedestal but to pass that on to these kids, because I know how much of an impact that Joe made on my life. I would love to do that with these kids."

Jacob put on that role last year when he started leading a third-grade cell group. "Every Sunday morning, we go up and hold small group for them, and just do as much as we can for them," Jacob said. This is his second year leading the group of now fourth graders and he doesn't plan to stop when he graduates high school. Jacob said he plans to move up with the kids even when he goes to college, and would love to continue to come to the services they are in.

Jacob spends Sunday mornings with kids his own age as well. Every Sunday at 11:00 he comes to hear a message and worship with about 200 people. Most of the students (about 80%) are in a cell group, which are small groups divided by gender, town and grade. Jacob is in the Rogers 11th group with about eight other guys. On Wednesday nights, they meet at someone's house to "hang out, eat food and dive into the word." The leaders decide what the group will study each semester. Jacob said last semester their group went along with the church, as they went through Joshua and next semester they are going through the book, "The Gospel Centered Life." Cell groups are also a good opportunity

...



Brandon Simmons, Lloyd Du Preez, and Brian Carneal of Integrity Capital Wealth Management would like to congratulate **Jacob Morris** for being this month's **Moments of Integrity** award winner.



Investments • Financial Planning • Wisdom
 4201 W. New Hope Rd., Suite 102 • Rogers, AR 72758
 479.878.8124 • brandon@integritycapital.com
 www.integritycapital.com

Brandon Simmons is a registered principal with and securities offered through LPL Financial member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Strategic Wealth Advisors Group, a registered investment advisor. Integrity Capital Wealth Management and Strategic Wealth Advisors Group are separate entities from LPL Financial.

for outreach. While Jacob has invited many friends to Sunday service, he said he has had a lot more outreach to friends in his cell group, because it's a lot smaller and laid back.

Jacob has also found joy in giving back through mission work. Every spring break, Fellowship offers international trips and they recently went to Puebla, Mexico. On the trip, Jacob said they went to a rundown village near a volcano, and renovated soccer fields and fixed up a playground on the huge field there. They also held a soccer camp, and slowly shared the gospel with the kids. At the end of the camp, they invited the families to come and hear the message. They also built a well to serve as a fresh water source, and as irrigation for the field, making it a great place people could continue to go and spend their time. "It was awesome," Jacob said, "I really loved that trip."

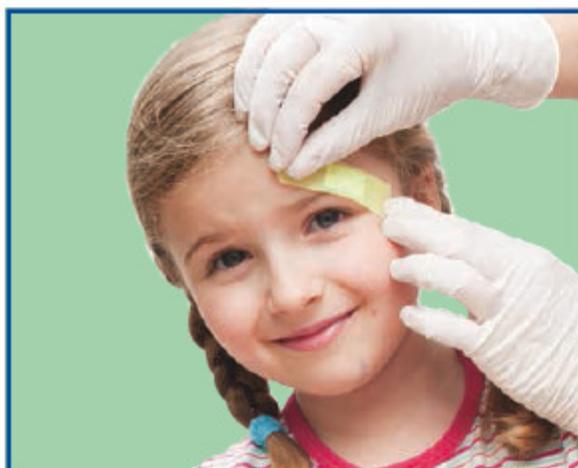
Jacob finds joy in serving others, whether it's in another country, or within his church. When he began trying to get more involved in the church, he relied on God to provide him with everything he needed. Jacob said the first year he tried to get into the third grade group, he didn't know what it would be like, and was a little nervous about how he would relate, and speak to the kids. He said God provided a student intern summer program through which he could talk with and learn from people who were already leading in the ministries themselves. By get-

ting together with the leaders in the mornings, and listening to great people speak, like Robert Cupp, Jacob got training on how to lead, and how to speak effectively. Jacob especially learned a lot from one of the leaders of Highway 34 (third and fourth grade) Braden Patterson, who really focused on Jacob. Through the program, Jacob got valuable experience by leading several lessons, and speaking many times. "They've actually gotten me involved in a lot of speaking and leading," Jacob said. In addition to the big church talk he gave, Jacob has done several lessons in Highway 34, and has shared his testimony a couple times in the student ministries.

Jacob recognizes that God provided him with the programs, and with the people he needed to help get him where he is today. But he also recognizes that he is **able** to do all that he does because of the gifts God has given him. "I just feel like God's gifted me with this calmness, and just being able to just speak and to explain and I really enjoy it," Jacob said.

Jacob has managed to keep his integrity intact, even amidst all the craziness that comes with being a teenager in high school. He has shown his integrity by being 'whole,' which Brandon noted was the root of the word 'integrity.' Brandon elaborated that it's the "concept of, 'I'm going to be above reproach, in front of people and when I'm on my own.'" The next big step in Jacob's life- college- may challenge that aspect of Jacob and his integrity. Surrounded by different people with different beliefs, attitudes, and lifestyles may present Jacob with a new set of challenges. Brandon asked Jacob how he planned to stay strong in his faith during college. Jacob said there is actually somewhat of a debate in his family about that, and specifically, about fraternities. His father was a Kappa Sig in college, but his mother is a little wary about the idea, knowing that fraternities can be a little crazy. Jacob says he will not be following his father's footsteps into Kappa Sig, but he does have his eyes on BYX. He said most of the members are level-headed Christians, and they still have a lot of fun. Jacob said he also plans to get involved with StuMo (Student Mobilization). Like his sister, Allie, who is a freshman at the U of A, he also plans on being involved in Fellowship at their Fayetteville campus. While he pursues an engineering degree, Jacob hopes that his involvement in these organizations will help him stay strong in his faith throughout his college career.

While each new phase of life presents a new set of challenges, Jacob's character and faith seem to have equipped him well for whatever is set before him. His display of integrity at this age is sure to make for a promising future. Jacob truly is someone who deserves to be recognized, for his acts of integrity, for his genuine desire to serve others, for utilizing his gifts in the church, and for striving to be a good role model for the kids he leads.



Kimberly L. Cadle, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Jason B. Foster, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Whitney S. Alexander, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Robin R. Hudson, M.D., F.A.A.P.

Accept most Insurance



Bentonville Pediatrics, P.A.
2719 S.E. 1 Street
Bentonville, AR 72712
479-273-KIDS (5437)
Fax: 479-273-9932
www.bentonvillepediatrics.com