

Oral History Interview of Mr. Sid Bream

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Location of Interview: Recording Studio of the Student Radio Station, 90.9 The Light

Name of Interviewee: Mr. Sid Bream

Name of Interviewers: Lowell Walters and Mike Cobb

Transcriber: Jesse Ronda

Interview Length: (2:11:37)

Notes:

Walters: (0:01) Welcome to this interview in the oral history project of the Liberty University archives. This interview is being conducted on May 15, 2010. Today we're interviewing Mr. Sid Bream. My name is Lowell Walters and I'll be conducting the interview today along with Mr. Mike Cobb. Greetings, Mike.

Cobb: (0:18) Greetings Lowell.

Walters: (0:19) And Sid, how are you today?

Bream: (0:21) I'm doing well gentlemen. It's great to be here with you.

Walters: (0:25) Well, as we begin today, could you just tell us some general information about yourself? Tell us where you were born, a little bit about your family growing up, and that sort of thing.

Bream: (0:34) Absolutely. I was, I was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Grew up, my mom and I, or my mom and dad had six children. I was the third one in the children, we had three boys, three girls. We were considered a Brady Bunch back then and, you know, we grew up in a small town called Mount Holly Springs. I went to Carlisle High School and, and, you know, it was a

quad-A, quad-A high school at that point in time and so there was some pretty good competition as far as the athletics were concerned and, and uh...but had a great set of parents; parents that took us to church Sunday mornings, Sunday nights. We had a Christian singing group in the Bream family that would go all over the state of Pennsylvania to, you know, sing and uh...

Walters: (1:18) So you were part of that?

Bream: (1:20) I was part of that at one point in time.

Walters: (1:21) What part did you sing?

Bream: (1:23) Well, initially I was, initially I was the family, just when the family got up but then later on as, as some of the ones went off to college, one of the other boys would fill in as far as the quartet was concerned and then so at one point in time I filled in with the quartet and I had a great time with it.

Walters: (1:43) That's great. I never knew that. And so then, obviously, you were reared a Christian going into the four part harmony quartet thing there.

Bream: (1:53) *[laughter]*

Walters: (1:54) So tell us about um...how did you first hear about Jerry Falwell and Liberty University and how did you get, how did the recruit, recruiting process go on? How did you hear about Liberty Baptist?

Bream : (2:05) Well, I, I will just say this Lowell, I came down here when I was thirteen years old, which was 1973, on a youth, youth mission, not a mission, but we came down as a youth group. And at that point in time all that was there was, they had the Thomas Road Baptist Church and the uh...right across the street was the dormitories.

Walters: (2:28) Right.

Bream: (2:29) And as we came down during that time, and my aunt just referred to this not too long ago. She came down to watch one of my sons' baseball games down here and she was, she asked me, she said, "Do you remember this?" And I said, "Absolutely." I said, "I remember coming down here as a youth group and leaving this place and saying, "There's absolutely no way I'm coming back down to Liberty University."

Walters: (2:49) [*laughter*]

Bream: (2:51) And at that, you know, back at that time it was Liberty Baptist College.

Walters: (2:53) Right.

Bream: (2:54) But nobody...obviously you hear it all the time, I mean, when you tell the Lord you're not doing something that's generally what's going to happen; you're going to be there.

Walters: (3:04) Right. So then that was only two years after it was founded. And then you're up at home there playing baseball and then um...well, how did you, did you hear about it through the Old Time Gospel Hour?

Bream: (3:18) Really, really, you know, after, after the thirteen, I don't, I don't know how my aunt uh...we came down here for youth group. I don't know how that all...

Walters: (3:25) Right.

Bream: (3:26) worked out. But I kind of forgot about it after, you know, we came down here as a youth group and, and as I went through high school baseball I really had every aspiration to become a professional ballplayer out of high school. The, the scouts would come to me and they'd say to me, you know, "We're expecting you to be drafted," and so I really wasn't making any preparations to come to college. But thankfully I had a counselor that said, "What happens if you don't ever get drafted?" and, and so I said, "Well, I'll take my SATs," and da, da, da, and...

Walters: (4:01) Sure.

Bream: (4:02) but, you know, when June draft came around, I mean, I wasn't drafted and I still didn't have a place to, to go play baseball and Coach Worthington from Liberty University called me up and said, "I...if you want to come down I have a full scholarship for you." And, and at that point in time, I mean, Temple, Temple University and Liberty had both given me a full scholarship but Temple's was just tuition and books and Liberty's was everything and, you know, coming from the family that I came from, I mean, my dad worked his tail off all his life but, you know, I couldn't afford just the room and board even. So for them to come down for uh...with everything, I said, "Let's come to Liberty," and, and not that there wasn't some obstacles that were there but, I mean, it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

Walters: (4:51) Sure.

Cobb: (4:52) Were you the first one in college from your family?

Bream: (4:54) I was the uh...actually I was from my family. My, my oldest brother went to, he was in the Air Force and was in the Air Force when I came down here and my older sister, she, she's just back home. She was married and worked back home and, and so I was the first one out of my, my family to, to...I had two cousins that went to Oral Roberts to play baseball, but I was the first one out of my family to come to school.

Cobb: (5:24) What did they think about you going out of state?

Bream: (5:29) You know, I don't know if it was them so much as it was me, I mean, I was the one, I was always a homeboy, I mean, I loved being at home and, I mean, I shouldn't say being at home because I had a, I had a best friend that I was always at his house growing up but I didn't want to be away from the home that long. And so when I came down here, I mean, almost every week I was calling back up to the house saying, "Mom, you know, it's time for you to

come get me. I really want to come home.” And, and thankfully she kept on saying, “Just wait a second, you know. We’ll see what happens and we’ll be down if it doesn’t work out, “and by the end of the first year, I mean, it had all worked out and, and I was ready to go.

Walters: (6:07) So, teams had your number coming out of high school but you didn’t get drafted, is that right?

Bream: (6:13) Yeah, I, I didn’t get drafted, I mean, after I, after the June draft took place and nobody, nobody had contacted me, then Coach Worthington and Temple had contacted me to come and play with them and when I, when I signed with, with Liberty, at that point in time, the Phillies, the Toronto Blue Jays, and then a week during the orientation period down here the Yankees called me up and asked me to come play for them and that was a, that was a huge temptation for me.

Walters: (6:44) Oh yeah, sure.

Bream: (6:46) But, you know, thankfully, like I said, I mean, thankfully I didn’t do it. I came here to Liberty and it was the best thing for me.

Walters: (6:51) Now were they interested mainly in your hitting or did they look at the overall thing uh...

Bream: (6:56) I think, I think, you know, when they, when they take somebody as a high school player, they’re looking at his potential. They, they’d certainly seen that I, I hit with power but they’re looking to be able to get you at a young age and develop you as the, the fielder, the runner, you know, the hitter. They had more years with you before they really are expected to get to the major leagues and, and, you know, so that’s why they tend to get you. But really what they were trying to sign me for at that point in time and since I had a chance to coach in the minor leagues and I realized that most of the things that happen, I mean, your top five draft

choices are normally the ones that they put all the stock into; the other ones are, in a sense, your fill-ins. And uh...so I would have been a fill-in...

Walters: (7:46) Sure, sure.

Bream: (7:47) at that point in time and so coming here to Liberty, again, was the best thing for me.

Walters: (7:52) So it let you mature in all ways including your baseball.

Bream: (7:55) Absolutely.

Walters: (7:56) Did you, did you play other sports in high school besides...

Bream: (7:58) I actually played basketball, baseball, and, I mean, I had more offers out of high school for basketball...

Walters: (8:02) Oh really?

Bream: (8:03) than for baseball. But I liked baseball the most and, and I was, I was glad to be able to continue with that in my career.

Walters: (8:11) And so then you came here in what year?

Bream: (8:13) I came here in 1978, fall...

Walters: (8:15) '78.

Bream: (8:16) of 1978.

Walters: (8:17) Ok. And then...

Cobb: (8:18) I'm just curious though, what team, did you have a team you kind of rooted for growing up? Were you, are you a Pittsburgh fan or a Philly fan growing up?

Bream: (8:25) My cousins, the ones that went to Oral Roberts, his dad was uh...they were Philly fans.

Cobb: (8:31) Ok.

Bream: (8:32) My, I mean, and our, the Bream family was extremely close growing up. I mean, our grandparents on my dad's side had a store, a grocery store, and every Friday night, it was a country grocery store, and every Friday night all the Breams came together and we played basketball, baseball, football, whatever was in, you know. We'd box, I mean, we did everything together, I mean, you know, every holiday we were together. You know, fishing season started, fishing season, I mean, we were in our boats sitting side by side with each other. So we really had a great upbringing but my one, my one uncle was a Phillies fan and my dad grew up being a Cardinals fan and...

Cobb: (9:11) Oh cool. I'm a Cardinals fan [*laughter*].

Bream: (9:13) so I, I kind of went the way my dad went, obviously, and, and so we had a nice little rivalry between my cousin and ourselves as far as the Cardinals and Phillies.

Cobb: (9:24) So did you have a player that you wanted to hit like or throw like or...?

Bream: (9:28) You know, a lot of people ask me, you know, "Who was your hero growing up?" and I can honestly and truly tell you that it wasn't any professional player, it was really my dad. I mean, my dad was, my dad came out of high school, his last year in high school he, he threw forty-six innings and struck out ninety-eight guys in that...

Cobb: (9:43) Oh, wow.

Bream: (9:44) forty-six innings. Had a chance to play with the St. Louis Browns but he had a bum kneed as well, like myself. He also had a grand, well, my grandfather that did not wish him to play on Sundays and so it took that opportunity away from my father to go and play with the St. Louis Browns and, but I, as I was growing up, I had the opportunity to see him pitch in sandlot.

Cobb: (10:06) Ok.

Bream: (10:07) And him and my uncle, the one that was a Phillies fan, he played centerfield for us and I just loved, I enjoyed going down to be able to watch my dad pitch and, and my uncle play centerfield. So...

Cobb: (10:19) Cool, cool. Sounds pretty...

Bream: (10:20) they were my heroes growing up.

Cobb: (10:22) Well, that's good to hear. Liberty obviously has had just so much growth. When you talked about when you first came they had, you know, the dorms across the street from Thomas Road. When you came as a student, where did you live?

Bream: (10:33) I, my first year that I came here they had the island up here. They had those dorms that, some of those dorms were starting so I lived in the island up here on the campus.

Cobb: (10:46) Ok.

Walters: (10:47) Tell us more about that. What was, did you have your own eating uh...did you have your own cafeteria there?

Bream: (10:51) Yeah, we had a cafeteria that was down there. I'm trying to think where that was. We had, I mean, we had the, we didn't have anything up on that island, I mean, it was all down here. But there were two classroom buildings, the two the cube down here, there were two classroom buildings there. The Schilling Center was going up...

Cobb: (11:09) Going up on...

Bream: (11:10) I mean, the front part of the Schilling Center and then later on while I was here then they put the back part of the Schilling Center in and that's where, you know, they, the first part that, you know, they, they said they put a synthetic floor down but it was basically concrete.

Cobb: (11:22) *[laughter]*

Bream: (11:23) And they finally, in the second part of it, they, they did put a synthetic floor down in which the, the basketball team played at that time. But the eating area was in one of those two buildings. And a matter of fact it was the one closest to the Schilling Center was where they had the cafeteria at that point in time.

Walters: (11:43) But that's on main campus here.

Bream: (11:45) That was on main campus.

Walters: (11:46) And then the island itself, you said...

Bream: (11:47) They had the island, they had Ramada Inn, uh...so those, those two places, I mean, the Ramada downtown, they had a hotel they called it, and then, and then the island, Treasure Island were two other places that people stayed and I never, I never, I don't believe I ever, ever went to Treasure Island while I was here on the campus. And...

Walters: (12:08) Oh, ok.

Bream: (12:09) judging by the uh...some of the talk, I'm probably glad that I didn't [*laughter*].

Cobb: (12:13) Glad that you didn't [*laughter*]. Yeah.

Walters: (12:14) I thought for some reason when you first started to answer that, that the ball field and stuff was on Treasure Island.

Bream: (12:19) No, no.

Walters: (12:20) It's not. Where was your...

Cobb: (12:21) I think they call the, don't they, I think they call the island the circle now, am I right?

Walters: (12:24) I don't know. I know the bridge wiped out.

Cobb: (12:27) Not Treasure Island, I'm just thinking if you're talking about sort of the dorms that are up the hill, that's...

Walters: (12:32) Oh, you mean the circle.

Cobb: (12:33) Yeah.

Bream: Yeah, the circle.

Walters: (12:34) Yeah, were they the dorms that you stayed in?

Bream: (12:35) Yeah, those are the dorms that I stayed in. I mean...

Walters: (12:37) Ok.

Bream: (12:38) I don't know, what did I call it? The island?

Cobb: (12:39) You called it the island and I think that's...

Bream: (12:40) Oh, ok. Sorry...

Cobb: where the confusion is.

Walters: Oh, ok...

Bream: (12:41) I was thinking the circle, I'm sorry.

Walters: Yeah, that's why I went to Treasure Island.

Bream: (12:43) I'm sorry about that.

Cobb: (12:44) That's, no, that's ok.

Bream: (12:45) Yeah, the circle up there. That's where I...

Walters: (12:46) Sure.

Bream: (12:47) where I started in, in '78 and, and so we were just at a, I mean, as you pull onto the circle, I mean, you went up about two or three hundred yards and my first dorm was inside the circle and then they built a double-decker on the right side and, and then we moved into there and...

Walters: (13:06) Dorm five I think that is.

Cobb: (13:08) Possibly, I know first dorm up we call Dorm three, so.

Walters: (13:10) Yeah. You head around to kind of counter-clockwise.

Bream: (13:12) Yeah.

Cobb: (13:13) Now, did you have two to a room, three to a room going up? Four to...

Bream: (13:17) We were, we were actually, we were actually four to a room when we first started.

Cobb: (13:21) Ok.

Bream: (13:22) I mean, there was little cubicles...

Cobb: (13:23) Yeah.

Bream: (13:24) we had four to a room. And...

Cobb: (13:25) Ok.

Bream: (13:26) you know, it was difficult in some ways but at the same time, developed a lot of camaraderie. A lot, most of the baseball players were in one little area there but I did have some individuals that weren't on the baseball team in, in my rooms as well and um...you know...

Cobb: (13:46) Did you keep friends with any of the ones that you had from year to year to year or did you, did you kind of change roommates?

Bream: (13:51) Change roommates generally.

Cobb: (13:52) Changed roommates.

Bream: (13:53) Yeah, it, it tended to see, I mean, it seemed to, you know, as my years got a little bit, I mean, I went into my sophomore and junior year it became more baseball players than it did. They tried to keep us together as much as they possibly could.

Cobb: (14:09) Now, what was the, I don't know, one of the surprises when you got here? Was it being the grouped full of people? Was it like a dress code? Was it much difference or was it...

Bream: (14:17) Oh, oh, I mean, you guys, I mean, what's here today, I mean, you guys are a bunch of liberals.

Cobb: (14:22) [*laughter*]

Bream: (14:23) [*laughter*] I mean, we had, we had to have a shirt and tie on everyday, pants. The ladies had to wear a skirt everyday. You know, there, there was no, I mean, absolutely no...they made one exception that we came in at one point in time with our sweats. We could eat because of the timeframe.

Cobb: (14:43) Oh really? Ok.

Bream: (14:44) But other than that, we still had to come in with our tie and stuff on...

Cobb: (14:47) For dinner?

Bream: (14:48) to eat...

Cobb: (14:49) Ok.

Bream: (14:50) and, and then later on, I think my junior year, they finally let us come without a tie on. But hair, I mean, you had to have a white wall.

Cobb: (14:58) Around your ear.

Bream: (14:59) Dating, dating wise, there was no freshman single dating, I mean, you had to be with a couple. The only ones that were able to date at that point in time were seniors singles and, you know, you could not...no holding hands, none of that stuff. No facial hair, you know. Your dorms, I mean, you want to talk, people think that it was difficult now with the RAs and making sure your room is cleaned up, I mean, it was nothing like back then. I mean, it was basically a Marine camp, I mean, you had to have a nickel or a quarter dropping off your bed and bouncing up.

Walters: (15:33) And if you didn't?

Bream: (15:34) You got written up. I mean, you got written up and, and you'll get your demerits or whatever they called them back then and...

Walters: (15:40) And was that fines or...

Bream: (15:42) No, it wasn't fines...

Walters: (15:43) did you eventually get kicked out?

Bream: (15:44) They didn't ever fine, I mean, I don't exactly know what...I don't ever remember because I don't, I never got...

Walters: (15:49) Right.

Bream: (15:50) I never had anything, anything to worry about but uh...

Walters: (15:54) Sid was a good fellow?

Cobb: (15:56) A good kid [*laughter*].

Bream: (15:57) Well I was, you know, I'll tell you what, what I did do. I mean, I came out of a home that I wouldn't say my parents were disciplinarians in the sense that, I mean, I had, I had, I was military academy or anything but my parents taught me responsibility, they taught me, you know, to do things and so it wasn't as difficult for me as some, some kids that came on campus that had never taken out the trash. Never cleaned there sink. You know, never made a bed for themselves. I mean, that to me, those people, I mean, they, they, their mind was just blown and they couldn't believe that it, the way that it was but uh...

Walters: (16:34) Alright now...

Cobb: (16:35) Well, we have prayer leaders, we have SLDs, we have RAs. Was that a similar thing that you had back then?

Bream: (16:40) We had, we had RAs and we had spiritual, the spiritual brother groups.

Cobb: (16:45) Yeah, I shouldn't give the acronyms. I apologize. The SLD I think they're called spiritual life directors but...

Bream: (16:48) Yes. And they, that's basically all, what they had at that point in time; RAs and then spiritual life directors and, and, you know, he would, he would, one would, one would be over so many dorms uh...spiritual life directors, and they would stay in the dorms and they generally stayed in our dorm at the, you know, down at the end of the hall.

Cobb: (17:09) Ok.

Walters: (17:10) Now, the, the students that were here who weren't athletes, did they ever give you flack like, "Oh, you guys get off the hook," and...

Bream: (17:16) Oh, absolutely. I mean, it was, that was always a, a common threat, I mean, and we as a, we as a baseball team, I mean, we had a close knit group. Our, our man, our coach, Al Worthington, was just an unbelievable coach, I mean, and he was, he was really in-tune with trying to make sure that we, we did not glorify ourselves and, I mean, you know, we were walking around campus understanding that we put the pants on the same way everybody else did and, and we weren't supposed to be thinking that we were any better, better than anybody else or anything. So the football, I mean the baseball team, we, it was uh...we got along pretty good with the rest of the campus. I mean, back then the football players, now they, that was a different story [*laughter*]. The preacher boys and the football players didn't get along to well [*laughter*].

Walters: (18:05) [*laughter*] Oh, ok.

Cobb: (18:06) [*laughter*] Now, as an athlete then though, with the traveling that you did back and forth, with the time that you may have missed classes or exams, or the times that you had to

practice, was that ever an issue with trying to be able to get that reconciled or were they pretty up front that that's just how it works, being an athlete at a university?

Bream: (18:24) I, I think they do a lot better job with the, the time frame now or the class schedules and stuff like that that they have with the, the athletes more so than we, we had fifteen credits back then. My son is here now and I think because of intensives the he could take, because of online classes that he can take, I mean, I think Tyler, you know, he might, he might, I think he might have had nine credits but he took an intensive before he came into the spring semester and he took something else so he really had, he had gotten his fifteen credits but I mean, you know, the online course allowed him to do a lot of that when they were on the road and, you know, the, the professors worked with him here when they weren't here and...

Cobb: (19:12) Ok.

Walters: (19:13) Now, Tyler's your son, just for those...

Bream: (19:14) Tyler's my son.

Walters: (19:15) And he's what year right now?

Bream: (19:16) He's a sophomore at this point in time.

Walters: (19:18) He's finishing his sophomore year...

Bream: (19:19) Yep.

Walters: (19:20) and he's playing tonight at seven?

Bream: (19:21) He's playing tonight at seven.

Cobb: (19:21) [*laughter*] Well, keep going.

Bream: (19:24) [*laughter*]

Cobb: (19:25) Now, when did you declare a major? What...

Bream: (19:27) Well, that's one of the things that, I mean, as I look back on my college career, I, I wish that I would have taken some time, I mean, I wish that I would have waited my year or two, got my basics out of the way, and then thought about what I wanted to do. But when I came down to school, again, my focus was on baseball.

Cobb: (19:45) Sure.

Bream: (19:46) And when I came to this school and I said, well, they asked, "Well, what are you going to declare as a major?" and I'm, I'm thinking, "Well, what am I going to declare as a major?" and, you know, all, most of the athletes were doing Phys. Ed. majors. Well, here comes good old jock Sid Bream, I mean, and he said, "Well, I guess I'll be a Phys. Ed. major."

Cobb: (20:03) [*laughter*]

Bream: (20:04) Well, I wouldn't be a Phys. Ed. major if my life depended on it. So, you know, I, I went through my days at school doing something that, that I wish that I would have made, that I had taken some time to make some better choices.

Cobb: (20:20) Ok. Did you have a favorite teacher?

Bream: (20:23) I can remember professor Matthews, he was a math teacher that I had, that I enjoyed him. You know, Sumner Wemp was here, I mean, he, you know, some of the, the Bible teachers and, there's not too many teachers that I, I mean, I loved, I loved my teachers but...

Cobb: (20:41) Oh, sure.

Bream: (20:42) there's not too many teachers that I really...

Cobb: (20:45) Stand out?

Bream: (20:46) you know, hung out with. I mean, you know, Coach Worthington was, was the one that I really enjoyed being with and, and hanging out with. He was, he was the one that really took care of us.

Cobb: (20:54) That makes sense. Liberty, one of the things that I always enjoyed, they bring in so many different speakers for some of the chapels and convocations. Can you talk a little bit about, I guess, the whole chapel convocation? Was it the Monday, Wednesday, Friday and maybe if you could talk about a speaker or two that if there was one that maybe...

Bream: (21:14) Well, I mean, they, they did bring in speakers back then, I mean, and I, I've shared to this day, I says, you know, work and you go to hear, I mean, that you don't hear, you're hearing some of the, the best speakers in the country, I mean, you're hearing some of the best music now. Back when we were here, I mean, you had, you weren't allowed to listen to your Christian contemporary music. You had Robbie Hiner, you had Don Norman, you had Mack Evans...

Cobb: (21:36) Yeah, yeah.

Bream: (21:37) you had Doug Oldham...

Cobb: (21:38) Sure.

Bream: (21:39) and, and that's what they wanted you to listen to. You know, we got in trouble for listening to the Imperials and...

Cobb: (21:45) Oh boy [*laughter*].

Bream: (21:46) but, you know, but at the same time we also had some great speakers here that came in but at the same time I think it was more, you know, Eddie Dobson that was here as a soccer coach but just an unbelievable speaker, I mean, how he could break down messages or scriptures and, you know, his, his place, his church service was always packed. I mean, actually Thomas Road, you know, we had to go to Thomas Road at that point in time. Then they finally started bringing them up on campus a little bit more. But Eddie Dobson's was always filled to

the brim. Where the main, main one where Dr. Falwell was speaking normally wasn't that full
[laughter].

Cobb: (22:29) Sure.

Bream: (22:30) So...

Cobb: (22:31) Now, you said Dobson, was, where there other people besides Eddie Dobson that spoke?

Bream: (22:35) Yeah. There, Ed Hindson...

Cobb: (22:36) Ok.

Bream: (22:37) was a, was a main stay here. Sumner Wemp, you know, there were, there were speakers that came in from outside places; mainly pastors. We didn't have the, you know, the Glen Beck's, the Sean Hannity's, the, the, you know, Newt Gingrich's, that, you know, the political, even though Dr. Falwell, and I'm not saying we didn't have some of them. I mean, I remember Clebe McClary coming in here, I mean, a marine that, that was had...

Cobb: (23:06) Injured.

Bream: (23:07) fought for us, I mean, and, and burned himself and all that stuff. I mean, he came in and spoke and we had a lot of individuals like that but, and even though Dr. Falwell was the head of the Moral Majority I don't remember a whole lot of the political, you know...

Walters: (23:20) Well, you would have been a sophomore going into a junior year in '80 then, right, which is when Reagan got elected which really brought that to the forefront...

Bream: (23:27) Yeah.

Walters: (23:28) So you would have been here when that was...

Bream: (23:29) But...

Cobb: (23:30) Did you get, did you get to go off campus that much? I, they have policies that I've heard through the years about what freshman can do with cars and whether they can have them and whether they can't and where they park and things like that. Was there a hangout that you guys, did you ever have time to go to off campus or...?

Bream: (23:47) See, my, I mean, that's, that's something that I'm...I didn't have a car my freshman year. I mean, I don't even know if I had a car my sophomore year here. Not that, not that we, I don't believe that we were allowed to have one our freshman year but I do, I do know that sophomore year, you know, we were allowed to have them but family wise, I, I didn't have the means to have a, a car and, you know, really and truly I had a girlfriend down here that had a Honda Civic and, and that's, that was the vehicle that I drove most of the time my sophomore year. I did at one point in time bring down my sister's green Fiat...

Cobb: (24:26) Ok.

Bream: (24:27) that I brought down and drove around just for a little bit but I didn't really go off campus a whole lot. I can remember a little bit. I, you know, I ate at the cafeteria constantly. I mean, kids today, shoot, they're everywhere...

Cobb: (24:42) Oh yeah.

Bream: (24:43) They're everywhere and, I mean, which is a, a neat thing, I mean, but for us...

Walters: (24:48) Sure.

Bream: (24:49) it was you ate at the cafeteria and you had some snacks in your room you would eat, you know, you had a little refrigerator and you ate from that too but you didn't go off campus too much.

Walters: (24:56) Now, even at graduation this morning, today we had our graduation here for the class of 2010, even at that ceremony, you know, they bantered about meeting your spouse here. Did you happen to meet your spouse here?

Bream: (25:09) Oh, absolutely. I mean...

Walters: (25:10) Yeah?

Bream: (25:11) I, I, my wife Michelle and I met her my sophomore year. My first time going out with her was the Christmas Banquet and I had to ask one of my teammates actually, I was, my Christian service was mopping the floor for a basketball clinic game, I mean, taking the broom up and down the floor to keep the dust off. And during one of those basketball games Johnny [Jarnigan], one of my buddies on the team, said, "Why don't you go on over and ask her to go to the banquet with you?" And I said, "Well, why don't you go over and ask her if she'd go with me?" [laughter].

Walters: (25:46) [laughter]

Cobb: [laughter]

Bream: (25:47) So he actually did. He went over and asked Michelle whether she'd go to the banquet with me and, and, you know, he came back and said, "If you go over and ask she'll go." So I went over and asked her at that point in time, man, I was a coward...

Cobb: (26:00) [laughter]

Bream: (26:01) and, you know, she went and so we started dating at that point, broke up between my sophomore and junior year, and, you know, didn't get back together until the spring of my junior year. And we got back together and a couple years later we, we got married.

Cobb: (26:17) Tremendous.

Bream: (26:18) And the rest is history.

Cobb: (26:19) How long, how long you been married?

Bream: (26:21) We've been married for twenty-seven years now.

Cobb: (26:23) Wow.

Bream: (26:24) February was twenty-seven, so...

Cobb: (26:25) Congratulations.

Bream: (26:26) Yep, thank you very much.

Cobb: (26:27) Do you mind if I ask how many children?

Bream: (26:28) I have four children. One that graduated here that's now in Dallas as a youth pastor. Tyler is here now as a, as a sophomore. I have a sixteen year old son that I'm hoping and praying will be down here at some point. And then a little girl that's thirteen that's as well but she, she has talked about being a veterinarian...

Cobb: (26:48) Ok.

Bream: (26:49) so I don't know whether or not we can...

Cobb: (26:52) In five years whether we'll have a veterinarian school here [*laughter*].

Bream: (26:54) Yeah, whether we'll have a veterinarian school or, so we're hoping that they do and if things don't change here and, and we can have her here as well.

Walters: (27:02) Now let's go over to the facility side. We talked a little bit about what the campus looked like um...you had classes in two different buildings that were erected while you were here. Were you here when the tent was put up?

Bream: (27:16) Oh, absolutely we were here with the tents.

Walters: (27:17) Ok, and tell us about some of that and also tell us a little bit about your sports facilities. Where did you practice and that sort of thing?

Bream: (27:24) Ok. Yeah, I mean, right behind what would have been where the two, two first classrooms were if you were standing in front of those things looking, looking up, you know, from the front of them, the, the tent would have been up to the far right side of the classroom up on the hill. And it was a big circus tent. And we were in that thing in the fall, we were in that thing in the winter, and they had, you know, they had the drapes come down in the winter time, but it got cold. I mean, and, and, you know, the ladies, like I said, I mean, they couldn't wear pants. They had to wear their skirts and I can remember when they, we had the buses that would drive us to Thomas Road and back and so on and so forth and I can remember the ladies breaking down, or the bus breaking down I should say, out, out on the highway, the road coming into the Liberty, and the girls had to walk back in freezing cold. Some of them got some frostbite but that tent, you know, they'd put the heaters in it from, to some degree but, I mean, it was, it was, during the winter time, I mean, it was very, very cold.

Walters: (28:35) So what's at that location now?

Bream: (28:36) It would, it would be basically close to where they other cube, I mean the back two...

Walters: (28:42) Further, the Schilling Center is.

Bream: (28:44) No, no, not the Schilling. It would be behind uh...if you're coming from, coming from the um...

Cobb: (28:51) The front of DeMoss, the main steps?

Bream: (28:53) Yeah, the front of DeMoss, if, yeah. It's actually, it's actually pretty close to where we are at right now.

Walters: (28:58) Ok.

Cobb: (28:59) Yeah, that's what I thought.

Walters: That's what I wondered.

Cobb: (29:00) Yeah.

Walters: And then they used that...

Bream: I'm just, I'm...

Walters: (29:01) as intramural fields...

Bream: just, I was just...

Walters: (29:02) later.

Bream: trying to think of all...

Cobb: (29:03) Sure.

Bream: the, not just those two classroom...

Walters: (29:04) Right.

Bream: buildings but...

Walters: (29:05) Yeah.

Bream: actually where we're at...

Walters: (29:06) We're probably on top of it three stories up.

Bream: (29:07) Absolutely; yeah, absolutely.

Walters: (29:08) Ok.

Cobb: (29:09) Now, I guess muddy in the spring?

Bream: (29:11) Oh, well we, see, when we first got here in 1978, there were no roads. I mean, they were, they were pouring the cement curbs...

Cobb: (29:21) Ok.

Bream: (29:22) but the roads were not done so, you know, you walked in the roads that were nothing but red clay, I mean, I can't tell you how much, how many clothes that were destroyed...

Cobb: (29:30) That doesn't come out.

Bream: (29:31) because of the red clay. And uh...so we didn't have that at that point in time.

And then the baseball facility um...my freshman year, we practiced at Miller Park in Lynchburg because we still didn't have a field to put up here.

Cobb: (29:45) Ok.

Bream: (29:46) Now, Tommy uh...Dr. Falwell had, had promised, you know, Coach Worthington that that spring we would be playing up on the mountain. And I, I shared this story a couple of times even while I have been here and, and say, talking about that, the day before our first game we were supposed to have in the spring it was still just grass out on that field where they're playing today. And Dr. Falwell brought in a crew, they put lights on the field overnight, cut out the baselines, cut out the infield, and the next day we played on that field. I mean, and it was, it was a beech but the same place that it is today. I mean, there's been some, those bleachers were there when we were here...

Cobb: (30:30) Oh, ok.

Bream: (30:31) I mean, so those bleachers are the same bleachers that were here my second or third year that I was at Liberty.

Cobb: (30:38) When did, do you mind if I ask when you first met Dr. Falwell? I don't know if we're, kind of the, I don't know the flow of what we're trying to do here but Dr. Falwell's always been known as a great supporter of the athletic teams.

Bream: (30:49) Absolutely.

Cobb: (30:50) And so I imagine that you had to run into him somehow, um...

Bream: (30:54) I can, I've, I've told people this story numerous times but I can remember one of the first games that I, we ever played here, Dr. Falwell would make his grand entrance. He

would drive down the hill on the visitor's side, he would drive his Suburban down over that hill, drive it down onto the field, get out of the car while the game was going on, and then walk. Somebody else would get in the truck and take it back up and he'd come over and sit in the dugout. But one of the first times that I met Dr. Falwell he was sitting right beside me in the dugout as a freshman and I'm just sitting there observing the game, observing the game and he hauls off and just hits me in the chest.

Cobb: (31:32) [*laughter*]

Bream: (31:33) I mean, and he hit me hard. I mean, and then I, I put my fist up like, you know, fist up, you know, to him and he said, "Boy, you better pack a lunch."

Cobb: (31:41) [*laughter*]

Walters: [*laughter*]

Bream: (31:42) And that was the first, first time that I had an opportunity to meet Dr. Falwell and, and, you know, it's just been an outstanding ride since then.

Walters: (31:52) Well, while we're on Dr. Falwell, we understand that he is a fairly good baseball player in his youth and he had aspirations at one point to, to be a pro ballplayer. Did he ever interact with you and give you tips about anything?

Bream: (32:07) No.

Walters: (32:08) It wasn't like that?

Bream: (32:09) No, and I remember, you know, he came down and they were kind of like playing an alumni game or something like that degree and, you know, he, I guess, hit the ball and started to take off for first base and, and I think he fell over his feet a little bit and went flat, I mean, and he got up and he made it sound like he did that on purpose just to get a laugh but uh...you know, Dr. Falwell, I'm, I'm telling you, he was a, he was a physical specimen. Very,

very strong and I, I don't, I never got any tips from him as far as baseball was concerned, I mean, but I always enjoyed having him around.

Cobb: (32:46) Did you always play one position when you were here and if so, what...?

Bream: (32:49) I played first base only except for one game that for some reason, I don't know if our third baseman got hurt, but I was a left handed first baseman and you don't put left handed first baseman's at third base. But for some reason Coach Worthington put me at third base against High Point I think it was, and I remember the first guy that get up I went to first, third base, I mean, he tried to bunt on me and I charged and, and grabbed the ball, spun around, and gunned him out at first base and, I mean, that was the end of them trying to bunt on me again. But that was the only place that I, that was the only time that I ever played another position at Liberty.

Cobb: (33:27) They didn't have one of those twenty-six inning games where they're bringing in people to pitch cause you're out?

Bream: (33:32) [*laughter*] No, I mean, I pitched in high school. But we had some, we had some great pitchers while I was here that they didn't need to bring me in to show them what I had [*laughter*].

Walters: (33:42) [*laughter*]

Cobb: (33:44) Now, we talked a little bit about what was going on as an athlete when you were here. You talked about, very fondly, about Al Worthington and, I think, ways that he tried to help you as a person. Can you talk about spiritual development, the things that he did as character development as a team to help you sort of become, become an adult, become a man?

Bream: (34:07) Well, Coach Worthington everyday would come out and have devotion with us, I mean, everyday. He'd pray with us everyday but everyday, I mean, he was, he was quoting

passages to us. I mean, every...when we go to ballparks or places to play, I mean, I remember the Smithsonian. We went to the Smithsonian when we played up at George Washington or George Mason where ever we were playing for one purpose and that was to give out tracks.

Cobb: (34:35) Oh, really?

Bream: (34:36) And, you know, Coach Worthington was a, just a, there wasn't a person he met that he didn't share the gospel with. And, you know, but with that, it wasn't, he taught us so much, he, he gave us, I was saved at the age of thirteen years old being brought up in a Christian home, you know, still, you know, obviously at thirteen years old, a lot of times you're, you know, you're wishy washy as far as your roots are concerned. I mean, when I came to Liberty, I mean, I started to establish my roots because of him, I mean, what he taught me, taught us from the Word. But not only the spiritual aspect of it, the character aspect of it as well, I mean, just teaching us, you know, how to handle ourselves on the ball field, away from the ball field, how to take care of a lady, I mean, you know, I can, I can remember the lessons that he taught us on respecting, you know, the female. Doing what you needed to do to honor her and uh...you know, so those things were very important to me as well and, and, you know, what he, what he shared with me has uh...I've been able to teach my kids, my, my, you know, the baseball teams that I work with, you know, I go back to what he worked with us about and is something that I, I try to establish as well and, and it's more than a game. I mean, baseball is, I mean, that's what he always, it's, it's more than just baseball, it's teaching about life and what's more important. I mean, it's not about baseball, you know, that's, that's what you love to play but, you know, it's what you're going to do with what God's, the ability that God's given you. So I, Coach Worthington, I just, I love the man. He's a phenomenal person and there's going to be a lot of people up in heaven saying thank you.

Cobb: (36:33) Quite a praise. When you, when you played it was, could you talk about, you talked about, I guess, practicing at Miller Park for a while before you had the stadium that was here. Could you talk about either how you traveled or maybe some of the where you traveled to? Did you travel two hours, three hours? Was there just anybody who could play you or...?

Bream: (36:55) No, no. We, we had good schedules. We were, we were part of the NAIA back then and we, I mean, we'd have a spring trip, I mean, our first year we went to Jacksonville, I think, or...no. I think the first year we went to Miami and maybe uh...or Hollywood, Florida and then, and then we came up through and I think we played Jacksonville, a Christian school up there because there was a couple of kids on the team, Glen Davis, who played, was a uh...tremendous first baseman for the Houston Astros most of his career.

Cobb: (37:26) Ok.

Bream: (37:27) And then Storm Davis, who was his brother, half brother to Glen, he was a pitcher that we were trying to get to come to Liberty so we went and played them and uh...so we did that and then we had other trips but we had, we had good schedules. I mean, we'd play the JMU, the Virginia Tech's here, you know, Old Dominion every so often, but we, we would, you know, we had our NAIA schedule as well but, you know, two of the years here, my sophomore and junior year, we were fifth in the nation with NAIA so we went to nationals two years in a row and, you know...

Walters: (38:05) And NAIA is for, for the record, for the people who...

Bream: (38:09) It meant, I think it's called, it's National Athletic...

Cobb: (38:12) Independent maybe?

Bream: (38:13) I, you know, I'm not...National Athletic uh...whatever...

Walters: (38:18) Independent something?

Cobb: (38:19) I'm not...

Abigail Sattler: (38:20) Intercollegiate?

Walters: We'll have to look that...

Bream: (38:21) Intercollegiate, there you go, Athletics or something like that.

Walters: (38:24) Ok.

Bream: (38:25) Very good.

Walters: (38:26) But we were a much smaller school then.

Bream: (38:27) Absolutely. We didn't have twelve hundred kids to school at that point in time.

Walters: (38:30) Right. Were we members of the National Christian Collegiate...

Bream: (38:32) Christian? No.

Walters: (38:34) No.

Bream: (38:35) Nope, NAIA.

Walters: (38:36) Not even the NCCAA?

Bream: (38:37) Nope, no. We were just, it was just NAIA at that time.

Walters: (38:39) Ok. And then you mentioned the ranking at Liberty. Who was your biggest rival in those days? Did you...

Bream: (38:47) Well, we all, I mean, our rivals were always the, the teams in the state of Virginia. Virginia Tech, JMU, I don't remember if we played Virginia back then. I think we might have played Virginia once or twice but uh...

Walters: (39:01) You mean UVA?

Bream: (39:03) UVA, yes. But...

Cobb: (39:05) How did you guys do against the Tech's and JMU's?

Bream: (39:07) Tech and JMU, I mean, it was always a one, one game, because we, we always pitched Lee Guetterman against Virginia Tech...

Cobb: (39:14) Ok, ok.

Bream: (39:16) I mean, so, and they would pitch their pitcher against us and, you know, I believe that while I was here, half the games went to us and half the games went to them. And JMU was the same thing, I mean, half the games would go, it would go, excuse me, back and forth with them. So, you know, those are, those are a lot of the big games that we used to play, I mean, the rivals that we used to have.

Cobb: (39:39) For an up and coming school to be able to do that well against the Tech's and JMU's is pretty impressive.

Bream: (39:43) Yeah, when you, when you have Lee Guetterman out on the mound, it makes it a little bit easier to face them [*laughter*].

Cobb: (39:47) [*laughter*] I guess that's true.

Walters: (39:48) Well we have, we have that on, on the record here to ask you that question later but while we're on Lee Guetterman, what was he like? Tell us about him. I suppose we'll have to try and get an interview with Lee...

Cobb: (40:00) To let him rebut you mean or...[*laughter*]?

Walters: (40:01) [*laughter*]

Bream: (40:02) Well, Lee, Lee was a tremendous pitcher; didn't throw the ball extremely hard. I mean, eighty-seven to eighty-nine sinker ball, you know, curve ball but, I mean, at six foot seven, six foot eight, whatever he was, maybe six foot nine, I mean, he was just a presence that was on the mound. I mean, he, he knew how to spot the ball and did, always did a great job while he was here at Liberty. You know, Lee and I, at times, because, I mean, a lot of times

when, you know, it was him and I going for the leadership; in a, in a sense the leader of the team. And him and I would but heads a little bit and I can remember, remember one time up in our dorm up there, I was talking to somebody else from room to room in the hallway, you know, and every time I'd said something, Lee would holler out, "Shut-up Sid!"

Cobb: (40:53) [*laughter*]

Walters: [*laughter*]

Bream: (40:54) And I'd say something else and it's, "Shut-up Sid!"

Cobb: (40:55) [*laughter*]

Walters: [*laughter*]

Bream: (40:56) And I said, "Lee," I said, "if you tell me to shut-up one more time, I'm coming over here and knocking you on your rear end." And he said, "Shut-up Sid!" and then we, I went over and I grabbed a hold of him and I threw him on the ground. But uh...

Walters: (41:06) Now, what did your RA do about that?

Bream: (41:09) I don't think he was even around at that point in time...

Walters: (41:12) [*laughter*]

Cobb: [*laughter*]

Bream: (41:13) but, you know, we had, I mean, we had some great RA's. We had Harry Walls who is a great pastor down in Alabama. We had Chuck Meyers that, you know, he went with Harry Walls a little bit. But two great guys, I mean, understood about athletics and so they were great people to be around.

Cobb: (41:35) Were there other pro players, because I know Lee Guetterman played professionally, that came out of your team while you were here?

Bream: (41:42) Doug Smith, I mean, signed when I was here. He, he signed with the Minnesota Twins and, you know, it was a funny thing, Charlie Manuel who is the manager right now...

Cobb: (41:52) The Phillies, yeah.

Bream: (41:53) for the Philadelphia Phillies, he was Doug's manager during, in the minor leagues. And the story was told, I mean, how Charlie went in and told the Minnesota Twins that Doug was the best reliever they had in the whole organization.

Cobb: (42:06) Wow.

Bream: (42:07) And they, they gave him his pink slip the next day. And to this day, I mean, Doug, I mean, Doug had so many question marks; why in the world, what's going on with that? But, you know, Doug was a, Doug was a quality pitcher as well. Didn't throw hard but threw from the side...

Cobb: (42:25) Ok.

Bream: (42:26) and knew how to get people out. And, and then we had Bernard Brown that he got signed by the Houston Astros and played for, you know, for several years from, for the Houston Astros and, and uh...you know, so there were a couple of guys that were on that team. Then Randy Tomlin was my last year here.

Cobb: (42:42) Ok.

Bream: (42:43) And Randy Tomlin played with the Pirates with us and so, you know, we had some, we had some pretty good ball players back at that time.

Cobb: (42:49) Now, what do they, did they do anything special in regards to, to diet for you guys? Were you put on any sort...I know the cafeteria that they had, students always make jokes about it. Did they do any special diet for you guys at all or...?

Bream: (43:02) We ate what was in that cafeteria...

Cobb: (43:02) You ate in the, what was on the tray?

Bream: (43:03) Like I said, we didn't leave that cafeteria. That cafeteria was our food [laughter]. And if you had, if you had peanut butter and jelly up in your room, you could eat that but that cafeteria...you didn't go out to the restaurants too much.

Walters: (43:15) Ok.

Cobb: (43:16) Now, did your team have any...ball clubs are always known for having a certain personality. So, when you talked about interacting with Lee Guetterman, was there, were there traditions, were there pranks? Were there things that sort of gave your team a feel? I mean, some, there's always someone who keeps things light, there's always someone who kind of helps set the mood. Sometimes uh...

Bream: (43:35) Oh, we had our pranksters, we had, you know, our jokes but, you know, one of the neat things, I mean, and again, it goes, it reflects on Coach Worthington. We had, we had a group of guys that were just really and truly spiritual guys. I mean, and I was sharing, because Tyler and them lost to Coastal last night, I mean, here which Coastal is ranked in, in fourth in the country...

Cobb: (44:02) Oh, ok.

Bream: (44:03) fourth or sixth in the country, I mean, as far as baseball and they're in the Big South and uh...I can remember, you know, our team going up to one of the playoffs, the regional playoffs up in Pittsburgh and, you know, again, a reflection of our coach and also our bus driver, Charlie. And Charlie's still around, I mean, he's still here. He doesn't drive a bus anymore, he's getting up in age, but Charlie was just a dynamic guy as well. But, you know, I can remember getting on the bus and, and the whole team would start singing the song from the Imperials. He

didn't bring us this far to leave us. He didn't teach us to swim, to let us drown. He didn't build his home on us to move away. He didn't lift us up to let us down. And, you know, again, it was a reflection of Coach Worthington and, and the, the thought process that let us know, I mean, you know, what was going on. I mean, it, that, that was important and that we were victorious through Him and, and we, we should never be down. I mean, we should never think that somebody has us defeated because we, you know, if David could beat Samson, I mean, we could certainly beat whoever was in front of us and uh...you know, so I was telling that to my son last night, just trying to let him understand that one game doesn't mean anything. I mean, you still have two more games to go and, I mean, and you guys can, you guys can beat this team and I sang that song for him a little bit and just let him understand that, I mean, you know, guys, you can win. Don't think that team is better than you. You can go out between those lines and believe that you got to, you can win this ballgame.

Walters: (45:38) While we're on that line, did you...now I'm a, I'm a kid in the late '70s, early '80s and I'm a Pirates fan. I remember you coming on board with the Pirates. They had gone to the '79 series and I remember watching you knowing that my sister had gone here to LBC in those days. And wow, the Pirates got a Liberty player, eventually. The Dodgers drafted you, right?

Bream: (46:03) Exactly.

Walters: (46:04) But, it seemed like the Pirates were in a down time in the, in the early '80s when you came in too. Did that transfer over, did you think back to those songs on that bus and stuff when you had a drought of wins in those first few days or...?

Bream: (46:18) Well, I, I, certainly Lowell, I mean, I thought, I mean, it was a totally different aspect for me playing than, than most people. I mean, the people that didn't have Christ, I mean,

you know, there was so much more pressure on...and I'm not saying that I didn't have pressure. I mean, I, you know, I certainly when I, when I played in the major leagues, I mean, I was not one of those that said, "Hey, you know, the Lord's will, I mean, if I don't get a hit today," I mean, I, and I tried to do that from time to time but, I mean, there's, there's certainly pressure but I certainly understood where my value was and, you know, so going back to Coach Worthington, I, I can remember calling Coach Worthington up cause, I mean, I came here and I hit over .430 every year that I was here at Liberty...

Walters: (47:05) Wow.

Bream: (47:06) I went to the minor leagues and hit over .300 every year in the minor leagues and then I went up to the big leagues and, and, you know, I, I went into some slumps. I mean, I'd start off hot, go into a slump, you know, got through that one my first year in 1986 and then in 1987 I did the same thing. Started off hot and, you know, then went into a, one of the worst slumps of my major league career and, and I called up Coach and I said, "Why?" you know, I said, "Why in the world is the Lord making me go through all of this? I mean, there's guys out there that are cursing His name, I mean, they're, they're going out on their wives, they're doing all of these things, and here I am trying to serve Christ," and, and he just made it very clear and he said, "Sid," he said, I mean, "you know, who are you playing for? What's, what's this all about?" I mean, and, you know, he put me in my place. I mean, this is not about Sid Bream and getting his MVP honors. It's not about...it's, it's about, you know, whether Christ is being used through me. And uh...so that was, that was a huge opportunity for me to, you know, to be taught and realize, I mean, it's, it's, yes, I wanted to be MVP. I wanted to be an all-star. I wanted to win the World Series. But, I mean, if that wasn't in God's plan, I mean, it was more about am I willing to be able to be used by Him.

Walters: (48:27) Sure. Let's go back...

Cobb: Now, do you have...with Al Worthington, I'm sorry.

Walters: (48:29) Sure.

Cobb: (48:30) You talked about how you were able to pick up the phone and call him, that he's that approachable of a guy. Are there other players on the team that you are able to when you, when you knew that there was a problem that you needed help with, that you needed to talk to somebody about something that was going on in your life, was there a teammate that...

Bream: (48:45) Oh yeah.

Cobb: (48:46) you could think of that you could pick up the phone that you knew that they would be there, that they would listen, that could...

Bream: (48:50) There was, there were certainly individuals on my team that I hung out with that, I mean, that were Christians that I talked to about but understand this; I came out LBC. I came out of a Christian university. And so whenever I went to my first minor league game, my first minor league team, as soon as I walked, basically, walked into the clubhouse, they were saying, "You're the chapel leader." I mean, so, I was in a sense put on a platform, you know, that, you know, they thought that I was basically Dr. Falwell, I mean, a theologian. And so there wasn't a lot of individuals that at that point in time and during my baseball career that, that I guess in a sense would consider themselves that they would be able to talk to me. And I, and I don't mean that I wasn't able to be talked to because, I mean, I certainly needed, needed somebody there to talk to but I had guys that I would sit down with and I would be able to talk to little by little. I mean, I would call Coach Worthington up. I would call, you know, my father up and so on and so forth and individuals that I respected very, very much in the game and, you know, you have to have that. If you don't, I mean, you can get down trotted real quick.

Walters: (50:12) Now, we brought it up earlier in a conversation but I wasn't thinking of this when we first made the questions but, your wife. As she has come up, developed with you in your early days, how does she adjust to going from being a Liberty Baptist student to a guy that, you know, the girlfriend of a guy that asked her out and all of the sudden she's, a few years later, in professional sports? Did she have any issues with that and, and how did she mature with you and support you when you went through those things or don't you feel comfortable speaking to those things?

Bream: (50:49) Yeah, I've, I've often, I mean, I've, I've told my children, I mean, you know, and I'll get, I'll get to where you're at, what your question was, but I, because of, because of the special lady God has given me, I mean, here at Liberty, I've often told my, my boys, you know, just the whole temptation aspect of it all. The chance of you marrying somebody that you date in high school is very, very slim. So why in the world are you going to put yourself in a temptation, you know, into temptation with the possibility of doing something that you shouldn't do that you're going to regret in your marriage for the rest of your life? And, you know, I am so thankful that my wife, I met her here. I, I am so thankful that I had a, a wife and again, when she, when she, she moved a lot during her days as a young person. And she told her parents that, "I'm never, ever going to marry anybody that's going to make me move like you've made me move." Well, in two years, I mean, she moved more with me that she did...

Walters: (51:57) *[laughter]*

Bream: (51:58) with her, in her time with her parents and, and uh...you know, but for her, the neat thing was, is she didn't come to me because I was a baseball player. The neat thing was, is she came to me because she loved me for who I was. There's a lot of, a lot of individuals, there

was a lot of girls back then that they were looking for an athlete to, to hang out with. My wife, I mean, she didn't have any of those aspirations. I mean, that wasn't, she wasn't a groupie. Um...

Walters: (52:35) What was her major?

Bream: (52:36) She was a elementary ed. and, and physical, special, special needs major. And, and so, you know, through the years, I mean, we basically grew up together. I mean, and uh...she has been a, a counselor to me, she's been a psychologist, you know, she's been somebody just to cry, cry to um...

Walters: (53:02) Now, did Major League Baseball have you do community service things?

Bream: (53:06) Well, we would do, we would do things such as caravans in the spring, or in the winter time. The Pirates would make you go out and, and we'd, you'd drive around, you know, to different shopping malls to meet people to try to get their fan base up and so on and so forth and we would do the...

Walters: (53:22) But I was just wondering if she got to use any of that education to do something like that or...?

Bream: (53:27) No, she's, my wife, I mean, thankfully, I mean, and to some degree for her but she's, when I was in Florida, she, she taught, she went in and got her certification and everything for a Florida teacher and so I think she subbed one or two times. It actually cost us more than, than what she got paid. And so she, over the years, she's never had to work, I mean, she, she has taken care of some elderly people and she has been home with my kids and I'm so thankful for that, I mean, she's been a blessing to my, my children and uh...

Walters: (54:06) And that's been her whole time job and calling.

Bream: (54:08) That's, that's been her fulltime job. I mean, I just, I just head on FOXNews just recently, I mean, they gave a rating to, to moms that stay home as stay-at-home moms and they figured with the hours that they put in they should be making about \$111,000 a year.

Cobb: (54:23) Absolutely.

Bream: (54:24) So, I mean, it's, it's a job and, and, you know, but I'm, I'm so thankful that she's been there for my kids.

Walters: (54:32) Well, let's go back to your Liberty days. That was a, a good rabbit trail to...

Bream: (54:34) *[laughter]*

Walters: (54:35) get on, I enjoyed that. So, Liberty at that time was playing in the NAIA. Did you ever have a championship game or a playoff game at that level or anything, any memorable games or big plays that stick out in college?

Bream: (54:49) At Liberty?

Walters: (54:50) Yeah.

Bream: (54:51) At, I mean, here at Liberty?

Walters: (54:52) Well, while you're representing Liberty.

Bream: (54:54) Ok.

Walters: When you're on the Liberty team.

Bream: (54:55) Well I, I mean, one of the games that I had that was a, you know, one to remember and, and we just had some of the alumni were just emailing back and forth, I mean, talking about the game but uh...we went up to regionals and we played Penn State there up at Point uh...up at, oh what's the name of the town...Freedom, no...somewhere north of Pittsburgh.

Walters: (55:20) Butler?

Bream: (55:21) No, it's Freedom or...Freeport, Freeport. We played Penn State there, up there and, I mean, during a regional playoff and, and if we won that then we were going to go to nationals and, and, you know, during that game I hit four home runs and, you know, so that was, that was a highlight for me. But, you know, we had, as far as the team was concerned, I mean, there was a lot of highlights, you know, like I said. Beating Virginia Tech and beating Virginia U, or JMU and some of the other teams that we beat and, you know, we had there was a lot of good highlights, going to NAIA championship and all of that.

Walters: (56:06) Ok.

Cobb: (56:08) What, were there um...obviously you talked about Al Worthington and the things that he taught you and the impact that he had. Are there other things that you want to share about what you think playing baseball at Liberty taught you either as a person or, or just some lasting memories that you have?

Bream: (56:26) Well, see, I mean, Mike, I mean, that's, that's one of the things that was so beneficial for me as well as Al Worthington played in the professional ranks for quite some time, was major league pitching coach, but, you know, when he came, when I came down here, what he had, what he taught me baseball wise let me understand how they were going to try to get me out, you know, the physiological diff...or the, the physical differences from a left handed hitter to a right handed hitter. That a left handed hitter, even though he likes to see the ball up and in, structurally, physically, he can't, he can't get to that pitch as easily as a right handed hitter can. You know, but, but where a right handed hitter can't hit the low and in pitch as easy because of their make-up, the left handed hitter, for some reason, is able to, to golf that ball a lot easier and uh...you know, but just letting him teach me that and, and having me be able to understand how they were going to try to get me out when I, the further I went up the game of

baseball was a huge help, you know, for me as I proceeded through the minor leagues and went up to the major leagues.

Cobb: (57:39) You talked about, by the way, butting heads some with Lee Guetterman. Did your team, was it one that had captains? Because I know that sometimes they have like a captain that they have sometimes on a team and, well, Derek Jeter...

Bream: (57:50) No, I...

Cobb: (57:51) I guess or Jason Varitek, sometimes, as the captain. Was there a person you had on your team that was kind of the leader?

Bream: (57:57) You know, Mike, you're asking a question that I truthfully can't answer, whether or not we had designated captains. I mean, I, I don't remember. We could have but I don't remember that being something that, you know, you had a, you would have a C on your...

Cobb: (58:15) *[laughter]*

Bream: (58:16) your jersey for being a captain. I...but, again, I don't know that for sure. We could, we might have and if somebody was from that team, they could probably clarify that for me.

Cobb: (58:25) Now, you talk about the bleachers being the same that are here. You talk about, sort of, the, the stadium. I mean, are there other parts, when you're walking around seeing your son, where memories are coming back because it's like, "Well, this is where we had such and such. This is where we," I mean, I assume that your wife at the time would come and watch some of the games.

Bream: (58:41) Oh, absolutely.

Cobb: (58:42) I mean, visions that's where she sat or where Dr. Falwell's van was or this is where...what are the memories sometimes when you walk around seeing your son play that sort of come back?

Bream: (58:54) Well, you know, I, one of the first things that I stated when I first got here, you know, that was, it was just that hillside. I mean, there was no bleachers on it when I first got here, I mean, it was just a grass hillside. And I can remember just going out one day and just laying down in the grass and as I told you I, I really was thinking, "I don't want to be here. I'm, I'm homesick." I had a girlfriend back home, you know, I wanted to go home. And I can remember laying, laying down and looking over that baseball field that was there and uh...or the grass that was there at that point in time because there wasn't any field but...and they had just sprayed insecticide on that...

Cobb: (59:34) *[laughter]*

Bream: (59:35) and I got the biggest rash all over my body and I, I called home and I told my mom, I said, "See, I'm telling you. The Lord wants me coming home. He don't want me here..."

Cobb: (59:43) *[laughter]*

Walters: (59:44) *[laughter]*

Bream: (59:45) and uh...but Coach Worthington would take me over and, and feed me ice cream...

Cobb: (59:50) Oh, wow.

Bream: (59:51) and make me fat and sassy and, you know, get me to stay here but that and, like I said, I mean, just, you know, there wasn't a whole lot there. We had, we had dugouts. The dugouts were not walk-down, they came a little bit later. Um...

Cobb: (1:00:09) No like weight training rooms, facilities or so?

Bream: (1:00:11) No, we didn't lift weights back then. I mean, see, that's, that was a no-no back then. I mean, for, especially a pitcher, I mean, a pitcher to lift weights, I mean, you know, they just felt as though that was putting too much strain on their arms and shoulders and elbows and, and so they didn't do that back then. We didn't have anything like that then like they do now.

Cobb: (1:00:30) Just getting up at, what?, five in the morning to go for a run or...?

Bream: (1:00:34) Nah, nah. We strapped it on and just went out and played. That's about it.

Cobb: (1:00:38) [*laughter*]

Walters: [*laughter*]

Bream: (1:00:39) We'd take our groundballs, we would take our, you know, hitting, batting practice. We'd go over the situational plays and, and you were ready to play. I mean, you do some running.

Walters: (1:00:54) How did...ok, you said that the teams were interested in you coming out of high school. Let's transition into uh...you're coming uh...you've been here at Liberty a while. How did Major League Baseball continue to interface with you and did they go through Coach Worthington to...how did you get from Liberty to minor leagues and then to major leagues is where we're going with this. Tell us about that experience. How did Liberty do that back in those days and how did you experience that?

Bream: (1:01:23) Well they're, I mean, Lowell, there really, there's really was no magical plan how you got scouts to come out to the games, I mean, basically, it was word of mouth would come out that, "Hey, there's, there's a pretty good prospect in this particular place and, and so little by little you would see a scout come and, and if they were interested at that...bird-dog

scout, I mean, a guy that really doesn't get paid but he, he comes out to the game and he says, "You know, there is somebody here." Then he'd call, you know, the regional guy. And the regional guy would come out and say, "Oh, we got some here." Then he'd call the super regional guy and the super regional guy would come out and, "Oh," and, and then the national guy would come out and, I mean, and again, these are, these are individuals that are your top round picks, you know, the top five round picks. I mean, after that, you know, it might get to the regional guy, maybe the super regional guy but it's not going to go to the national guy for them to really come and, and sit down and look at you. But if you're one of their top picks, I mean, you're going to see one of their top men and, and you know, so it's generally not just that person, you know, or that, that team. Once, once the word gets out, I mean, you're not going to have just one team there, you're going to have five, six, seven teams depending upon...there's going to be some games that, you know, Liberty's going to have down the future here with guys that are here that there might be, you know, twenty, thirty scouts.

Walters: (1:03:01) Are you aware that they're there at a particular game?

Bream: (1:03:03) Oh yeah. Because they sit, they sit right behind the screen, right behind the batter's box or the batter's plate and, I mean...

Walters: (1:03:10) And how does that affect you on the field? Do you think about that?

Bream: (1:03:14) There's, there's no doubt, I mean, as a young person, I mean, you're, you put pressure on yourself uh..."Man, a scout's here. I got to put on a good performance," and so that's, that's certainly a part of it. And, you know, you get the, you get the butterflies a little bit and you want to do good to show them what you can do and, you know, but I just can't keep, you know, being, being, coming out of that situation, I've shared with Tyler, I've shared with some of the other ones that, I mean, you know, when you do that, generally what happens is you

tighten up and when you tighten up, I mean, you don't do anything. And, you know, so, you know, I, I've been trying to work with those guys to kind of have blinders on. You don't, you don't look, you're focused on the baseball game. You don't look to see who's, who's around. You just go out there and, and you do...

Walters: (1:04:01) Play ball.

Bream: (1:04:02) your job.

Walters: (1:04:03) Yeah. So then how did it work for you and the Dodgers? How did...

Cobb: (1:04:07) Yeah, when teams express interest, are they going to contact Al Worthington and say they want to set up a meeting with you to interview you to talk to you? Do they, or do you just hear in the mail, like, you know, they'll joke about the selective service, you know, the government requests your...

Bream: (1:04:23) Normally, normally, I mean, what will take place today is, I mean, they'll, they will have you...if, if there's any interest at all, they'll have you fill, fill out these questionnaires, surveys. You know, some of the questions you're sitting there saying, "What does this have to do with baseball?" But they, they're just trying to get them mental picture, a mental makeup of the person. Back then, you know, the guy would come up, give you a card, and again, there there's NCAA for Liberty right now they, there's a lot of restrictions, a lot of things that they're not allowed to do. I mean, you know, they can make contact with you just like the coaches that are here with Liberty, I mean, there's a, there's a timeframe that they can go out and recruit, I mean, there's a, you can go out and watch a player all you want but you can't even go up and say hello to him. I mean, unless they initiate and say, and say hi to you, you can't go up and say hello to him. There's a, there's a timeframe when they can uh...you know, like June 1st coming up here is a time where you can start signing people for the next year and

the same thing with base, I mean, professional baseball. You, you have your in...they will give you a card. They will talk to you and just say, "Hey, you know, you're looking good out there. You know, there's a possibility that the, the Dodgers are looking at signing you," or whatever but to share anything about saying you're going to have this contract or this, they're not allowed to do any of that.

Walters: (1:05:52) So then how did it happen for you? When did you first realize Major League Baseball was becoming a reality? How did you get from Liberty into the minor leagues?

Bream: (1:06:01) Well, you see, again, I mean, my 12th grade year, I finally, I mean, up until that point in my life, I mean, I really had no thought of being, playing professional...I just loved the game of baseball; I loved playing it. But my senior year, some of the scouts started to come around to my high school games and, and at that point in time, things started to, you know, mess around in my head saying, "Hey, you know, I'm going to play professional ball." But, you know, when that didn't happen, I came down to Liberty. It was, you know, my junior year. I signed out of my, after my junior year. They have a thing called the June draft and the Dodgers came to me. I was their second round pick and Jim Garland, who was the area scout for this place, came up to my home, shared the contract with me, I mean, I didn't get an agent at that point in time, shared the contract that they, what they were willing to give me. My dad and I talked a little bit, put my name on the dotted line, and it wasn't too long after that I was going down to play in Vero Beach, Florida for their, their single A team.

Cobb: (1:07:08) Now, the signing bonuses that you hear about these days are crazy...

Bream: (1:07:11) Absolutely. I mean, it's, you know, it, it amazes me, I mean, and it's, and it's not just baseball but it's basketball. These kids haven't proven them, proven themselves a whole and yet they're, they're getting two, three, four million dollars coming out of high school or

college or whatever and, you know, some of those, the teams have to eat because they don't prove themselves but...

Cobb: (1:07:36) They never really pan out.

Bream: (1:07:37) they have, they have some pretty sophisticated, you know, criteria now. I mean, most of the kids that come up out of that area, unless they get hurt, they're, they got a pretty good chance to get to the big leagues at some point in time.

Cobb: (1:07:54) Now, there's a couple teams we know that you played with. Do you have any memories to share about either with the Dodgers, Pirates, obviously there's one that you're quite well known for, with the Braves, or with the Astros? I don't know whether some of the players that you played with or met or some of the games, is there anything...it's kind of a wide...

Bream: (1:08:14) Yeah.

Cobb: (1:08:15) ranging question but any of the, sort of, the teams that you played with...I'm not asking you to take the time to have to dissect everything that you did for all the teams necessarily but maybe something with the Dodgers or something with the...

Walters: (1:08:28) Maybe when you think of each team that you played with, give us two sentences, three sentences about them or your unique...

Bream: (1:08:35) Well, as I, as I stated, I started off with the Los Angeles Dodgers; came up through their minor league system, played, played just a couple of years of uh...I mean, a couple of months of professional ball, Major League Baseball with them. I mean, I had the opportunity to have Tommy Lasorda as my manager during that timeframe and, and, you know, I was not a big Tommy Lasorda fan. But I also had the opportunity to have Orel Hershisser as my, as a teammate along with, you know, the great team from the L.A. Dodgers; Billy Russell and Steve Garvey and Bill, Rick Monday and Steve Garvey and, and Dusty Baker and Davey Lopes and

Ron Cey and, and, you know, some of the great players, I mean, that, you know, from that Dodger era. It was a lot of fun being there with them. And then I came over to the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1985. We were, Cecil Espy, R.J. Reynolds, and myself were traded for Bill Madlock and went in...at that point in time Chuck Tanner was my, my manager when I first got there but then they switched over to Jim Leyland in 1986 and, and Jim Leyland was the best manager that I played for. He was a psychologist. He knew when to kick you in the butt. He knew when to tell you a joke to get you to relax. The biggest thing that Jim Leyland did is he told you the truth. He wasn't, he wouldn't throw, he, he just wasn't going to tell you something to whitewash something. He would, if, I, I remember going into him one day and, and cause I, I was in a slump but I was starting to hit the ball a lot better at the time but I was going on down the lineup from fifth to sixth to seventh. And I went in and I sat down and talked to him and I said, you know, "What's going on?" and he said, and he just thought, and he said, "Hey, you're lucky you're even here." And, you know, and it put me back a little bit but he made me wake up and, but he constantly, he was, he always shared the truth with us. I mean, even if it hurt, but if it was good, I mean, he was going to tell us the truth and um...and I, and I played some, with some great ballplayers there with the, you know, towards the end of my career, I mean, or the end of the Pirates. Doug Drabek, John Smiley, I mean, Bob Walk, Andy Van Slyke, Bobby Bonilla, Barry Bonds, I mean, Jeff King, Jay Bell, Jose Lind. I, I played with Mike LaValliere, Don Slot. I played with some great ballplayers at that point in time uh...Rick Reuschel. And then from there I went to the Atlanta Braves and, and once again, I mean, they, I went down there, they were looking for some leadership and they brought in Terry Pendleton and they brought in Rafael Belliard, myself, Charlie Leibrandt, and, you know, but we were playing with guys, you know, young kids like David Justice and Ronny Gant and Tommy Glavine and John Smoltz and

Steve Avery and Kent Mercker and, you know, just a slew of talent. But they just didn't know, they didn't know how to win. And so that's, that was one of the neat things going down there and, and sitting down on team meeting without coaches and just talking very, very frankly with those young men about what it took to be a winner and just, you know, throughout the course of that first year just watching the transition; their minds, how they started to switch from every two weeks getting your paycheck to, "When I go between those lines, this game is mine." And, you know, and just watching nine games out of first place at the All-Star break and, you know, everyday just going out and seeing that lead getting smaller and smaller to the Los Angeles Dodgers and then the last day of the season, if Dodgers would have won they would have gone to it, we had to be the Houston Astros and we beat the Astros and we sat there and watched on the board and the Astr, uh...the San Francisco Giants beating the Dodgers to let us go into the, the playoffs. And then going on, I, I knocked off my Pittsburgh Pirates that year and...

Cobb: (1:12:52) [*laughter*]

Bream: (1:12:53) the Pittsburgh Pirates the next year and...

Walters: (1:12:54) Broke my heart [*laughter*].

Bream: (1:12:55) [*laughter*]

Cobb: [*laughter*]

Bream: (1:12:57) So, you know, just a lot of fun and then I went to Houston Astros my last year. Terry Collins was my manager...Bobby Cox was my manager in um...with the Braves and Terry Collins was my manager with the Astros and played with Craig Biggio and, and Bagwell, Jeff Bagwell and some great ballplayers. Luis Gonzalez and, you know, played with some great pitch, you know, players at that point in time too.

Cobb: (1:13:21) I have to ask about the Dodgers. To me, I, I come from smaller town type things. To, Was there any feeling when you came from Carlisle, Pennsylvania to go to Los Angeles, California?

Bream: (1:13:35) Oh my. I can only tell you, when I, when I got called up, they put me in the Bonaventure Hotel which is downtown L.A. And my wife...and there were, there was Figueroa Street up to Legion, no, Figueroa up to something to Legion to get to the ballpark. I mean, that's all I had to do. I mean, there were, I think there were three or four streets and then there was one street that I could take off of Bona, from the Bonaventure that would get me food. And my wife wanted to go out and explore L.A. and I said, "Forget this. I think I'm going to drive into the ocean." I mean I, I had nothing to do with the big place. I mean, I was, I was lost in the big city at that point in time.

Walters: (1:14:19) How did you...that brings up an interesting question too, I believe, that I'd like to ask; how did you keep your family together? How did, how did the, how did church life work with all of this? I mean, baseball is a long season and when did, how did you do that? Did you start that up in February with spring training or um...and then you're busy even, if you go to the World Series, you're busy until November now, if you were playing but...

Bream: (1:14:48) Yeah.

Walters: (1:14:49) How did you work that out?

Bream: (1:14:50) Well, I mean, Lowell, they had, I mean, the great thing was, I mean, just to keep you involved, I mean, they had baseball chapels, you know, every Sunday, you know, before your game. I mean, they'd have a pastor or somebody come in and share with you the Word of God. And we would have Bible studies that, you know, somebody like our chapel leader, not our chapel leader, but, our, you know, the baseball chapel leader; the guy that would

orchestrate getting the speakers in for us. He would try to set up Bible studies for us throughout the course of the week so on a certain day when you were home, you would go in and, you know, maybe a little early for batting practice and you would have your Bible study. And when I went to L., Atlanta, I mean, we didn't understand because when we, when I left the Pittsburgh Pirates, we had just won the National League East championship; went up against the Cincinnati Reds in 1990. The day after we lost to them the management of the Pirates came out and said, "Sid Breams, our first priority to sign for next season." So my wife and I were ecstatic, I mean, we were, we were very, very happy. But through the negotiations, you know, they didn't even want to get close to market price for me and it came around to free agent time and, and, you know, the Atlanta Braves gave me that, a great deal but, you know, we, I, just to make a long story short, I went to the Pirates and asked them to have a no-trade clause because of um...you know, I said, "Hey, I'll take what you gave me to stay here," I mean, which amounted to quite a bit of money back then and uh..."if you give me a no-trade clause." And they said, "Well, we're not going to give you a no-trade clause." And I said, "Well, if I'm your first priority, I'd hate to see what your last one was." And so I went to Atlanta and the neat thing about the whole thing with going to Atlanta and, and my wife and I cried our eyes out leaving Pittsburgh because we really developed some great bonds there. But when we went to Atlanta, we were able to start, you know, we started with the men's Bible study first; they never had one. We started a couple's Bible study, you know, while we were there and then there was a lady's Bible study that got started with the wives and...so, you know, God had reasons for us to go down there and, and not only that, that play that, with Atlanta in 1992, that you, you don't like me doing...

Cobb: (1:17:15) [*laughter*]

Walters: *[laughter]*

Bream: (1:17:17) that, that as well gave me an opportunity to go all over the place to share my love of Jesus Christ with other people as well.

Walters: (1:17:26) Well then, so when you were a young pro player, you were still kind of, correct me if I'm wrong, you were still looking back to Al to some, to some degree as a mentor. Did you have other people that you, when you went into major league ball, that you could look up to morally in that way, in that nature? I mean, when did the calls, did the calls to Coach Worthington start dropping off and you start looking...did you find some other people out there?

Bream: (1:17:55) Coach Worthington was my mainstay but, I mean, and, and really there was, you know, we had our baseball chapels in, in with the Pirates but when I went to Atlanta that there was several people down there that were great helps to me. I mean, Tim Cash, he has a company or, not a company, but a ministry with UPI, Unlimited Potential Incorporated. And their, their ministry is working with professional baseball players to mentor them, to disciple to them, to grow them up in Christ, I mean, as they're, they're there and um...and I'm trying to, you know, there's another gentleman that was our Bible study leader while we were there and I'm...man, I can't believe that I can't remember his name because, I mean, he has, he had such an impact on my life. I mean, he's from Charlotte and right now my, his name, you know, is, is gone so uh...but uh...

Walters: (1:18:50) Well, I have a question here about players developing loyalties to teams. So you had a pretty deep loyalty to the Pirates but when you're a pro player, it comes down to a business deal too, that's correct?

Bream: (1:19:03) Absolutely.

Walters: (1:19:04) Yeah, so, would you say that the Pirates have been your deepest loyalty or did it go to the Braves then because you got to the World Series? How does a player in general deal with that and, and does your family move, do you have your residence in the summer at the home city so to speak so you can have some contact with them in the home stands or how does that work?

Bream: (1:19:26) Yeah Lowell, I mean, loyalty, I mean, they always, the management for different ball clubs always used to say, "There's no loyalty. There's no loyalty anymore." Well, there's a lot of guys out there that are trying to show loyalty too, I mean...and I'm not, like, I'm saying it goes both ways.

Cobb: (1:19:43) Oh, sure.

Walters: (1:19:44) Right.

Bream: (1:19:45) I mean, there's some ballplayers that are doing everything that they possibly can do to stay and I'm, I'm kind of curious to see what Albert Pujols this next year, I mean, you know, he's a free agent and has an opportunity to, to make a lot of money and whether or not he will be willing, because he loves St. Louis so much, whether he'll be willing to take less in order to stay in, in St. Louis or whether or not St. Louis is actually going to provide him with the, the market value that he's worth or whatever, you know, what they, they consider their worth. But, you know, so there, it's a two sided street. I mean, you know, there are individuals out there that are wanting to show loyalty and there's management that they don't, they don't do anything about it and uh...but as far as what, what you do at that point, when I went to Atlanta, because of the nature of my contract, I was able to go ahead and we, we bought a house in Atlanta, put our kids in a Christian school there but when the season was over with, then we brought them back up; we still had our home in, in Pittsburgh. And every offseason, I mean, we were back up in

Pittsburgh, I mean, no matter what and as soon as we were done in Atlanta, we, we put it up for sale and it sold real quick and so we were out of that and uh...when I went to Houston was, Houston was probably my toughest time because Michael, my oldest, was getting to the point where it was tough for him to be leaving his school. And so I would see Michelle and Michael and, and Tyler at that point in time in spring training for two weeks and then I, I didn't start seeing them until the beginning of June, middle of June. And so that was a very, very difficult stretch for me, I mean, um...and so that, after that year, that was my last year and, I mean, I can remember my son very, very vividly, him sitting in his car seat saying, "Dad, I want you home." And, you know, so that was a lot of the reason that after that year was over with that I made the decision that it was time to, to be home and be with my kids.

Walters: (1:21:49) How tough was that? I mean, right now we hear about Bret Favre in the NFL just, I love those commercials that Sears did but, you know, it sounds like for you the family was really has won out and that's probably as it should be I would think. But tell us about walking away from the sport.

Bream: (1:22:08) Well, I mean, family should be it. I mean, but I, I will just say that I tried, I mean, I'll just, I tried to say, "Ok, if I could just at least stay with Pittsburgh." I mean, so I went to the Pirates and I asked them whether or not I could come be a role player for them; a low ticket item, teach the young kids how to be maybe be winners. And, but I think that the slide was too fresh in their mind back then...

Cobb: (1:22:36) [*laughter*]

Bream: (1:22:37) and they said, "No, we don't want to do that." And so that...but I, I figured at that point in time at least I wouldn't have to have Michael move some place...

Walters: (1:22:46) Right.

Bream: (1:22:47) and I could, you know, I could be home, when we're home, I could be home and so if that would have worked out I would have probably played a year or two depending upon what would have happened but I, I wouldn't have left Pittsburgh team, I mean, as soon as Pittsburgh would have said, "That's it," I would have said that was it. But, because I wasn't going to have my family move again um...and I can't remember what the rest of what you were asking there.

Walters: (1:23:12) Well, I was just asking about, in general, about walking away from the sport, from the sport...

Bream: (1:23:15) Yeah.

Walters: (1:23:16) What does it do to you personally? You know, you, you spent your youth building up to the dream and you've accomplished it. And I imagine any professional athlete goes through that, where age sets in and your abilities start winding down for you. Um...

Bream: (1:23:30) Yeah. See, I was, I was only thirty-four years old at the time, Lowell. I mean, I still, I still would have had, and actually I was, if it wouldn't have been, I had, at that point in time, I had five knee surgeries on my right knee and one on my left. In 1989 I tore my ACL and the surgeries really took me out of the game that I love to play. I mean, I used to be very, very aggressive. I mean, I used to breathe down the throat of a pitcher when he squared around to bunt. I used to try, I mean, even a first baseman, I used to go first to third with the best of them. I used to be aggressive and I, I loved being aggressive, I mean, I loved taking a guy out at second base but when my knees happened, it took me away from that. I, I could no longer stop on a dime to, to charge in to make a play at second base and, you know, so it really took me away from the game of baseball that I love and so that, that also came into play a little bit, I mean, how affective I could be as a ballplayer. And so for me, in 1994 when my kids, you

know, Michael was sitting there saying, “Dad, I want you home,” that was my first priority but I was also in the back of my mind saying, you know, “I really can’t play this game the way I used to play it,” I mean, and, you know, if my knees would have been healthy, I could have seen myself playing, you know, for quite a few more years...

Walters: (1:24:55) Sure.

Bream: (1:24:56) but um...but at the same, you know, but at that point it, it wasn’t supposed to be.

Walters: (1:25:02) Sure.

Cobb: (1:25:03) You talked about being aggressive and liking being an aggressive player. I think some impressions that people have of, of Christians, or maybe even of Christian ballplayers, is sort of easy going and sort of meek and sort of mild and things like that. What, what issues did you find playing on the field? Did you find people trying to goad you to do certain things or maybe to lose your cool or to, to lose your Christian testimony or things like that that are because you’re...well, you talked about going to play and, “Well, you’re going to be the preacher,” or you’re the chaplain I believe you called it...

Bream: (1:25:39) Yep.

Cobb: (1:25:40) how do you play the game of baseball as a Christian? How do you open the eyes of people who have the stereotype of what a Christian is, to show them that Christians have a drive to win, a desire to win, a passion to win?

Bream: (1:25:57) That’s a good question Mike. I mean, I, I can remember, and it happens today too, I mean, you know, Christians will get on interviews afterwards and, if, you know, saying it was God’s will for me not to have, do well tonight and all. And I, I can remember individuals back then and some of my teammates talking about how that’s such a lame, lame excuse and

truly for a Christian, you know, if you give it your best, I mean, and I, and I always try to tell my kids to try to live by it as well, when I was playing, I was playing for one person. I was playing like Christ was the only one in the stands and, you know, obviously when I went 0 for five, I was, I was a little perturbed at that, you know, he, he didn't allow me to do better but I was trying to, to come to grips with, if He's the only person in the stands, I mean, and I give it my best for Him, then I don't have to be worried about, you know, what management thinks or what the fans think or what my teammates think. I know that I gave it my best and uh...you know, but there were certainly times throughout the game of baseball where I'd hear from the different players, I'd, or I'd hear mumblings, you know, about...I, I can remember Ray Miller, our pitching coach, for, the Pirates making statements from time to time, you know, about Christians and, and, you know, their softness and they have to have a crutch and a cane and, you know, to lean on Christ and so on and so forth. But I also remember the whole aspect of Michael LaValliere. Never went to chapels, never went to, to Bible studies, wanted nothing to do with Christianity but I remember him, whenever I would explode, I mean, I'd strike out and throw the bat down the tunnel or do something to that degree and I can remember Mike several times coming up to me, "Is that, is that the way a Christian is supposed to act?" and I realized at that point in time, I mean, that they're watching me. I mean, you know, I was a chapel leader. They didn't want anything to do with it but they were watching to see how I was going to react to certain, certain things that took place in my life and...probably one of the, the biggest examples to best, best testimony that ever was, was when I played with Atlanta. My last year with them in 1993 they brought Fred McGriff in to take my spot at first base and, you know, it hurt. I mean, it hurt a lot to, to not be over at first base but, I mean, I, my attitude...and I, and again, I'm not patting myself on the back. I mean, but I, you know, my attitude was such that, I mean, I was

going to everything I could to help the team no matter they got rid of me or, they got rid of me and because of that I had, I mean, a lot of my teammates come up and show their appreciation for the attitude that I, that I had during that time. Fans, you know, sent me a lot of letters talking about that timeframe and how much they appreciated the, you know, the character that I showed during that time and, and the way I went back out onto the field and, and did my job every time that they asked me to do it. So, you know, we're, we are; we're examples. I mean, Christ calls us ambassadors and so...

Cobb: (1:29:24) Well no, I appreciate that. It's just, I like hear, I like hearing Christians talking about the, the passion and the drive and the desire to excel and achieve too. It's just sort of the indifference sometimes that's portrayed. I don't know if I consider that the best description...

Bream: (1:29:40) Yeah. Mike, I'll, I'll just say this. I mean, I have told many a people Christians, Christians aren't weak. I mean, to me, you know, as I, and as an individual I told you, I mean, I think we should take out a guy at second base harder than anybody else but we do it fair...

Cobb: (1:29:57) Right.

Bream: (1:29:58) we do it legally. I mean, and I, I think that Christians should be the absolute perfect, I mean, whether you're an athlete or whether you're at another job, I mean, we should be the very, very best at what we're doing because God expects that out of us and it shouldn't be because of what management thinks about us. It should be because of what God's expects out of us. I mean, whatever you do in will or deed, do it all to the glory of God.

Cobb: (1:30:21) I think that's tremendous. I appreciate your sharing that. Lowell knows that I have to eventually bring this up...

Bream: (1:30:28) [*chuckle*]

Cobb: (1:30:29) and so I've got to talk about what you've already talked about which is the slide. Eventually we're going to lead to talking...

Bream: (1:30:35) Sorry, Lowell.

Cobb: (1:30:36) about [*laughter*]...

Walters: (1:30:37) Oh, I'll deal with it.

Cobb: (1:30:38) We going to talk about playing in the World Series but we've got to talk about...can you set us up, give us a little memory about NLCS Championship Series uh...

Bream: (1:30:51) With the Pirates?

Walters: (1:30:52) '92.

Cobb: (1:30:53) Was it '92?

Bream: (1:30:54) The '92 one?

Cobb: (1:30:55) Game seven, two outs, was it bottom of the ninth?

Bream: (1:30:57) Bottom of the ninth.

Cobb: (1:30:58) You're on second base I believe.

Bream: (1:31:00) I was at that.

Cobb: (1:31:01) Could you go ahead and, for those who may not remember what happened, or...?

Walters: (1:31:05) Did you hear Andy Van Slyke telling Barry Bonds to move up?

Bream: (1:31:10) I did not hear that. I mean, he, he was, I mean, listen, looking, looking at the video of that and seeing where he was playing, it, it amazed me that he was so deep. You know, I guess maybe he was thinking, "Well shoot, Sid's on second base. We don't have to worry about him a whole lot. I can back up a little bit and prevent anything deep." But I've heard that and whether or not that's true, I don't know.

Walters: (1:31:37) You didn't hear it?

Bream: (1:31:38) I did not hear it. I did not hear it. It was too loud in that place at that point in time...

Walters: (1:31:41) [*laughter*]

Bream: (1:31:42) to hear anything and I, I doubt that Barry heard it because it was too loud there unless he saw Andy going like this, you know, moving hand motion for him to move in but uh...

Walters: (1:31:52) Well, I believe they brought in a pinch hitter.

Bream: (1:31:54) They did. Francisco Cabrera, I mean, actually, they brought in two pinch hitters. I mean, Brian Hunter came up with the bases loaded with one out and, and Stan Bolinda, got him broken bat, a little pop fly behind second base and so that was the second out and then Francisco Cabrera, who a lot of people, I mean, to this day think, man, you know, what a, you know, not the greatest pinch hitter to come up in, during that time frame but Francisco Cabrera had some big hits for us that year. I mean, he, he hit a home run off of Rob Dibble from Cincinnati that, that won a ballgame for us, I mean, several games...if he, if he would have had a place to play, I mean, if he wouldn't have had, you know, box hands, I mean, he, he could have been a great professional baseball player. I mean, he, he certainly had the bat for it. But, but anyway, Francisco Cabrera comes up with two outs, bottom of the ninth, I mean, the score is two to one at the time and, you know, he took a...

Cobb: (1:32:55) Two, one Pirates.

Bream: (1:32:57) Two to one Pirates. Yeah, I mean, yeah if we, if we don't score right here, at least tie it up, we're going home and Pittsburg is going to the World Series and, and Stan Belinda threw a high outside fastball, I mean, literally, I mean, it was, it might have been off the plate on

the outside part and somehow he got his hand out there and turned, turned that thing between uh...in the six hole between third base and shortstop and hit a rocket. For me, I mean, it was the best scenario, I mean, I still say, I mean, when I go out and speak, I don't know what Bobby Cox was doing. Skip Kerry's up in the press box saying, "What it the world is Bobby Cox doing? Why don't you get somebody to run for Sid Bream?"

Walters: (1:33:36) [*laughter*]

Bream: (1:33:37) You know, "If you can't find somebody in the, you know, in the dugout, get somebody in the stands. Just get somebody to run." And, you know, thinking Bobby's having a brain cramp and probably was but, you know, Francisco hit the ball and, I mean, again, it was a best scenario for me because there were two outs, I knew that they weren't going to try to pick me off. I mean, if they were trying to pick me off, I would have been dead, out by so much it would have been ridiculous because I was so far off the base and, you know, when he hit the ball I didn't have to worry about where it was hit. I could take off and uh...because if, if there would have been one out, I would have had to freeze because, I mean, that ball was hit line drive, I mean, and I don't know if Jay Bell would have caught the ball. So when he hit the ball I took off right on the get-go. It was a hard hit ball but fortunately, you know, I was able to come in and beat it by about four inches and, and if the ball would have been dead on, I was out. But it was thrown...

Cobb: (1:34:33) Just off the line, yep

Bream: (1:34:34) just off the first base line just a little bit and that gave me an opportunity to put my foot in before Spanky, you know, tug me and, and, you know, it was a great thing for the, the Braves, it was a great thing for the city of Atlanta and, and, a great thing for Sid Bream.

Walters: (1:34:48) And so what, what's going through your mind? You're laying there and the teammates are flying all over you...

Cobb: (1:34:51) I was just going to say [*laughter*].

Walters: (1:34:52) what's going through your mind?

Bream: (1:34:53) Yeah, I mean, I, you know, a lot of the people said, "Didn't that hurt? I mean, everybody..."

Walters: (1:34:58) [*laughter*]

Cobb: [*laughter*] No, all these big guys.

Bream: (1:34:59) laying on," and I, you know, in all truthfulness, I mean, the adrenaline, the excitement. It was so much that, I mean, if I wanted to at that point, I probably could have thrown them all off of me there was so much adrenaline going at that time and, and, you know, it just, it was just a fantastic...and again, I didn't, I didn't do the difficult thing. I mean, Francisco Cabrera, he's the one that deserves all of the, the praise for what he did at the plate, I mean, taking a high outside fastball and just pulling a bullet between third base and shortstop for a base hit and, you know, I just, I...most people would have been into the dugout, up in the clubhouse by the time that I got to home plate [*laughter*].

Cobb: (1:35:34) [*laughter*]

Walters: [*laughter*] So, you won that game, you went to the World Series. Tell us about what that's like for you. You grow up dreaming of playing pro ball and you made it to the big one.

Bream: (1:35:47) Well, you know, we had done it in '91 as well, I mean, we, we beat the Pirates in '91 as well and we went up against Minnesota and probably to this day, the series that we played with Minnesota, which went seven games, down in history as probably one of the greatest World Series that has ever been played. I mean, it came down to Jack uh...oh, what's

his name? Jack, from the, the Twins and John Smoltz pitching to the eleventh inning the score was, you know, I, I think it was either nothing, nothing or one to one or something to that degree. And, and then Kirby Puckett finally hit a homerun to, to win the, the ballgame and so that was, you know, just a phenomenal series. And then we went against the Toronto Blue Jays in 1992 and, you know, we started off at home and won the first game. Should have, you know, thinking, man, we're winning going into the second game and think, man, we should close this out and their third baseman hit a homerun to tie it up or uh...and then they went on to win that one and that really, that really deflated us. I mean, we could have gone up to Toronto with a two game, two game lead at that point in time and we went up there one to one and, you know, they played good. Joe Carter and, and the pitchers that they had up there. They did a great job and, and we just, we just didn't do enough and so we lost, lost that World Series and, you know, I have, I have a great story, I mean, with Tommy Glavine. Tommy, Tommy thought, and, and this goes even passed '91 and '92, but Tommy Glavine, who was a Cy Young Award winner, you know, just a tremendous pitcher. Has everything that you could imagine in life, I mean, a great house, a great car, a great family, you know, all the money that you could ever want, I mean, and, but there was still something missing in Tommy Glavine's life and so when they went to Cleveland and they were playing Cleveland in 1995, Tommy thought, "Man, if we just won the World Series, maybe that would take away that void. Maybe that will take away that, that pain that's, you know, in my heart," or whatever, wherever it was at, at the time. And so they went up there and they actually won that...

Cobb: (1:38:03) I was going to say, they won in '95.

Bream: (1:38:04) that, they won the World Series in 1995 and, you know, I had a good friend on that team, Greg McMichael. Solid Christian brother that I can remember him telling me the

story that Tommy came to him, you know, not a week, not a month, not a year after that but the very next day after playing in that World Series and winning the World Series and he said, “Is that all there was to it?” I mean, you know, this world, I mean, we, we put our hopes and dreams on the temporary stuff and, and a lot of us, a lot of people are left out that, are left out to dry because that void does not close whenever something happens for them. And Tommy Glavine, I mean, hearing him share that, I mean, was a tremendous uh...I’ve used it, I mean, wherever I’ve gone I’ve used it in just talking about how if you put your hopes and dreams on temporary things, it’s not going to last. I mean, it’s only through Jesus Christ, I mean, things are going to, to turn around so um...

Cobb: (1:39:05) Did Tommy Glavine eventually become a Christian?

Bream: (1:39:06) He has become a Christian, I mean, within the last several years, I mean, he’s become a Christian now so, so it didn’t happen at that point in time but it has, has happened and, and thankful to have him as a brother in Christ now.

Cobb: (1:39:18) That’s great.

Walters: (1:39:22) In that offseason after...well, for that fact, what’s life like in the offseason? Did, did your former Pirates’ fans after the, the big play, did they ever comment to you about that or do you just avoid those conversations with them and...?

Cobb: (1:39:43) Did, yeah, what’s...

Bream: (1:39:44) Well, we had death threats ...

Cobb: (1:39:45) Oh, you did?

Bream: I mean, we had somebody call up our house and

Cobb: (1:39:46) Oh, good grief.

Walters: Really?

Bream: (1:39:47) tell us my family and I...

Walters: (1:39:48) Seriously or was it...

Bream: (1:39:49) were going to be killed and uh...you know...

Walters: (1:39:50) From the fans?

Bream: (1:39:51) Oh yeah, you know...and so we had that. We had, you know, like I said, I go out and speak and wherever I go speak I'd have people coming up and I still, to this day, when I go out and have an opportunity to speak someplace, I'll have a Pirate fan come up and tell me I was out and...

Walters: (1:40:10) *[laughter]*

Cobb: *[laughter]*

Bream: (1:40:11) you know, but, you know, now it's the Bream curse up in Pittsburgh, I mean, you know, seventeen...eight, going on eighteen years now that they haven't even had a .500 record and so the Bream curse is alive and well in Pittsburgh right now and, but yeah, it uh...there were, there were some time, I mean, like I said, you know, I asked to play up there in 1995 with the Pirates and it was too fresh in their minds; they didn't want Sid Bream there.

When I coached with the Pirates a couple years ago in their minor league system and, and Kyle Stark, who is the head of minor league operations, when he introduced me, he said, "I just want everybody to know that when we announced that Sid Bream was coming onboard to coach, I mean, half the calls were to praise and half the calls were saying, 'what in the heck are you doing bringing Sid Bream, you know, that, that ruined the Pittsburgh Pirates?'" And so there's, there's still a lot of people up there that blame everything that's going on, on Sid Bream and that night and uh...but, you know, most of the time it's all fun. But there's, there's...it's kind of like Civil War stuff, I mean, there's still some of those individuals that still...

Walters: (1:41:26) They're still fighting the War.

Bream: (1:41:27) Yeah, they're still fighting the War.

Cobb: (1:41:30) Barry Bonds, sometimes, gets to be the face of professional baseball or the issues with Mark McGwire or the issues with Sammy Sosa. Sometimes news just like stories of problems and they don't talk about what's right with baseball. What's right with baseball?

Bream: (1:41:46) There's a lot of great things that are happening, Mike. I mean, there's a lot of people that have great charities that, that they, they work to help underprivileged kids. There's a lot of great things. I mean, Nate McLouth, who plays for the Atlanta Braves, when he was in Pittsburgh had, had a charity through a steel company that every time he hit a single, double, homerun was giving money to Imani Christian Academy which was an inner city Christian school that was, was just doing, and it still is doing just tremendous things for kids' lives.

There's, excuse me, [*coughs*] there's baseball clinics going on, Christian baseball clinics through this, this group called Unlimited Potential that I was speaking about earlier, that they, they take these major league baseball players on a Saturday or, or a home game, bring out visitors and, and the home team, some of the ballplayers and do these great baseball clinics that kids come out, they, they learn a little bit about baseball but then they share their testimonies and, and give the gospel at the end of it. You know, there's, there's, you know, and, you know, that's just baseball. There's, there's so much tremendous stuff. I mean, the baseball chapels are going on. The, the discipling that's going on in the game of baseball today is, is greater than it was when I was there. I mean, John Smoltz built a Christian school down in Atlanta. You know, there, there're just so many great things, I mean, you know, ballplayers are going on missions trips and, and, you know, going over and doing clinics over, overseas and, and doing missions trips, you

know, to, you know, spread the gospel and help out people of other third world nations and stuff. I mean, Mike, I mean, it's...you don't hear that stuff...

Cobb: (1:43:38) No.

Bream: (1:43:39) I mean, you don't hear it at all, I mean, but it goes on right underneath our noses and, and for parents, I mean, they always, they keep talking to me about, "Man, you know, we don't have any heroes, I mean, in the game," but there's plenty of heroes. I mean, plenty of heroes there that you can, you can direct your children to if you just do a little research, I mean, because they're there. I mean, there're some just strong, strong Christians in the game of baseball, basketball, football that if you just do your homework, I mean, you can tell your kids, I mean, this is, this is somebody that you can look up to.

Cobb: (1:44:13) How familiar are you with Josh Hamilton?

Bream: (1:44:14) Absolutely.

Cobb: (1:44:15) Could you tell me...

Bream: (1:44:16) Oh, how, how familiar am I with him? I don't know him personally but I know his story, I mean, know his story quite well.

Cobb: (1:44:24) Do you think that...he was a guy that was considered such a strong potential and he kind of struggled with some of the pressures that he, kind of, faced and I think the story is that he's trying to come back in a lot of ways with a stronger testimony and talking about some of the challenges that he faced and, to me, that seems like part of a story about a good thing in baseball. He's a guy that I think can be, can be looked up to. As a player from Liberty, was it the, was it your Christian walk that you had from Liberty, was it Al Worthington, was it your family? I know that there's any number of things when you come from a small place and you're thrown into the big city. What were the things that you think were key in helping you maintain

who you are and maintain a testimony so that you can come back and say...to try to mentor these kids? You can talk about the chapels. You can talk about...

Bream: (1:45:22) Mike, I was, I mean, I'll just say I, I was not a perfect, you know, Christian. I mean, absolutely not and just as Josh Hamilton struggled, I mean, I, I certainly struggled at times myself. But I will say that, I mean, having the accountability of the background of the school of Liberty, you know, kept me from doing a lot of things. I mean, just because, I mean...and the whole aspect of my parents, not shaming my parents, I mean, was a huge accountability thing but, you know, you know, as you were talking about Josh, you know, yeah, he, he fell backwards a little bit but I think all of us, I mean, we're, baseball players, I mean, politicians, athletes, I mean, they're, they're under microscopes. I mean, so every move that you make, you know, actresses, actors, I mean, you're, you're, they're under, you're under a microscope. Every move that you make, I mean, is, is, you know, brought out in the papers and, and, you know, but each, each one of us, I mean, whether you, Mike or Lowell or Abigail sitting here with us or whatever, you know, we all have our little demons. I mean, we all have our little things that, you know, that, those, those little demons, they attack on a daily basis and sometimes we stand strong with the Holy Spirit and sometimes, I mean, when we're walking in the flesh, we fall. And, but they, it gets brought up with them because they're such, you know, they're, they're put on such a platform and, you know, for Josh, that's, that's one thing, I mean, I, back when I played the game of baseball, I would have probably jumped on him a lot more than what I do today but I realize how easy it is to fall and I, I realize how easy it is, I mean, even after all of these years of being a Christian, how, if Satan can get his foot in the door, how easy any of us, I mean, can, can, you know, can fall. Can fail the Lord, can fail our families, can fail, you know, our businesses wherever we are but mainly fail the Lord with our walk. And so I have a lot of

sympathy for, for Josh. I also have a lot of prayer going out for him too. That, you know, he, you know, God continues to get a hold of his heart and the Holy Spirit continues to challenge him each and everyday to be more like Christ and, and, you know, I'm proud of him for what he's done.

Cobb: (1:47:50) Great. Thank you. A lot of people always have opinions about what they'd like to do for Major League Baseball. Let's say you're commissioner for a day, commissioner for a week, whatever you want to call it. What's the thing that you're going to do? Are you going to, is it going to be marketing? Is it going to be highlighting what professional athletes are doing? Is it going to be making changes to rules? What, what ideas would you have that you think could make a positive change to baseball as we know it today?

Bream: (1:48:20) Mike, I mean, that's, you know, that's certainly a good question. I mean, I, I think, you know, one of the things that I would try to...and, and I think Major League Baseball is, is trying to, you know, get this to work, but just to help their players to understand without, without, you know, people coming to the ballgames that the game of baseball is nothing. You know, have them really appreciate the fact of what fans mean to the, the cities. Obviously, I was one, I am, I was very, very upset, and still am upset, with the individuals that have done steroids. To...and, and I understand and that's the temporal stuff, I mean, that we were talking about earlier. I mean, shoot the game a better contract and so on and so forth but, you know, I, as I stated earlier, I, I had six knee surgeries in, I've had six knee surgeries now in my right and one on my left and, and I can remember the hard work that went into me rehabilitating my knee as well as getting my body back in shape in order to play the game of baseball and to...and it, and it bothers me to think that, I mean, somebody would shoot themselves up and be able to work out harder, be able to heal quicker so that their bodies are able to work out more. That might, guy

now that threw ninety, ninety-one mile an hour, now he's throwing ninety-three, ninety-four that might have gotten it passed me instead of me getting a hit if he was throwing ninety-one, ninety-two on a certain situation as well as, you know, the individuals that are sitting there and, and, you know, without the stuff they might hit five homeruns, with the stuff they're hitting twenty-five, thirty homeruns. And, and it bothers me the liaison, you know, attitude that the Player's Association and Major League Baseball has had towards it. I mean, and I, I really don't want our Senate being involved with making decisions in Major League Baseball but at the same time, I really didn't appreciate the fact that what the Player's Association, how, I don't, I can't, how lackadaisically that, lackadaisical they were with, you know, trying to, to bring it to a head.

Cobb: (1:50:49) That's good. Thank you. When you talk about your Christian testimony, one of the things we discussed was the aggressiveness and I appreciate how you can talk about the passion that Christians can play baseball with. There had to have been a time that you played and you thought, "This call wasn't right." That the umpire did something, I don't know, if the strike zone or the, you know, you're going to first...there had to be some situation that you ran across that you thought, "This wasn't how it was supposed to be." How did you react to that? How did you respond to it? Is there anything that sticks out, necessarily, a situation?

Bream: (1:51:25) I don't get along with umpires too well Mike.

Cobb: (1:51:27) *[laughter]*

Bream: (1:51:28) I mean, I just, I, I mean, even today, I mean, I coach some teams and, and when umpires get out there and they become lazy, I mean, and they're out there just to pick, you know...and I'm not talking college umpires. I'm talking the high school umpires, the summer ball umpires, I mean, they, they're out there just to get their forty dollars, forty-five dollars to go home. It irritates me for them to be very, very lazy out there on the bases and so I'll let them

know. But in the, in the game of professional baseball, there were certainly a couple, couple times, I mean, I got thrown out one time...

Cobb: (1:52:06) You did, ok.

Bream: (1:52:07) and it was at the end of the season. I was struggling, I mean, not struggling, but I was, I was, we had won, we had already won the National League East and Bruce Froemming was the home plate umpire and I was working to try to get, you know, my RBI's, I was pretty close to, I, you know, something for my RBI's as well as my batting average. And I can remember late in the game we were winning and, and, you know, normally the umpires at that point in time, their ump, their strike zone expands and, and I had guys on base that I could have knocked in and he, he called some pitches that I thought weren't close and, you know, and he called me, he rung me up and as I was walking back to the dugout, I didn't look at him and I just kind of turned my head a little bit and I told Bruce, I said, "That was brutal." And he, and he said, "What'd you say?" I said, "Bruce, that was brutal." I kept on walking; never looked back at him, just kept on walking. He said, "What did you say?" And I said, "Bruce, that's brutal." He said, "You're out of here!"

Walters: (1:53:15) [*laughter*]

Bream: (1:53:16) So, I mean, I, there was nothing that I did, you know, with...my mouth deserved it. He, he took the penalty away from him because, I mean, he got a laugh out of it but there was also a couple plays at first base that uh...there was one, one umpire that, that had the nerve to tell me that he, he made Keith Hernandez wait three or four years before he was able to talk to him at first base and I just thought, "Who are you?" and, you know, so we never got along real well and there were a couple of plays, I mean, during a July 4th that, you know, I had to do some stretching but I, I had the video that, I mean, showed that I was on the base and he called

me off the base and I can remember getting in his face quite a bit but I, I play with passion. I mean, I uh...like I said, I don't like the umpires being lazy. I want them being on top of the calls and if they're, if they're not, they're going, they're going to know it from Sid Bream.

Walters: (1:54:08) Sometimes it's worth it to be calling out, or to...

Bream: (1:54:10) Absolutely, absolutely. I mean, I don't, I don't do it, I mean, I, I don't do it to, you know, just be a pain. I mean, I, when I do it, I do it because I just feel as though they're not playing, they're not doing, they're not living to the standards that they're, they're behind the plate to do.

Walters: (1:54:26) So you see it as an accountability thing?

Bream: (1:54:28) Absolutely.

Cobb: (1:54:29) It's accountability, sure.

Walters: It's the only accountability you can give to them.

Bream: (1:54:31) Absolutely.

Walters: (1:54:32) Did the press ever give you a hard time about coming out of Liberty University or, for that fact, being Christian. Did, did they ever exhibit a bias or hostility based on the Christian belief?

Bream: (1:54:43) No, Lowell, I don't remember anything happening that way. The only uh...really, I don't, don't remember anything with that. I do remember one of the writers up in, in Pittsburgh that I did not really appreciate a whole lot. One day he wrote an article stating Sid Bream, you know, Sid Bream's, you know, one of the best players on the team, I mean, we need to sign him to a contract and a month later he's, he's writes an article that Sid Bream needs to be, you know, cut and released and, and I can remember coming into the, the clubhouse and he was standing right there and, and getting in his face a little bit and, and uh...but uh...as far as my

Christian faith, I don't ever remember...especially in Atlanta. A lot of, lot of reporters down there were Christians and they allowed, they gave you questions to be able to talk about Christ a lot too, so that was pretty nice.

Cobb: (1:55:39) You had talked not thinking that the Senate needs to be involved in the different Major League Baseball issues. What about Major League Baseball being involved in political issues? One of the current topics that's being discussed is, because of a law that was passed in Arizona that maybe Major League Baseball ought to pull its all-star game. Is that something...?

Bream: (1:56:01) I, I mean, I, for one thing, I mean, I, I uh...I guess I'm on the side of Arizonians. I mean, I don't, I don't understand how you can call an illegal somebody that needs to be here, I mean, he's illegal, he's breaking the law, he needs to go back to where he needs to go. But at the same time, for, for Major League Baseball, some of these high schools to sit there and, and not allow their kids to go to Arizona because of all of this, I mean...

Cobb: (1:56:26) Chicago girls team, I think.

Bream: (1:56:27) Yeah, I don't, I, I don't understand that. I mean, it's, it's not their place to, to be in politics; to, to be worried about that stuff and, and I think for the most part the popularity of the decision out there is, is one that's, you know, it's, it's a minority that's going against this thing. The majority is, is in favor of what Arizona did, so.

Cobb: (1:56:53) Right. So the people outside of Arizona are suggesting [*laughter*]...

Bream: (1:56:56) Yeah. Yeah, somebody that doesn't understand about the problem that they have there, they're the ones that are telling Arizona what to do.

Walters: (1:57:03) It seems as though many professional athletes, not just in baseball, in fact, baseball's not just, isn't the first [*chuckle*] sporting venue that comes to mind when I think of this

but, a lot of professional athletes have trouble handling their money and then planning for a career after their, their athletic abilities deteriorate and they have to retire. How did your Christian worldview affect your approach to that side of, of life as you were a professional athlete and what advice would you give to current professional players?

Bream: (1:57:38) Well, one of the, one of the neat things for me is, I mean, I, my agent during that time was the one that went down with Payne Stewart in the plane, I mean, Robert Fraley.

Cobb: (1:57:47) Oh.

Walters: Oh.

Bream: (1:57:48) And he was my agent. But he introduced me to a gentleman by the name of Paul Crouse from Ronald Blue & Company that really helped me understand the whole aspect of you got to spend less than what you make. And, you know, so most of the timeframe in the game of baseball, you know, my wife and I did a great job of, of saving money. We didn't spend a dollar twenty for every dollar that we made and, and because of that, you know, we have been able to live a pretty enjoyable life, I mean, as far as uh...in being able to give and being able to do a lot of great things. Now, you know, my, my advice to most of the ballplayers, I mean, people that are, are, have that opportunity is, you know, don't spend more than what you make. I mean, it's very, very simple, I mean, but I came out of a family that you didn't, I didn't have a whole lot. And so, when I first got money, I wanted to, man, I wanted to get some of these things. I wanted to have some of the nice things that you can have and, but when you stop to think your average baseball life, I mean, it is about four years. Your median is about two years and you're not going to put a whole lot away, you know, and so you still have thirty, forty years before there's a potential for death, I mean, unless the Lord takes you early, you better do something to be able to save up to, to uh...or have, having a backup plan. That's why it's so

important to go to school and to, to understand that only one out of the million, I mean, if you put a million people in this room right here, only one out of those million people will get to be a Major League Baseball player. If you got to the major, I mean, if you got to the minor leagues, only one out of a hundred would make it to the major leagues. So I mean, even there your percentage is very, very low to, to get to the major leagues so you better have a backup plan. There, there better be something there that, that you know that you're going to be able to make money out of to, to support your family and do those things.

Walters: (1:59:54) What do you do in that realm now, economically or career wise? Do you, do you have paid coaching positions somewhere that you do or...?

Bream: (2:00:03) Well, there's, I mean, there's a lot of things, I mean, you know, and a lot of the guys that played baseball, I mean, even some of the guys that I played with so much now, or when I played, their getting, they're finally getting back into the game of baseball. They're starting to coach and do a lot of things and like I did two years ago. I mean, I went back and started to do some minor league coaching but once again, my wife is my best friend and now all of the sudden for six and a half months I, I was away from my wife and it was very, very difficult. I mean, I'd see her periodically; a weekend here, a weekend there, I mean, and it, it was just difficult and, and family is more important to me than, than baseball and, and so I stopped doing that again. But, you know, eventually, when you keep on taking out of your premiums every year, I mean, sooner or later, I mean, you're going to have to do something...

Cobb: (2:00:52) Sure.

Bream: (2:00:53) So, I mean, I've done a lot of speaking, I mean, the Lord has blessed us but the biggest thing for me is, I mean, you, you have to have some kind of a plan. Whether you use your college degree, whether you get into coaching, whether you...whatever you do, but there

has to be something there that you understand that you have to work whole heartedly for to, to support your family.

Cobb: (2:01:16) That, you sort of have answered uh...you may feel like you sort of answered this and if, if...I don't want you to have to restate what you've already said but, now that you've been on sort of both sides of the issue of...you've, you've been drafted and you've played professionally and so you understand sort of what's going through and what was needed to help you go through and sort of the mentors that you've had. We're glad to hear that your son's here playing and I know that you've got a game that you're going to see him in. Hopefully he'll get a call one day that there's a professional team interested in him. As a father, as a past professional player, how do you advise or what would you advise or what would you tell your son if he got that call that says there's a major league team interested in him? What would you tell him in regards to what he needs to do, both for the game and for life?

Bream: (2:02:09) Mike, that has been going on, you know, ever since, you know, I felt as though my son had an ability, I mean, I have been, as little tidbits of wisdom has come into my mind from certain things, I mean, you know, when I come down here, I consistently, you know, sit down with him and, and talk with him about, you know, his approach to the plate. You know, I consistently talk to him about what needs to be done focusing on, you know, keeping the whole perimeter, all the things that are on the outside that are distracting, keep those at bay and, and focus on what you're doing, I mean, if you really want to play the game of baseball. There's, there's just...each and every day that I have a chance to talk to him on the phone, I mean, the Lord will provide me with some kind of a, a lesson that I learn that I've been able to teach and share with, with him. You know, I'm very, very proud of what he's accomplished here and, I mean, and if, if he continues to improve, I, there's no doubt that my son's going to have a chance

to play in professional leagues and if he desires to do that. But, you know, the one thing that I would say for my son that I didn't have back then is, he is, he is more established in his Christian walk than what I was. And so, he's going into, he would be going into the game of baseball a lot stronger than what I was and so I am, I am delighted that, that, you know, that, first of all, God gave me parents that loved the Lord, that I had a chance to come to Liberty, to have a coach such as Al Worthington, and to have a chancellor such as, you know, Dr. Falwell that taught me so many things here at this school and, and that in turn made me, hopefully, a better parent that has given him the opportunity to learn and from my old mistakes and dumb mistakes and make him a better person.

Walters: (2:04:15) What's big, what's been the biggest change you've seen in Liberty as you've visited over the years?

Bream: (2:04:21) Freedom, the freedom aspect. I mean...

Walters: (2:04:26) Like Christian liberty?

Bream: (2:04:27) grace...yeah, Christian liberty. You know, there's, there's, I mean, I'm, I'm so blessed, I mean, I am so grateful for this school, I mean, I really and truly am. I mean, when I go out and speak, wherever I go out to share, I mean, I share how important it is to come to Liberty. I mean, I, you know, there's a statistic that Andrew Wilson that played here from last year with LU, his dad is the chaplain down at N.C. State. And he shared a statistic with me last year that talked about a Christian young man or young woman that goes to a secular university. They grow up in a Christian home, profess Christ as their Lord and savior, but went to a secular university, they have an eighty to eighty-five percent chance of dropping away from their faith, falling away from their faith, rebelling, going backwards. And, you know, and then I share this story about how my oldest son got bit by a black widow spider in his, in his rental. And I say,

“Where in the world can you go to that, I mean, your professor that you were supposed to be at that class is going to stop class and start praying for you?” and that has meant the world to me. This school has so many opportunities. They, they get to hear, like we’ve talking about, some of the, the greatest speakers in, in the world. They get to hear some of the greatest Christian music in the world. They, they get to come down here and start to learn to be independent but have an accountability over top of them which, you know, allows them to grow. Allows them to, you know, when they get out of this place, I mean, it allows them to be stronger and be able to take on the world. And I love, you know, like I said, I love this place. You know, but, you know, like I said, I think the, the, what I’ve seen is, the grace aspect of it. The, the freedom, the Christian liberties have, has changed dramatically. I mean, it’s not as legalistic as it used to be and as long as, as long as it doesn’t go the route of so many universities that started Christian and they forget about Christ, I’ll always be a big supporter of Liberty University.

Walters: (2:07:08) What does the future of Liberty’s athletics look like?

Bream: (2:07:11) I think it looks very, very bright. I mean, I think that, that the more that this place continues to grow, and continues to have quality, quality places to play, that kids are going to be more and more visible, you know, it’s kind of like a Christian school. I mean, a Christian school, a high school, that has athletics but they play such poor competition that there’s no way that there’s kids that are coming out of that school are going to have a chance for an athletic scholarship. It’s, you know, it hurts but, and the same thing goes for here, I mean, if you, the more, the more chance that you have for somebody coming into this school to uh...that they love athletics and they have a chance to be drafted into the pros, I mean, the stronger this place is going to be and I really and truly believe that there’s, you know, with the coaching that’s here, with the facilities that are here, I, I only foresee, I mean, football’s, football’s going to be the

toughest to move forward. I mean, the only, the thing that's changed so much and not that there weren't non-Christians on the team back when we were there but the thing that's changed a lot is, and I, there's some great coaches here that really work to maintain a Christian environment on their team but there's, there's I, I wish that there was uh...the coaches would really look at trying to recruit more of the Christian athlete because there's a lot of them out there. Football, like I said, it's going to be tough to get that many good, quality players but most of these other sports, I mean, there's, there's Christian kids across this country that are all-stars that could be coming here and I think it's going to happen little by little. I mean, you're going to start seeing some of the best, best prospects coming to this place because of what it can do for them as a person as well as what it can do for them as a, a Christian.

Walters: (2:09:18) Right, we want the Tim Tebow's to come here, through Liberty.

Summarative question here, the putting it all together for us, what do you see as the future of Liberty University as you look back and as you look forward? What do you see as the future and, and, yeah?

Bream: (2:09:39) I, I see, you know, what I've seen so far, Lowell, Mike, I mean, I, you know, when, when Jonathan took over as pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, all I could remember him by back, back when I was in school was the little brat. I mean, but I am so impressed with Jonathan and, and how well he has done, how the Lord has used him to focus...get the people to start to understand that it's not just about being inside the church; it's about going out. He has created such a vision for that church that I am, I am so impressed with him. I, I...God has just used him mightily. And then Jerry Jr.; to see what he has done to, to help this school to get on its feet financially, to do the right things. As long as, as long as the, again, Jonathan, I don't think that there's a worry in the world that that church is just going to continue to thrive because of his,

his love for Christ and what he's doing and I just pray that, I mean, the people on the Board of this school will continue to fast and pray as Dr. Falwell did and if they do that, this school will stay where it's supposed to be and I pray for that.

Walters: (2:11:12) Well, that about wraps it up. Thank you for being with us Sid. Thank you, Mike...

Cobb: (2:11:16) Absolutely.

Walters: (2:11:17) Thank you Abigail for being out technician. And this will conclude our interview of Mr. Sid Bream, a retired professional baseball player. This interview has been part of the oral history project of the Liberty University archives.

[end of interview]