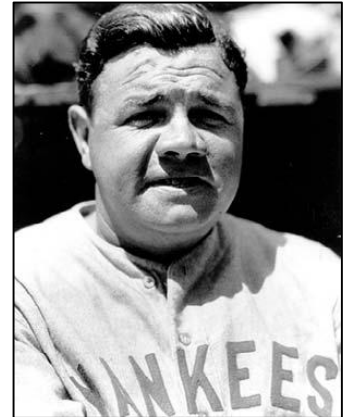


## Overlooked, But Not Forgotten

One of the enjoyable post-meal-time activities we do from time to time is reading. This past Christmas, while our daughter was home, we pulled out William Bennett's, "The Book of Virtues". Under the "Faith" section we found a testimony of Babe Ruth.



His account began: "Bad boy Ruth – that was me." Babe spent the latter years of his boyhood at a religious orphanage / reform school. Labeled as "incorrigible", he might have continued that way, were it not for a man who took an interest in him. Brother Matthias was a big man, towering six feet six and weighing 250 pounds, he could hit a baseball 350 feet just by tossing it up in front of him. Through Brother Matthias and the school, Ruth learned that God was Boss. After leaving the school he "strayed from the church" for a time. "I don't think I forgot my religious training. I just overlooked it." He went on to write this:

So what good was all the hard work and ceaseless interest of the Brothers, people would argue? You can't make kids religious, they say, because it just won't take. Send kids to Sunday School and they will too often end up hating it and the church.

Don't believe it. As far as I'm concerned, and I think as far as most kids go, once religion sinks in, it stays there - deep down. The lads who get religious training, get it where it counts - in the roots. They may fail it, but it never fails them. When the score is against them, or they get a bum pitch, that unfailing Something inside will be there to draw on.

It is not an uncommon scenario to learn that a former Awana clubber is living a wayward life. How our hearts ache for them, but we can take courage from Babe Ruth's testimony and God's Word:



*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*

God's Word will always be in their hearts, so keep instilling it and keep trusting!

Rick & Fairy Hattan – High Plains Awana Missionaries

You can find Babe Ruth's testimony on page 778 of "The Book of Virtues" or online at:  
[http://tothenextlevel.org/docs/testimonies/testimonies\\_baseball/ruth\\_babe/ruth\\_babe\\_default.asp](http://tothenextlevel.org/docs/testimonies/testimonies_baseball/ruth_babe/ruth_babe_default.asp)