

# Breaking a Baseball Record

Mark McGwire today serves as the hitting coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He knows a thing or two about getting a bat on the ball.

In 1998, as a player for the St. Louis Cardinals, he broke the long-held record of Roger Maris for single-season home runs.

For his career, McGwire averaged a home run once every 10.61 at bats, the best at bats per home run ratio in baseball history (the legendary Babe Ruth is second at 11.76).



But it was that dramatic day on Sept. 8, 1998, that captured the attention of baseball fans and the public at large. Max Lucado, author and minister, describes it in his book *Grace for the Moment*:

*The stadium is packed today. Since Friday, McGwire has hit not one or two home runs, but three. For 37 years, no one could hit more than 61 homers in one season; now the St. Louis slugger has hit 68. And he isn't finished ... The fans are on their feet before he comes to bat; they stay on their feet long after he crosses the plate.*

*Not everyone can be a Mark McGwire. For every million who aspire, only one achieves. The vast majority of us don't hit the big ball, don't feel the ticker tape, don't wear the gold medal, don't give the valedictory address. And that's OK. We understand that in the economy of earth, there are a limited number of crowns.*

McGwire finished the 1998 season with 70 home runs. Barry Bonds, with 73, broke his record three seasons later.

And Lucado then observed: "The economy of heaven, however, is refreshingly different. Heavenly rewards are not limited to a chosen few, but "to all those who have waited with love for Him to come again" (2 Timothy 4:8).

And while they are waiting, the associates of Life Care and Century Park are about the business of caring for His children. And that is laying up treasure in heaven.

– Beecher Hunter