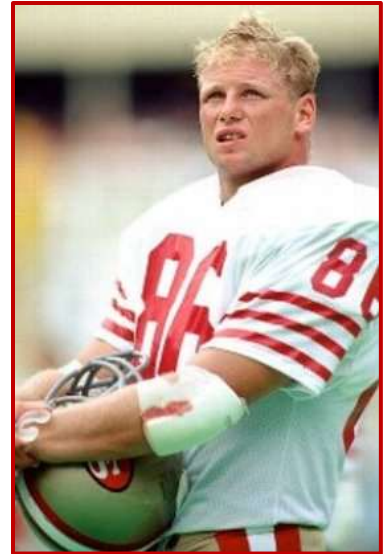


Giving Up Fame, Big Bucks

Dr. Daniel Lioy, an ordained minister with the North American Lutheran Church, author, and adjunct professor at George Fox Seminary in Salem, Oregon, tells the story about a professional football player named John Frank.

Frank played college football as a tight end at Ohio State University and professionally in the National Football League with the San Francisco 49ers from 1984 to 1988. He was selected by the 49ers in the second round of the 1984 NFL draft and won two Super Bowls with the team.



Frank was 27 years old and in his prime as an athlete when something happened that caused him to reassess his priorities.

In one of the 49ers' games, an opposing player appeared to have suffered a serious injury. Frank rushed to his side. At one time, Frank had dreamed of becoming a physician, but he gave in to the fame, glory and big bucks of being a professional football player.

Still, he had a physician's heart. And so it was only natural when he saw this player injured that he would pause to try and help him. The result was that Frank was chewed out by his coach for "giving aid and compassion to the enemy."



Suddenly, life as an NFL player was not quite as important to Frank. At that moment, he decided to hang up his cleats. He chose to go full-time to medical school.

After giving up football, Frank earned his M.D. from Ohio State in 1992. He is an otolaryngologist, board-certified by the American Academy of Otolaryngology and the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery. He has performed more than 2,000 hair transplant procedures in Northern California and New York City since 1998. And in 2006, he opened Anapelli Hair Clinic in New York City, specializing in surgical hair transplantation.

Walking away from pro football seemed silly to people, Frank said, but he is happier now in serving the hurting. He has no regrets, he added, about giving up fame and fortune in the pro ranks.

(more)

We admire people like John Frank, but it's important for us to recognize that the kindness he demonstrated – like the Good Samaritan parable Jesus told – is being shown every day in the centers of Life Care and Century Park.

Courtesy, compassion and kindness are our stock in trade. And they should be expected in every human being.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience (Colossians 3:12 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter