

Giving Up a Dream

What is the formula for growing strong families? Investing precious time in them is a substantial part of the equation. In *New Man*, Gary Oliver writes about a difficult decision made by professional baseball player Tim Burke concerning his family.

From the time Burke can first remember, his dream was to be a professional baseball player. Through years of sacrifice and hard work, he achieved that goal.

While a successful pitcher for the Montreal Expos, he and his wife wanted to start a family but discovered they were unable to have children. After much prayer, they decided to adopt four special-needs international children. This led to one of the most difficult decisions of Burke's life.

He discovered that his career on the road conflicted with his ability to be a quality husband and dad. Over time, it became clear that he couldn't do a good job at both. After more prayer and soul-searching, Burke made what many considered an unbelievable decision. He chose to give up professional baseball.

When he left the stadium for the last time, reporters wanted to know why he was retiring. "Baseball is going to do just fine without me," he said. "It's not going to miss a beat. But I'm the only father my children have. I'm the only husband my wife has. And they need me a lot more than baseball does."

When you share your time with someone, in reality, you are investing your life. And that is very, very important.

--Beecher Hunter