

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Yankee Chaplain Visits South Bay Bible Church

EAST MORICHES, NY – How do you escape the streets where you were homeless since age 11, beat drug addiction and, without having learned to read until age 27, become the spiritual guide to some of the greatest stars in sports? If you are Willie Alfonso, Chaplain to the New York Yankees, the answer is simple: An unwavering faith in God.

“When I was homeless sleeping by myself in abandoned buildings, rats would bite me and wake me up,” Alfonso told members of South Bay Bible Church in East Moriches when he addressed the Saturday Men’s Ministry. “Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would survive the streets to help others in their journey with the Lord,” Alfonso said, emphasizing that his path in life was set not by himself, but by God.



“On my best day, I could not have put all this together. It was all God,” said Alfonso, who traveled from his Staten Island home to speak at South Bay.

The Chaplain, who also ministered to players with the New York Giants and Knicks, Brooklyn Nets, and the Miami Heat, to name a few, said he has no doubt that faith makes athletes better. One player in particular is Yankee pitcher Mariano Rivera, who Alfonso has been a spiritual advisor to for 18 years. “He’s the greatest closer in baseball history and I get to conduct Bible study at his mansion,” the Chaplain said with awe, noting that Rivera is pastor of his own church in Westchester.

“We were blessed to have such an inspirational man come all the way to our church to bring us the Lord’s message,” said Martin Hawley, South Bay pastor. “His life story is incredible.”

Alfonso is stepping down as Yankee Chaplain this year to devote himself to Teen Challenge New Jersey where he counsels inner city youth. “I get up at four in the morning every day to be with them,” he said. “I’m having the time of my life.”

Willie Alfonso’s life story is told in his book, “It’s A New Beginning: How to Turn Your Setbacks Into Comebacks.” He cautions people: “Nobody said life would be easy. What you put in is what you get out. It’s not about religion, but your personal relationship with God.”

For more on Willie Alfonso, visit www.williealfonso.com. About South Bay Bible Church: South Bay Bible Church is a non-denominational Christian church known for Biblical messages applicable to everyday life. The church meets at 578 Montauk Highway in East Moriches, NY. The church’s mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our service schedule includes three convenient times: Saturday night at 5:00 and Sunday morning at 9:00 and 11:00, and online anytime. A nursery and children’s church are available. For more information, go to southbaychurchli.org, call (631) 909-8241, Facebook, or Twitter @sbbcli.

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