

MAUPIN MESSAGE

Pursue Jesus in Everything; Trust God for All

This has been a wild ride for the past year. On March 2, 2020, I finished a 20-year career with Cru/FamilyLife and began a new adventure—Pure Adventure—only to have God allow those plans to be altered so that I could know Him more intimately. The roller coaster ride that God has allowed for all of us in the Age of Covid has seen many levels of sorrow, hardship, pain and suffering. There have also been acts of heroism, opportunities, miracles and God-sightings. In everything, I've discovered—like the Apostle Paul—to praise God regardless my circumstances.

In a bible study I was doing this past month, Paul and Silas were persecuted and imprisoned in a passage of Scripture that related to the FCA mission focus this year—Pursue. At the very time Paul and Silas were shackled to the floor of a prison after being beaten and, as the jailer assigned to them slept, they were heeding the words of Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord, always; again, I will say, rejoice.” Paul and Silas were praying and singing “about midnight” when “suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s bonds were unfastened.” (Acts 16:25-26).

Now, I encourage you to read the rest of the account in Acts 16 for yourself and know that what God did to reveal Himself to Paul and Silas was amazing. However, more impressive to me is what God is teaching me about pursuing Jesus in everything and believing/trusting God for the results. I am only in charge of my efforts and actions; God is in charge of the results. I give God my heart and He gives me opportunities to share His heart through me with coaches and athletes. I don't like all of my circumstances—current and former—and I let God know and He hears my prayers and responds (Psalm 116). The lesson for me is that I don't have to rejoice ABOUT my circumstances. I can, however, rejoice AMIDST them, knowing I'll never face anything outside of the awareness and oversight of God. And I know that He loves me—so much that He sent Jesus to take my sins upon His body and Jesus followed through and died for me, and for you. When Jesus rose again after three days, He gave the promise of everlasting life with Him in Heaven after our time on earth is through—if we put our faith in that Truth. The gift we as believers have in the here and now is the presence of the Holy Spirit—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in every believer. So I can pursue Jesus with my everything, rejoice in the Lord always, and be grateful that God is overseeing and intervening in my daily life. It might be hard—and often is here on earth—but my hardships come with hope. Hope whose name is Jesus.

