

MAUPIN MESSAGE

God Provides To Help Me Stay Faithful

Twenty-one years ago, on May 3, 2000, the ragtag group of intrepid adventures that are the Maupin Family made their way from Elgin, Illinois to Little Rock, Arkansas. We were following God's leading with expectant hope in Jesus to provide, protect, defend and to use us in full-time ministry. Though we were/are inexperienced and flawed creatures, we trusted—and continue to trust—in the one who called us to serve Him here. God is faithful.

God has proven faithful through you. You are His workmanship, revealing Him to us as you pray for and provide for us to be on mission for the Gospel. We are grateful, especially now as recently, two churches let us know they will not continue their financial support and a third has stopped their giving without explanation. This has caused hardship, pain—and much spiritual growth. Gratitude for your prayers and financial support fuels my passion to press on.

With all that happening “behind the scenes,” here's what God has been doing as FCA serves coaches to connect them with Jesus and His church and help them reach the next generation for Christ. Two high schools, Little Rock Christian Academy and Joe T. Robinson, have given me full access to their football workouts and we partner to seek out student-athletes who give their 100-percent effort in practice without coaches pushing or prompting. It's been such a fun partnership as both schools' coaching staffs have lauded the opportunity their players have to hear praise for their effort from someone outside of the coaching staff. I have T-shirts to give to the selected player and the coaches have given me time to speak to the entire team. I share why I'm there, how this is a partnership and a way to call up leaders who PURSUE their best and create a great example for others. Recently, a player asked me at the start of practice, “How do I get one of those shirts?” That illustrates a personal desire—and not just for a T-shirt. Together the coaches and FCA stress integrity and character and self-discipline as we seek to make disciples and build leadership qualities that will carry these athletes long past their playing days. We get to share Jesus—our power source—without “preaching” and help them seek after Him to give their all.

Also, God has opened doors with two baseball coaches and I've been blessed to get to know these guys and hear their heart and passion for Jesus and for developing leaders among their student athletes. Football coaches are waiting on baseball to end before some key players return to the fold, as most schools “share” players from sport to sport. It is a privilege to be there to encourage these coaches and players and without your partnership, I wouldn't get to. To God be the glory.

