

# MAUPIN MESSAGE

## Potential, Promise, Performance, Purpose

Each year Fellowship of Christian Athletes picks a theme and produces studies, inspirational videos, events and other tools to emphasize that theme. It has been natural for me to highlight four attributes, Leadership, Integrity, Character and Teamwork, into each year's theme. The 2021 theme was Pursue and concerned pursuing Christ with all of our decisions and choices. For 2022, the theme was Every and centered on giving your all for God's glory every day in every situation. Last year, I was able to communicate to the coaches and student athletes with whom I interact the Every theme by reminding the athletes that every means, well, EVERY. Every rep, every practice, every play in every game, every relationship and everyday. For 2023, once again, those four qualities fit nicely with FCA's new theme, Greater.

As I reconvene with coaches and student-athletes at Robinson High School, Little Rock Christian Academy, Baptist Prep High School, Pinnacle Middle School, Maumelle High School and Maumelle Charter High School, I'll seek to be used by God to encourage and inspire the athletes as I come alongside the coaches—including my son, Brian, at Maumelle High School—to be Greater. As I met with the Hornets football team at Maumelle High School this year, the FCA student leader, Jason Barham, shared his desire to make a difference by trusting Coach BMop (Brian) and his plans and program, which includes being good examples in the classroom as well as on the field. Jason exhorted his teammates to join him in applying that pursuit to their lives. Using Christ's own submission to the authority of His Father in Heaven, we could all agree that there is a biblical model to follow. As I reminded them of our four core traits, I was able to serve as a bellow, fanning those flames with the encouragement to be Greater. Show Greater Leadership, Greater Integrity, Greater Character and Greater Teamwork on the field, in the classroom and at home. To God be the glory! What a privilege to have such access to these athletes and coaches and to see God put things together with such symmetry.

As we focus on our relationship with Jesus by being in The Word, we have Greater **potential** to be in position to be used by God right where we are. We can overcome our circumstances, remain focused despite distractions, see our hardships as opportunities because we have His **promise** that the joy set before us is greater than our current afflictions. Our **performance** can be greater because we have a greater **purpose** than simply winning a game or passing an exam or getting paid. My thought is that if these student athletes will take this message to heart, they can be God's ambassadors to people and places you and I will never go and God will be glorified as their peers inquire about their faith. Young and old, everyone in the current culture is facing opposition from the enemy. Jesus says in John 16:33: "In this world you will have strife (adversity, hardships)." His message continues, however, with this encouragement: "Fear not (take heart), for I have overcome the world." In Christ we can do so much more than simply survive hard times. In Christ, we can see hardships in a brighter light, one that values everlasting joy over momentary happiness. Remember, there's never been a comeback without a setback. Let's PURSUE a GREATER joy EVERY day by walking with Jesus through His Word.

It is a joy to serve Christ with you! Thank you for your prayers and partnership.

