

I give thanks to you for your faithful partnership and I'm writing this to you after much deliberation. I have a couple of ministry partners who have challenged me to share this with you and I've chosen to follow through and share as I was asked. Here's some background:

I've known Diane and Norm Nicol since the Spring of 2006. I first met them by phone after they attended a FamilyLife Weekend to Remember getaway in Iowa. They checked a box indicating an interest in financial partnership with a FamilyLife staff member and I was the blessed staff member privileged to follow up with them. My first call reached a family member who said "they are in no position to support you" because Diane and Norm were facing many personal struggles—health, finances, etc. However, Diane asked that we stay in touch through our prayer letters and vowed to pray for us and trust God with our partnership. So I was amazed as we received their gift in response to our Year End Appeal Letter in December of 2007. I never cashed the \$10 check they sent in. Their story that year was one of tremendous hardship—especially for their business and Norm's health. I was so moved, however, that I taped the check on my workstation cabinet as a prayer prompt and reminder of God's goodness. This was widow's-mite giving lived out.



The following year, after staying in touch through our prayer letters, they responded to our YEA letter with another gift (\$25). Diane reminded me that she and Norm were merely following through on what God was calling them to do. Aside from some improvement in Norm's health, their circumstances were mostly unchanged. However, as Diane shared, this was God's plan for them and they were merely being obedient. I was so inspired by them and yes, I did cash that gift!

Over the years, Diane and Norm and I have seen God meet their needs—and mine—restoring Norm's health and making their resources stretch in ways that only God could do. As I transitioned ministries, Diane and Norm encouraged me to keep following Jesus and to trust God to lead and provide me the courage needed to follow. A few months before I began serving with FCA, Diane and Norm began faithfully giving \$25 monthly. They had seen God's faithfulness in their lives and were trusting God as they gave to us. Two months ago when we spoke, Diane felt prompted by God and she challenged me to share with and challenge you to follow her actions. Diane has a strong faith in Christ so when she asked me to challenge YOU to respond to our current needs by doing what they had chosen to do, I sought God and began meditating on it over the past two months. Here's what Diane and Norm did in September:

They DOUBLED their giving.

They also asked me to ask you these questions: Can you join them and increase your giving—even double it at this time? Will you invite someone you know to join you in partnering with us and FCA?

We are asking God for \$9600 in year-end giving (the equivalent to 8 new partners at \$100 monthly).

My faith is in God and it is God who brings in support. Your partnership has been His methodology and I know an increase at this time may be impossible for you to do. I've decided to present this in obedience to God and faithful follow-through to Diane's challenge and I'll trust God with the results. **Please know there's no pressure intended.** Jesus says you have not because you ask not. Giving you the opportunity to consider this is just that—an **opportunity**. Your faithfulness, prayers and generous gift help fulfill **FCA's mission: To lead coaches and athletes to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.** Because of you and your partnership with us, we've seen lives changed through coaches and athletes throughout the Southeast Region (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana) where over 30,000 students attended FCA's Fields of Faith, an annual student-led, Gospel outreach event. Over 2500 declared a first-time decision to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior! To God be the glory. Thanks to you!

Your response and partnership is mostly about the opportunity to join God where He is working. You get to be a part of every Gospel presentation and every changed life God reaches through FCA outreaches. That I get to serve with my son, Brian, at Maumelle High School, get to teach the Bible and share the Gospel in public schools throughout Central Arkansas fills me with what I call **unmerited favor and pinch-me moments**. You make it possible and we are so grateful and praise God for you. As you consider year-end giving, please consider making a difference through FCA. A gift of any amount will be a blessing. Susie and I appreciate you. You can give here: <https://my.fca.org/rickmaupin>. Be of good cheer.