

The Maupin Message

May-June 2019



 FamilyLife's Mission: To effectively develop godly marriages and families who change the world one home at a time.

Summer Plans: Midwest Volunteer Summit and Cru Staff Training

This has to be one of the busiest years we have experienced in a while. Susie's surgery on May 9 followed three Spring Weekend to Remember getaways and three follow-up trips to invite couples to join the volunteer teams in each of the three cities—Chicago, Tulsa and St. Louis—we oversee for FamilyLife. The past month God and FamilyLife have enabled me to keep my ministry responsibilities to a minimum as I focus on caring for Susie. She put together her thoughts on the back of this Maupin Message so you can read that at your leisure.

My heart is moved by the privilege God has given me to take care of Susie at this time. Ordinarily Susie is quite capable of taking care of herself. However, her current physical limitations are unrelenting so she will only “recover” if she denies her nature to care for herself and allows me and others to meet her needs. He is caring for her through myself and others and has graciously removed all of her

cancer in the successful removal of her left kidney. The operation, however has left her scarred and sore.

In the midst of Susie's recovery there are travel plans—June 14-16 to Cedar Rapids, IA for FamilyLife's Midwest Volunteer Summit at Coe College and July 2-29 for Cru's bi-annual U.S. Staff Training at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO.

At the Summit, Susie and I will join other staff and volunteers from 10 ministry areas to demonstrate our appreciation, provide direction, and draw on FamilyLife's 43 years of experience to provide opportunities to be used by God, trusting God with the results of their ministry activity. The direction the ministry is heading is to empower and equip—intentionally and strategically—individuals and ministries that are already being used by God to advance the Gospel and make disciples. We are blessed with Gospel-centered events and resources that can be used—that are being used—by any-

one interested in sharing the Gospel through marriage and family ministry.

Last month we provided feedback to you from our Weekend to Remember guests, testifying on their evaluation forms the life change God inspires at our WTR getaways. This catalytic event is designed to expose and encourage couples to God's design for marriage and to use His power to make a difference in their own marriages and as they invite and equip other couples they know and love. The Gospel is at the center of all of FamilyLife's outreaches, resources and events. Your partnership with us makes it possible for us to be on the front lines in the battle for the family. Thank you! After 19 years on staff—can you believe it?—we trust God has even more ministry planned for us and your prayers and your giving enable us to be used by God to serve others. We want all that God plans to do in you and through you to be realized. To God be the glory.

FamilyLife's Vision: Every Home a Godly Home

FAMILYLIFE™

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Prayer and Praise

Praise God for Susie's successful surgery, removing her left kidney and all of the cancer was contained within that now-removed kidney! To God be the glory. He hears our prayers—your prayers—and responds.

Please pray for our summer travel and Susie's slow recovery from her surgery. Pray we will be wise to yield to His leading and stay at His pace as we seek to encourage others while serving at the Midwest Volunteer Summit in June and at Cru Staff Training at CSU in July.

"God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity we plan to do the things we can only do by ourselves."

-A.W. Tozer

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Maupin Family Ministry Prayer and Support

"The C Word" — written by Susie

Cancer. It's a word we do not want to hear for ourselves or for our loved ones. My Dad died from kidney cancer at 46 years old.

I think I have always wondered if cancer and early death would be a part of my story, After turning 46 and then 56 and then year after year since, I felt blessed. I have no real medical conditions and take no medicines, So far, I feel good about my health.

So when I had a CT scan to finish my colonoscopy and was told they found a tumor on my kidney and that the size and location indicated cancer, I was scared and shocked. The unknown is the hardest. I was also very thankful it was discovered.

Kidney cancer has no symptoms until it grows to affect other organs. I was told it was big enough to be worrisome and needed to come out. Ok, I understand and I agree the cancer needs to come out. Now the unknown: How? How

much needs to go? When?

Answers: When? In a month; How? Not sure. We have to wait to get inside. How much of the kidney? Not sure and won't know until we get in there. Wow!

Ok, waiting and the unknown: Thoughts and anxiety come and go throughout the month. I have CT scans on chest, neck and head. Praise the Lord it hasn't spread; it seems contained to the kidney. Throughout the month of wait, I hung on to some truths:

- This did not surprise God.
- He is big enough to handle anything,
- He will be with us through it all.

When my mind went wandering, wanting to write my own story, I reminded myself: God is in control and He's got this. Another thought I had right away was what's important? Let's not waste days and waste time. It goes so fast and we are not guaranteed tomorrow. Forgive others, love big, be brave and be

vulnerable.

It's been a few weeks; recovery is going well, I had the best nurse and I wanted him by my side constantly. The pain is subsiding, the doctor said, "It is healing a little funky." But what do we expect? I've been funky for a while.

I am so very thankful to be alive and to not have to do chemo or other treatments. The doctor said there's little chance of cancer returning. Eat and live healthy and I'll be fine. PRAISE THE LORD! God has reminded me that I am here for a purpose. I give Him all the glory and my mindset is different now. So grateful for everyday; for my amazing, loving husband; my children and grandchildren—whose Facetimes made my days when I couldn't hold them; my friends; and YOU who prayed and provided food and cards of encouragement. I love you all so much!! God is not surprised and He is good!!

"And it is my prayer that your love will abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, . . ." Phil. 1:9