

# MAUPIN MESSAGE

## June Brought Challenges and Confirmations

What a June it has been! It started out with FCA Camp, June 6-13, split in half with junior high athletes June, 6-9 and senior high athletes, June 10-13. We laughed, we competed, we studied scripture, held nightly devotions with coaches and staff and all the while Spiritual Warfare was evident. I felt I was exactly where God wanted me to be, doing what He would have me do.

The Junior High Camp was marked with weather issues—from thunderstorms to tornado warnings. But God! God chose amidst all the weather happening to us and around us to provide “windows” for our events to take place each day. Certainly there was plenty of “flexing” of our plans but nearly all events and competitions were held as planned and the student athletes were not impacted by the weather patterns and were able to get out of camp what they put into camp. The most dramatic example of God’s intervention was early Tuesday afternoon, when radar showed three tornados moving toward our camp! Within an hour of scrambling to get all the staff and athletes indoors, all three tornados disappeared from radar. Just vanished! But God, indeed!

Senior High Camp was marked with sunshine and 90-plus degree temps. It was a completely different camp as I and other staff and coaches needed to keep the athletes hydrated. By God’s grace, once again, everything planned happened, including the closing ceremony which had to be modified for the junior high camp due to wet grounds. Bottom line, of nearly 600 student athletes attending both camps, nearly 100 indicated a new commitment to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The binding entity for the two camps was the speaker, Stephen Mackey. He used a number of easy-to-remember phrases (if you’re grippin; you’re trippin, a turn on “let go and let God) and was, in my opinion, used by God to get these student athletes to consider giving God the reigns of their lives, regardless of their background or even what they might be returning to when camp ended. He used four pillars: God loves you; God is on your team; God is chasing after you; and God is relentless to make the case that God is for them and they can trust He will never leave them or forsake them. FCA Camp used 1Timothy 6:11 as the theme and Coach Mackey’s teaching kept the idea of God always pursuing us fresh and understandable.

As for post-FCA Camp, I had to shut down for over two weeks with both the flu AND Covid. I was so weak Sunday afternoon (June 13) when I returned from camp that I thought I was adrenaline deprived but a fever seemed to persist and I went to Urgent Care, where I tested positive for both. I’d been isolating and continued until June 28, when I finally started getting my strength back. To God be the glory. I survived.

