

MAUPIN MESSAGE

Disciples Making Disciples Is Our Mandate

Lots of talk these days about mandates. I believe there are some mandates that squelch freedom and some that don't. Because there's been two years now to study the effectiveness of masks, some reports indicate that making them mandatory contradicts the "science." Recommending them vs. mandating them provides freedom. Wear them if you'd like but don't if you don't want to. Kind of a "no harm, no foul" approach. On the surface, it may seem that all mandates are in opposition of freedom but I think certain mandates can be liberating in and of themselves.

For instance, when you get your own mission statement written, it should sound like a mandate—this is what you are about. At FCA, our mission is to lead EVERY coach and athlete to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. How we set about that is to follow Jesus' directive in Matthew 28:18-20, which begins, "Go and make disciples . . ." I'm quite certain that today's "reporting" would convey Jesus as giving a "mandate" to His followers.

Here's why I believe that this particular "mandate" is freeing. It removes ambiguity and defines our roles as Christ followers. It doesn't limit our "how" but frees us to be creative and also to depend on Jesus for guidance along the way. Knowing what to do frees us from confusion and keeps us from wondering what is the top action with a purpose we should be about. Much like Jesus summed up "the whole law" with two main pursuits, love God and love others, we can be laser-focused and clear-eyed regarding our role. To me, that's freedom. And because God gives us our freedom, I can trust Him and choose to respect His authority over my freedom.

We are praising God as He once again went before us. Just over a month ago, FCA asked me to add Maumelle High School to my ministry outreach. Two weeks later our son, Brian, accepted a head coaching job with, yep, Maumelle High School. Robinson High School, where he served the past 8 years, has won 2 of the past 3 4A State Championships and Brian's defense was a big part of their wins. God knew what was to happen and the result is that I get to continue to serve Jesus with my son! As I described in the past Maupin Message, this is another "pinch me" moment. To God be the glory. What a HUGE blessing this is.

Please continue to lift Susie's family—and Susie—in prayer as we mourn the loss of Susie's mom last month. She was 87 and we are encouraged that she is no longer in pain and we'll get to see her again in heaven. However, the here-and-now without her is hard. Thanks for praying. We love and appreciate you!

