



## THE MAUPIN MESSAGE

December 2019

### God is Doing a New Thing in the New Year

**M**arch 2, 2020 will mark the end of a 20-plus year run for Susie and I at FamilyLife Ministries AND the beginning of a new outlet for the passion God gave us over 25 years ago for the Gospel and marriage and family ministry, Father & Son Connection.

We are so very excited that God has revealed His plan and that we get to serve as missionaries with this vital ministry to dads and sons, age 12-18.

Father & Son Connection began 13 years ago out of the pain of a former FamilyLife staff member and good friend, Beau Glenn, who's own relationship with his dad was non-existent for over 30 years before God prompted reconciliation. Beau designed a 1-day event, called Pure Adventure,

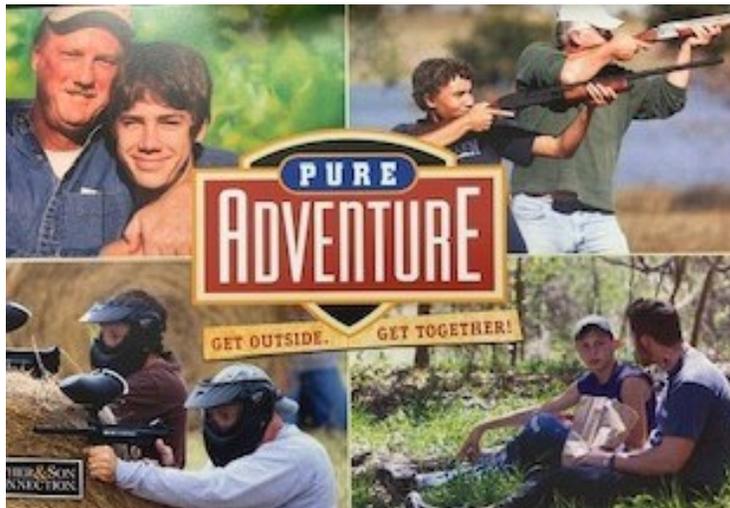
to provide dads a day to initiate intentional bonding with their sons. At the center of each Pure Adventure event is a clear Gospel presentation and built into the day is intentional time to discuss meaningful matters that are often altogether avoided or differed to "someday" status at best.

Wrapped around those meaningful and significant messages is a series of activities that I call "fun with guns," (paintball, skeet shooting, black powder rifles, target practice and even some archery), a barbarian feast, and an incredibly touching closing that marks the day with a commemorative coin.

When Beau began the ministry, I chose to volunteer each Saturday a Pure Adventure event was held and I wasn't on the road or otherwise occupied. It was 10 years ago that Beau offered a role alongside him (which I didn't accept because I didn't sense God was calling Susie and I out of FamilyLife at the time). That God's perfect timing would have the opportunity to

join Father & Son Connection at this time is an unmistakable gift from God. Our desire is for you to join us through your prayer and financial support. We are missionary staff so our provision from God is through people, as it has been the past 20 years. The difference is the ministry change so your support would now flow through Father & Son Connection and our giving page at [www.pureadventure.org](http://www.pureadventure.org).

Because our official start/stop date is March 2, your gifts to Cru will still provide for our needs. After April 2020, however, we will need ALL of our support to flow through Father & Son Connection. You can mail gifts to us at the below address and we will establish an account based on your information provided or you can establish your preferred giving pattern at the website, [www.pureadventure.org](http://www.pureadventure.org). Simply click DONATE and then pick Rick Maupin—Staff Account from the next page. Also, we're redoing our personal website, [www.rickandsusieminsty.org](http://www.rickandsusieminsty.org), to reflect the changes and have provided a link to Pure Adventure there.



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## Meet and Greet

Please join Susie and I at some informal meet-and-greet opportunities when we will be in the Upper Midwest, January 9-19. We'd love to see as many of you receiving this Maupin Message as can meet with us. Of course, weather may prevent us from getting around and also we have a meeting with FamilyLife's Chicago Volunteer Team scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 11 from 1:15-4 p.m.

Call us or text us your availability/desire to connect with us. We will try to be available for breakfast, lunch and dinner times at Panera outlets in the areas we visit. We may be available for other times as well so we can meet with as many as possible. Call or text us so we can connect with you.

Here's the plan (subject to weather-related changes)

- Jan. 9-12—Elgin area
- Jan. 13—Racine/Kenosha/Milwaukee
- Jan. 14-15—Appleton, WI
- Jan. 16-17—Minneapolis
- Jan. 18-19—Beloit, WI; Rockford, IL
- Jan. 19—8 p.m. flight out of O'Hare

## Prayers/Praises

- † Please pray for the FamilyLife staff as all staff are going through change. Pray the ministry will find their new staffing needs met and that this vital, Gospel-centered marriage ministry will thrive in the future.
- † Praise God for fresh starts and new beginnings. Pray we will remain faithful to trust Him and His faithfulness to meet all our needs according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Please pray that our new ministry, Father & Son Connection, will reach more people with the Gospel and provide intentionality and purpose to dads and sons relationships.
- † Please pray for our family to seek after God and to grow in their faith. Praise God for the growth and health of our twin granddaughters, Harper and Quinn, who are remarkable miracles of His grace, mercy and favor to Joey and Brittany—and to us.
- † Pray God's favor on the purchase by Brian and Sallie of the house next door to us! They are under contract and need to sell their existing home so they can complete the purchase of our neighbor's home. Pray their current house would sell quickly.

**It was on 8-28-19 that FamilyLife made the announcement of their move to Orlando. Here's what God showed us from His Word:**

*"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* **Romans 8:28**

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## On Practicing Marriage

*I enjoyed reading this message from a pastor presiding over a wedding held recently in Wenatchee, Washington, and thought you would as well:*

Marriage is like golf, no one ever masters it. Marriage is not for everyone. Some have never tried it and never will; some have tried it and given it up. Some just want to play at it but never want to practice to get better. Some want to cheat at it. Some talk about it better than they play. Some want to make up their own rules.

When it comes to marriage there are no professionals. There are none who have perfected the game. In marriage all are of amateur status and all carry a number of kinds of handicaps. Most spend more time in the rough and out of bounds than they care to admit. All know that for marriage to not only survive but flourish to full joy, there must be on the part of both a good, balanced, solid footing with focus, follow through, and years of disciplined practice. Like golf, love and marriage are hard work. As circumstances and seasons change, as challenges arise, you must adjust your game. But the rules of the game continue over time. Marriage, like golf, is based on honor and integrity. It requires respect for the game and your partner.

With golf, ones handicap is not fixed, it can increase or decrease; it is adjusted according to your "behavior." Handicaps are intended to give all a fair shot, to level the playing field, so to speak. Some may be embarrassed by how high their handicap is because they too easily confuse it with who they are as a person, how successful or admired they are or hope to be. Suddenly they start playing for the gallery rather than the sheer joy of the game. Suddenly, numbers are more important than the names of those you are playing with and the game takes on a whole different meaning.

As for you, respect the nature of the relationship and live it out with integrity and faithfulness. In marriage . . . don't ever keep score in your head as to who is ahead or behind. Recognize that you each bring an array of handicaps coming into the relationship. You simply have to adjust to some of them. There are no par-or-better marriages; there are no course records nearing perfection. Play fair, play honorably, self-report infractions, penalize yourself, be charitable in relationship with your partner; and never walk away from your marriage because you think the course is becoming too difficult. Remember that if you defeat your partner in marriage, no one wins, both lose.