



Good News during Bad News

This spring has been a very interesting time for all of us. Our lives have been completely upended, our normal routines have been obliterated, and even the confidence we have in the goodness and holiness of the God we believe in has been shaken. Even still, our God is good and His Son Jesus Christ says “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) Let me tell you how God has been working through this time with players from FCC.



The start of a new season can be a difficult time because there are so many new people. One of my first missions is to learn everyone's name and introduce myself so that they know mine. I met Brandon on my first visit to training this spring and he seemed open to talking with me. But, over the next few weeks, I didn't have an opportunity to follow up with him. Walking up to the training center for my last visit before the Ohio lockdown, I prayed that God would specifically bring Brandon to me so that we could talk.

Later that afternoon, as I was studying the Bible with two other players, I waved but saw Brandon walk straight past us toward the door. As he opened the door, he stopped, turned back, walked straight toward our bible study, and asked if he could join in! As he listened, he heard about Jesus' work on the cross and how forgiveness of sins is possible through faith in Him. Over the last couple months, I've had regular calls with him to continue sharing Christ with him and help him process life. Praise God for answering my prayer!

For all of our athletes, the lockdown due to Coronavirus is rattling. Everyone has had to adapt to their new circumstances, and all of those changes are challenging. One of the most difficult changes comes in motivation. "Why should I be working so hard if there may not even be a season anymore? Why should I be working out so hard if nobody sees what I'm doing?"

I was able to challenge one player (and later others) with AIA's concept of Ao1, or Audience of One. The idea is that for anything we do, God is our sole audience, and the sole source of our ultimate affirmation. This helps us view everything that we do, including solitary workouts during a lockdown, as acts of worship to our Creator and Savior. His opinion of us is the only one that matters, and for those of us with faith in Him, we know that He loves us and is pleased with our best efforts. We move forward with this instruction and encouragement: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." (Col. 3:23-24)

The Lord is not is not under lockdown, and His work cannot be stopped!
MLS is Back!



Last week, news broke that the MLS is going to restart in July! All of the teams will be in Orlando and sequestered off so that they can continue to monitor themselves for Coronavirus. The players and staff will be there for at least a month, playing at least three games.

While I am thrilled that they guys are allowed to get back to work, this arrangement will be difficult for many of them. They will essentially be quarantined to their rooms outside of practice and games. And for those with families, they will be apart from them for an extended period of time. Please pray with me that everyone stays healthy and safe, and that God gives them strength and patience until they can be reunited.

I'd like to end this update with requests for prayers. Everywhere we look around us, we see injustice, anger, conflict, despair, nastiness, and heartbreak. There are people all over with different worldviews, ideas, motivations, and visions for the future. As we all move forward, please pray with me that:

**the Holy Spirit would give us all guidance, wisdom, patience, and peace to continue moving forward,
God's people would be united as we address serious issues in our world,**

**People's hearts will be open to hearing the gospel,
God's Kingdom comes, on Earth as it is in heaven.**

Thank you for all of your prayers and support! Kayla, the kids, and I feel very well loved and cared for which has allowed me to extend that love and care at FCC.

Tyler