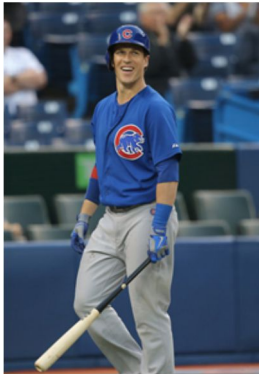


Inspiration From the Archives

Since the program began in 1992, Face to Face has aired interviews with hundreds of Christian athletes from all walks of life. Whether in the limelight, retired or recognized as an “up-and-comer” in the world of sports, we think you’ll enjoy past highlights of these sports figures’ careers. Here’s a look back at a “Face to Face” encounter with baseball player Chris Coghlan.



Chris Coghlan: It’s Not About Performance


Chris Coghlan was selected in the first round of the 2006 MLB Amateur Draft by the Florida Marlins. He made his major league debut May 8, 2009, with the Marlins, and would go on to play five seasons in Miami. Coghlan was the 2009 National League Rookie of the Year.

In 2014, he signed with the Cubs and played parts of three seasons with Chicago, helping them win the World Series in 2016. In 2017, he played with the Toronto Blue Jays. Coghlan was designated for assignment Aug. 12 and released Aug. 15, 2017. He was signed to a minor league deal with the Cubs in 2018 and is currently a free agent.

Coghlan came to know Jesus Christ on St. Patrick’s Day in March 2008. It came about in a most unlikely place, a coffeehouse in Jupiter, Florida, in a lengthy conversation with fellow player Daron Roberts. As teammates playing for the Jupiter Hammerheads, Coghlan sensed something was different about Roberts.

Ironically, Coghlan said he didn’t even drink coffee at the time!

“He shared a couple of Scriptures with me and God had really softened my heart at that point,” Coghlan recalled of his conversation with Roberts. “I became convicted about who Jesus Christ is and how much he loves me and what he had done for me. I surrendered my heart (to Christ) at Starbucks.”



In 2001, at the age of 15, Coghlan lost his father in a tragic accident. By the time he was in college playing baseball at the University of Mississippi, he had gained the nickname “F-Bomb.” Coghlan said that’s the way he spoke at the time. “I was very ignorant, and that’s how I chose to express myself.”

Looking back on his conversion more than 10 years ago, Coghlan said he’s amazed by what God did in his heart that day and continues to do. “It’s been a great journey for me, and I try to relish in that, more so than being performance based.”

Speaking of performance, Coghlan says it’s easy to get sidetracked by, on-field accomplishments. “To God it’s not about performing, and I’m glad he doesn’t love us based on that.”

Coghlan recognizes his athletic talent is a gift from God. “Playing every day, I have to remind myself that I’m not here for my own glory.”

The Scripture verse that Coghlan uses when he signs autographs is Romans 8:28, “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 (NASB).”

With the 2019 baseball season just a few weeks away, it’s still unclear whether Coghlan will be playing. Nevertheless, with Coghlan’s belief in the sovereignty of God, there’s no doubt that he will believe that God has a purpose whether he’s on or off the field.

To listen to the full interview of Chris Coghlan, conducted by Face to Face host Tom Rust, visit <http://face-2-face.org/listen-now/shows-archive/>

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