



Reach Up Reach Out!



Dear Friends,

August 1, 2020

How are you doing? This last couple months has opened many new opportunities to reach out and we are so grateful to take a moment and share a few of the stories. One effective way to reach out is by making phone calls with a diverse group of wonderful people and see how their faith is doing in the midst of our global crisis and social distancing.

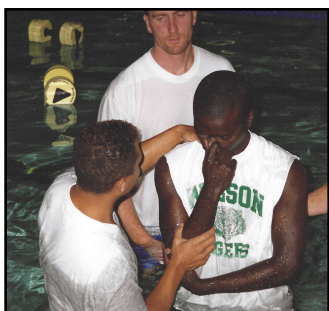
The first person I wish to highlight is Jazz Nichols. Jazz and I met at Tennessee State University years ago and he came to know the Lord in a powerful way as a college student. Our friendship began at a dorm bible study where we talked about his new faith in Christ. After college, he served in college ministry and then pursued an honorable career as an intelligence officer in the Air Force for 12 years. Now, he and his wonderful wife, Lisa, received a unique opportunity and were just offered a position as resident advisors at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He prays to make an impact for the Lord. I asked Jazz to say a few words which show the power of reaching out with the gospel.



Jazz&Lisa Nichols

“We first met on the campus of Tennessee State University. Dave invited me and two of my friends out for lunch at a local restaurant. I was a brand new believer and desperate for community and encouragement. From that day on, he has never ceased to encourage me in the Lord and has been a faithful mentor and brother. I can think of several specific moments in my life where Dave shared timely wisdom, encouragement, and counsel. I am proud that we have a 20-year friendship where we can encourage one another.”

Another shining star worth highlighting is Eric Stephens. Eric was a freshman from Washington D.C. and we also met in a dorm bible study. He graduated with an engineering degree and got married to another amazing student named Angela, who was also deeply impacted with the gospel. They now live in Houston, TX with their four wonderful children. Eric works as an engineer in a nuclear power plant, serves as an elder in his church, and continues to reach out to young people with the gospel. I'm truly humbled by a message he recently wrote:



Eric's baptism 1998

“My wife and I are so grateful for you sowing the Gospel in our lives over 22 years ago on the college

campus at Tennessee State University. It's amazing how formative those years were in our development as adults as well as shaping our biblical worldview. In our current national climate of racial and civil unrest, I'm reminded that your pursuit to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength led you to serve on a Historically Black College and University. Pursuing God will ALWAYS demands that we GO beyond our comfort zone. Thanks for setting that example many years ago.”



Eric & Angela Stephen's beautiful family in Houston.

It's so great that we serve a God who takes our small ordinary steps of faith and makes them extraordinary. May God continue to give us wisdom during this season to find new ways to reach out. You are a great gift from the Lord!

*You are in our thoughts
and prayers often!!*

All our love,

Dave and Mandy



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