



Reach Up Reach Out!



Dear Friends,

June 1, 2020

It brings us great joy to sit down and share what God is doing in the midst of this season and global pandemic. As we all know, God is always on the move and there is nothing that can stop God's love towards creation and humanity. I want to encourage you with a few stories in the midst of quarantine and "stay at home" regulations.

Six months ago we began a new idea of sports outreach called Uptime Volleyball which consisted of two teams, ages 17 under and 14 under. The two teams played with great enthusiasm and our team cheer in our huddles was "REACH UP...REACH OUT!" Also, the girls were able to overcome many personal challenges that all athletes face: fear, doubt, discouragement and frustration. One player's father recently sent me an encouraging email that really touched me and I wanted to share.

"Our daughter and our family deeply appreciated being part of Uptime Volleyball so much this year. In fact, I will tell you that our daughter just wrote an essay for school about her experience with Uptime Volleyball.

In essence, she talks about how she wanted to quit after the first practice because she wasn't good enough, but how she decided to stay with it and how she grew as a player and a person and how important it was not just to improve as an individual but as a team and how rewarding it was to be a part of a team that grew together for the love of each other and the game.

She talked about the team motto, "Reach Up/Reach Out" and how that began to guide her life. I thought it was a great testimony to what Uptime Volleyball and your ministry is all about. It certainly had a big impact on our daughter, and for that, we are deeply grateful."



In some other really fun news, I have the exciting opportunity this Friday to give the commencement message at a local high school graduation. The graduating class is small and the ceremony is being held outside where there will be much social distancing. Please pray that we can greatly encourage this year's class and their families who have experienced such a unique end to their high school education.

We think of you often and please let us know how we can lift you up in prayer. Your partnership in the gospel is a gift beyond words and is a source of great encouragement. May God continue to keep you healthy and strong as you reach up and reach out to others.



May God continue to strengthen you during this season!

Much love,

Dave and Mandy



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In some other news, Nashville underwent its worst power outage in history when a 70 MPH storm swept through a couple weeks ago. Thousands of trees were down throughout the city and I took a minute to “reach up” to God through prayer and felt like it would be good to rent a chainsaw. My sons, brother-in-law, nephew and a few neighbors all joined me and we were able to “reach out” to others with a chainsaw and God’s love. One neighbor, Mr. Narinder Sawhney who is from Bombay, India, had a large tree just miss his house. Recently, he had a stroke and there was no way for him or his wife to lift the heavy tree nor the limbs. After we finished, I sat on his back deck with sawdust all over me but I had a chance to share with him my love for Jesus and my desire to help others learn about God’s love. He smiled as he listened and it started a good friendship between us. Here is a letter he wrote soon after:

5/8/20.

Dear MR. DeRoche,

Good neighbors like you are a blessing & hard to find. Thank you so much for helping me remove the fallen trees. Your generosity & selflessness are much appreciated & my wife & I really can't express our gratitude enough.

Please accept this gift card as a small token of our gratefulness. Your efforts saved us a lot of stress.

May you & your family stay safe & healthy. God bless & thanks again.

Warm regards,
Narinder Sawhney.