



Reach Up Reach Out

Dear Friends,

September 4, 2018

It is a great joy to take a pause from our work to let you know about how our outreach is going. This last month has been perhaps the busiest time I can remember and thankfully the Lord is blessing our efforts. We think of you often as we reach out to others. You are a hero to us!

The first testimony I wish to highlight is about Kareem Wright (pictured right), who is a basketball player at Cumberland University. Kareem is the nephew of another man I reached out to years ago named Spencer Richardson, who is a highly respected basketball coach in Nashville. Eight years ago, I had the privilege to pray with Coach Spencer to become a Christian and later, the honor of baptizing him (pictured right). "Uncle Spence" invited Kareem into his house during a tough time in Kareem's life and we met during this time and developed a friendship. He left for college a couple years ago and recently decided to transfer to a school closer to home named Cumberland University. After seeing Kareem at church I received a text asking if I could mentor him in his faith. Since that time Kareem and I have met and talked about the importance of balancing his faith with his athletics and academic workload. Kareem is setting up a time for me to meet his teammates and coach in the next couple weeks. Also, he is setting up a time for me to meet the head men's volleyball coach at Cumberland University, where I pray God would open new doors for me to preach the gospel.



Kareem Wright



"Uncle Spence"

The next area I wish to share is about the volleyball team I help coach. Since we

started a couple months ago, our team has consistently grown in their faith and ability on the court. Everyday, we begin with prayer and end with prayer which definitely keeps the "main thing the main thing," playing for God. This has opened many opportunities for God to work on hearts. Just last week, despite a tough loss, I was approached by one of the parents who asked me for prayer in the parking lot for some deep challenges he faces at work. As tears welled up in his eyes, we prayed for God to give him strength. Afterwards, he looked at me and said how much he appreciates how God unites hearts. Sports can pull people together when God is at work in the hearts of the players, coaches and families.



Mandy and I pray you would know how grateful we are to you for partnering with us to reach up and reach out to others. We serve with joy knowing God "reached down" upon us all first with His love and by sending Jesus Christ as a sacrifice.

You are a huge encouragement!!

With much love and gratitude,

Dave and Mandy



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