



Dear Friends,

September 1, 2026

As we continue to build, we praise God for the incredible coaches He brings alongside us. We want to highlight Ryan and Ellen Santoso, who welcomed their baby boy, Callahan, this past March. Even with a newborn at home, Ellen continues to serve as one of our coaches with a heart for reaching young athletes. Ellen played volleyball at Marquette University, while Ryan played football at the University of Minnesota and later in the NFL. Both were deeply impacted by college ministry and now feel called to impact others through sports in the same way they were impacted. Here are some of Ellen's thoughts on using coaching to glorify God:



"I'm excited to be a part of Uptime Volleyball and to invest in the lives of the girls both on and off the court. My hope is to encourage each girl to grow in her faith and live out His love in everything they do. I want to help them compete with confidence and excellence while always remembering that their true worth and identity are found in the King!"



Also, this year we have the privilege of coaching a younger group of fifth- and sixth-graders at a nearby school, where we get to combine our love for Jesus with our love for volleyball. It reminds us of how much Jesus valued and loved children, as seen in Mark 10:13–16. There is something especially meaningful about reaching athletes at a young age. We have the opportunity to help lay a strong foundation and teach them early that their identity is not found in their athletic ability, their performance, or whether they win or lose; it is found in Christ.



"By coaching our fifth- and sixth-grade volleyball team, the Uptime Coaches have helped ignite a passion for girls' athletics while teaching our players to encourage and lift up their teammates. These coaches bring a deep knowledge of the sport, but more importantly, a genuine love for God that is reflected in how they care for our girls.-Shannon Mizell, St. Paul Christian Academy, Athletic Director

Together, we are making an eternal impact through the love of Christ. We are deeply honored to partner with you in sharing the beautiful story of Jesus with a world that desperately needs Him. May God richly bless your generosity, sacrifice, and partnership in this mission.

So grateful for you!

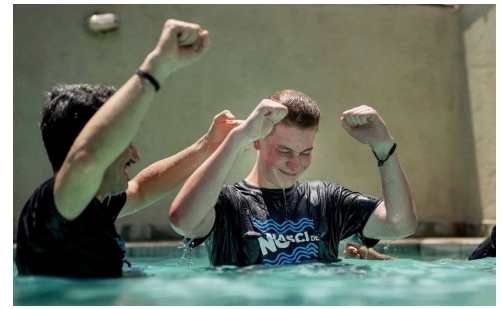
Much love,

Dave and Mandy

P.S. We've attached a prayer and partnership letter for our youngest son, Sam, as he takes his next steps after high school. We're so proud of him as he continues to **reach up to God and reach out to others!**



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Dear Friends and Family,

September 1, 2026

I'm excited to share an opportunity God has given me to serve at [Soul Church](https://SoulChurch.com) (SoulChurch.com) in Norwich, England! During my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to serve at Soul Church with my classmates. That experience introduced me to the Soul Leadership Academy and planted a desire in me to return someday.

After graduating high school a year early, I've decided to take a gap year and pursue that opportunity. I'll leave in mid-September and spend almost a year in Norwich, returning home in July 2027. During my time there, I'll be part of the Soul Leadership Academy, serve in different areas of the church, and live with a host family. In March 2027, our Leadership Academy will also travel to Uganda, where we'll have the opportunity to serve alongside a local church. Soul Church's mission is "***Love in Action***," and I'm excited to spend this year growing in my faith, developing as a leader, and serving others.

My goal is to build a team of ministry partners to pray and provide financial support for the next year. The total cost for the year is \$12,000, which covers food, housing, flights, the leadership school, and the mission trip to Uganda. I saved over \$ 3,000 from work so far and am trusting God for the remaining amount.

Thank you for considering being a part of this journey with me. I can't wait to see what God has in store over the next year! If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text me anytime at 615-513-2304.

With much gratitude,

Thank you for your consideration!

Sam DeRocher

Here is a QR code you can scan to visit the partnership link. Thank you again!



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