



ARMIN & COLLEEN

# THE mcmahan JOURNEY



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Hi friends,

As 2020 came to a close, there seemed to be more questions than answers. As the pandemic raged and social unrest continued, it seemed as if the world was spiraling so far out of control that we seemed to be at a point of no return. As we pondered what was going on in the world we often had to step back and ask ourselves, "What things are we more interested in, things we see or what can't be seen?". Connecting with God and with others is essential in answering that question.

As such, we continued to maintain our contact with several ethnic families, and we showed the love of Christ to them by sharing genuine concern for their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. We arranged to help a family who didn't have any beds for their children. We found the bed frames free in someone's front yard and were able to get the mattresses through the generosity of people. Their mom is very happy and told me, "the kids are sleeping better and they are not as tired throughout the day". Thanks to all who helped to buy the mattresses. With some of the families, we have been helping the school-aged kids with homework from an online school. As we did this, it became apparent that due to the lack of English skills, that many were going to become lost in the system. We saw a burden for these kids who could fall through the cracks. Colleen has been tutoring several ethnic families in English and helping with their online homework. Many of our prayers for these families were answered such as finding jobs, overcoming sickness, rising above discouragement, and gaining self-control. Time and time again it was pointed out that God was the one who answered these prayers. His name was known and glorified by the answering of prayers for them. Again, through these contacts many



prayers have been answered and have shown the power of God and that He wants to be intimately involved in our lives even down to the smallest detail. It was because of His great love for us that He sacrificed His one and only Son, this sacrifice has become a stumbling block. Many people elevate Jesus to a high status, but only put Him on the list of so-called gods or do not see his divinity at all.



[mcmahanarmin@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmahanarmin@yahoo.com)

[www.globeintl.org](http://www.globeintl.org)



P.O. Box 3040 • Pensacola, FL 32516 • 850.453.3453

In the future, our plan is to develop a small group where the Bible can be studied, and God's true character and name can be revealed. It has been difficult to gain traction with anything new. We hit a dry



spell in ministry because of the virus, however, we continue to move forward in hope that God will reach the hearts and minds of those in the Clarkston and Atlanta area. During this downtime, we were able to visit with family and friends for the holidays, experiencing some sweet worship.

Our bigger goal is still the same, to reach those who have huge relational maps that can expand the kingdom far beyond the Clarkston and Atlanta area. In other spheres, we continue to maintain our contact with others through food distribution, soccer ministry, mentoring, and teaching citizenship classes. Clarkston Upper90's soccer teams, U16 and U19, won the championships again. Soccer is very important to these boys in the community. The Covid-19 stopped the first half of the season. One of the players commented that

"if you don't play soccer for a day, it feels different. But with the quarantine, we hadn't played for 3 months, we feel like we were lost, we couldn't do anything. Soccer is just... we can't live without soccer." Beyond learning soccer skills, they expressed that soccer helped them to develop important life skills and disciplines, like respect and learning how to get along with people and get to know people in the community. During one of our life skill sessions, to our surprise, one of the players started sharing the whole Bible story from memory. After telling the story, everyone cheered, and it was obvious he had been mentored well apart from soccer.



Some new opportunities have risen by mentoring a GFM missionary training student, training a church group 'in getting to know Jesus better', and the discipleship process. We are planning to meet with several Muslims (some of these are from an unreached people group) to answer questions about the Bible. We are beginning to teach ESL classes and continuing citizenship classes.



Love ya and God bless,

*-Armin & Colleen*



**Prayer concerns:**

- Keep focused on the task ahead of us
- Against further division in our country
- Open hearts of the unreached in Clarkston
- Pray for more disciples
- Pray for our mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional health



**mcmahanarmin@yahoo.com**