

# THE HAMILTON ROAD

Official Newsletter of the Hamilton Family

*Froehliche Weihnachten*

## Season of Preparation

Missionaries must be flexible. Ministries begin and end. Missionaries come and go. Political unrest, natural disasters, and frail economies can determine the mission. GEM missionaries run to help wherever needed, whether in Lesbos or in the German cities destroyed by floods earlier this year. David and I will most likely work in a wide variety of ministries. How do we prepare for that? Well, we look at everything we are currently doing and all we have done in the past as preparation for what we might do in Germany.

This fall I accepted a position with Rowan County Schools teaching English as a Second Language at Overton Elementary in Salisbury. I wanted to learn how to teach ESL to be better equipped to teach ESL in Germany where some churches host free ESL programs and use the Bible as the text book!

David and Banagher are currently coaching a K-1 team with a church basketball program. Practices and games are concluded with a Bible lesson and prayer. Sports ministry in Germany?

David continues to conduct the handbells at church and Banagher, Linden, and I have joined as ringers! Perhaps we will organize a handbell choir in Germany?

Violet, Linden, and I have joined the church choir that David conducts and could help organize church or community choirs in Germany.

David started a wonderful men's ensemble at church that has been quite popular. This has led us to imagine men's ministry or prison ministry in Germany.

Will God use our youth ministry or children's ministry experience? Will He use our soccer ministry or food pantry knowledge? Will we host small groups again, or organize women's ministry events? We don't know what is in store for us in Germany, so we must stay open to any possible ministry. We are embracing and learning from every opportunity God gives us, while acknowledging we might do something totally new. We will do whatever God wants us to do.

## Prayer

Ask God to send more workers to the field.

Ask God to prepare our family spiritually, emotionally, and physically for the transition to Germany.

Ask God to prepare the hearts of those in Germany to receive Him.

Thank God for our faithful ministry partners.

Ask God to give His people wisdom, knowledge, boldness, and love as they minister.







## God Ordained Moments

My niece, Natalie, plays volleyball for Erskine College. Practices are brutal and games can even be dangerous. In fact, Natalie has had three serious concussions. I never played volleyball, but I can imagine the thrill of being set up to jump high into the air and spike the ball over the net. God has allowed me to experience such a thrill several times this semester at school.

"Jose" asked me if dinosaurs lived at the same time as people. I told him that in the Book of Job in the Bible there is a description of what could be a dinosaur. Jose asked me to read it to him, so I googled Job 40 and read the chapter. The entire class listened intently. Then the questions started. "Who is Job? What's his story?" My heart was bursting with joy and excitement! I shifted into children's pastor gear and told an animated story of the life of Job. Thank you, God for the set!

"Maria" saw a picture on my phone of a painting of Mary comforting Eve, and the questions started! "Who is that pregnant woman? Why is that woman crying? Why is she stepping on a snake? Why is she holding an apple?" I was able to explain the entire gospel message just by answering her questions. Thank you, Lord for the set!

"Paco" asked me what time I got up in the morning and when I replied 5:30 AM he asked me why. I told him that I met with God in the morning. He asked how and I explained my Bible and prayer time. Thank you, Jesus for the set.

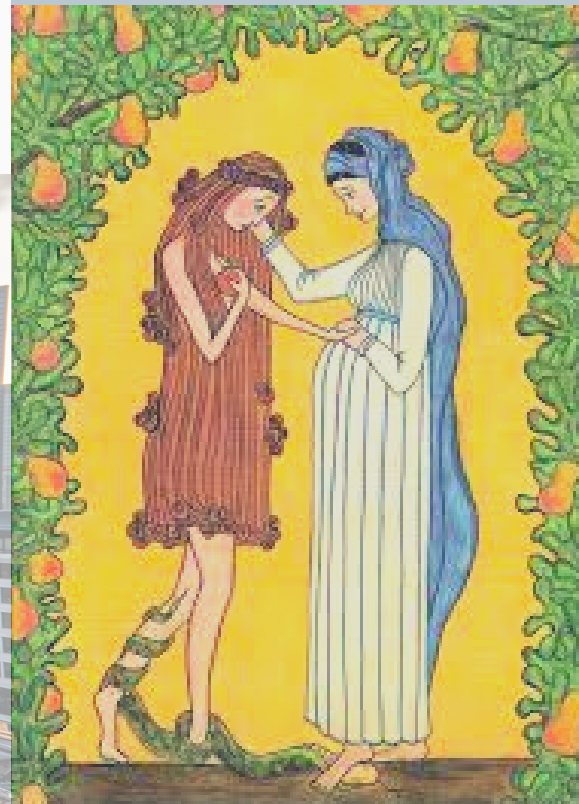
Natalie's volleyball coach says, 1) "Stay aggressive!" As believers we must stay aggressive by asking God to give us opportunities to share the gospel. Ask God to show us with whom to speak and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the words to say. 2) "Stay disciplined anticipating the unexpected." We must be on the lookout for opportunities to share. We must be willing to share even when it's uncomfortable or inconvenient. 3) "Know the approach." The steps a player takes to hit the ball is called an approach. What is our "approach" as believers? Knowledge of the Word. Time with God in prayer and meditation. Holy living. Repentance. Set. Spike.

**"For unto us a Child is born,  
unto us a Son is given:  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder:  
and His name shall be called Wonderful,  
Counsellor, The Mighty God, The  
Everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:8**

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**"We can go out  
not knowing  
where we are  
going, but quite  
happily,  
because we  
know that he is  
with us."**

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES



Mary and Eve by Sr. Grace Remington,  
OCSO, of the Cistercian Sisters of the  
Mississippi Abbey