

CHRISTMAS 2020 • SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL

Dave & Bonnie Lambert

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Glory to God
in the highest heaven,
and on earth *peace*
to those on whom his favor rests.

LUKE 2:14

Dear Friends,

I loved living in Colorado. The majesty and beauty of the Rocky Mountains are beyond compare. And who would not like an average of 300 days of sunshine with low humidity? In the summertime, you might get hot days, but it always seemed to cool down in the evenings. But then you have springtime, fall, and winter to deal with. One thing I quickly learned was that the weather could change faster than you could imagine. It could be warm enough to wear shorts in the morning, and yet snowing with blizzard conditions in the afternoon. You always had to be prepared for a drastic change when you left the house for the day. Weather whiplash is a reality! I am finding that ministry whiplash is a reality as well.

When we last wrote to you a little over a month ago, we shared how ministry was not what we had imagined. COVID-19 had stopped our travel plans to visit our team scattered around Asia. Finding an avenue to do ministry in our new community after moving was proving difficult. The whiplash of going from having too much ministry to very little was hard on us, to say the least. But one thing I have learned about weather whiplash is that it can go the other way too. You might have snow in the morning only to have warm sunshine in the afternoon. Ministry seems to be following that pattern as well!

In June, Darrow and Vicki, who run the hospitality house ministry at Camp Hansen here on Okinawa, had to make a tough decision. Their son James had graduated from high school and needed to go back to the States for college. Sending a son across the ocean can be hard enough, but when that son has lived overseas for the previous five years it can be daunting. No driver's license, no bank account, no friends—really, it's like sending a son to a foreign country all by himself.

It was decided that Vicki would take James back to the States to help him get settled. Darrow would join them later in the summer...or so they thought. When Vicki got to the airport to leave Japan, she was told if she got on the plane, she might not be allowed to come back due to the COVID-19 restrictions. With ticket in hand, she trusted that it was the right decision and boarded the plane. But then the restrictions got tighter, and she was not allowed back. Darrow was left to run the ministry by himself.

While he did a fantastic job and I never once heard him utter one word of complaint, the months ticked by. June turned into July, August into September and then October, with no end in sight. Vicki's visa to be in Japan expired, which meant she had to start that process over again. Darrow was able to renew his since he was already in Japan, which also allowed him to research what it would take for him to join his family. After more than eight trips to the local



immigration office, he was informed that Japan was now allowing those with resident visa cards to leave and return once again! But what about the ministry at Camp Hansen?

on Thursday and stay until Sunday afternoon. We will then come back to our place an hour south for a few days to continue in my role as Asia Field Leader. On top of this, I was just able to fly to Tokyo for eight days to visit our two teams there. My first visit in a year! Can I just say the whiplash is real? From little ministry to more than we ever expected. Yet we love whiplash in this direction!



Hansen dinner

With the holidays just around the corner, the last thing we wanted was to lock the doors to a base full of lonely Marines. That is where Bonnie's and my flexibility has come in! As of mid-November, we are now covering the ministry so that Darrow could leave and be reunited with his family, with the goal of he and Vicki returning in January. It means that the doors will stay open and the Marines will have a place to be over the holidays. It also means that we get to use our gifts in a way we love—that of cooking for a room full of hungry Marines and opening God's Word to them. Each week until mid-January we will "move" up to Hansen

fresh pot of coffee brewing, a home-cooked meal on the table, and ears willing to listen. Your partnership is what makes it possible and for that, we want to say thank you!

Love, Dave and Bonnie

P.S. We know that you have many options for giving before you each year. We once again want to thank you for your faithful support which allows us the honor of serving our Marines. May you be blessed this year!



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Dave & Bonnie Lambert
 Partnership Involvement

Acct.# 10252

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