

Serving with Cadence International

Bruce & Wendy Dower



Jonathan (center), November 2020

WINTER 2020–2021

Dear Friends & Family,

Wow, what a year, right? As one friend recently said, “Good riddance, 2020.” Not the most inspiring way to start a prayer letter, but it sums up how many of us have felt for a while, doesn’t it?

I appreciated the words of a fellow Cadence missionary earlier this year when he said, “I don’t want to miss what God has for me—for *us*—in all this.” You have to appreciate the ability of people to look beyond what is to what *could* be in times like this. It’s not easy, but my hat is off to people like my friend who called me to look beyond my own feelings. Thank you, Eric.



Wendy’s sweater

Our ministry has not escaped the winnowing that has impacted people, businesses, and ministries all over the country and the rest of the world. We have begun to rebuild, but we still feel the losses that have come with all the changes this year. Deployments, permanent moves, changes in location, or other factors have left their mark, yet we continue to reach out to folks as best we can.

The greatest impact on our family has revolved around my 92-year-old mother who has been in assisted living since March—two days before the lockdown hit. It breaks my heart to look at her picture from my prayer letter from early 2020. She is a shell of her former self. Isolation that is closer to solitary confinement has nearly destroyed her. It has broken our hearts as a family. As I write, Mom has just been released from the hospital again—which is third time in the last 60 days. She has a blood clot in her lung and is now on hospice care in a hospice facility. Thankfully, we are finally able to be with her and hold her hand. We will now have unlimited access to be with her until the Lord calls her home. This is obviously a mixed blessing, but we are grateful for what God has now provided for us all.

While our daughter, Bethany, expects her first child in early January, and Jonathan, our son, continues his training in the Navy without Christmas leave, we won’t be seeing family for the holidays. There’s the possibility of having Tara (Jonathan’s wife) with us on Christmas Eve and Zooming with Jonathan—fingers crossed. Thankfully, we will have our “military family” with us on Christmas Day, and for that, we’re grateful. We had a full house for Thanksgiving and expect to have a full house again for Christmas. One of our guys should just be back from deployment and we can’t wait to see him.

I’ve been blessed by e-mails from two of our soldiers in different countries who have shared about their

relationships with the nationals in their respective places of service. One of our guys is on a worship team with a Ugandan believer whose love for the Lord is infectious. Hearing about how these guys are impacting others we will never meet encourages me that, at least by extension, fruit continues to grow.

Please continue to pray for our people. Military life is hard on marriages, families, and the military members themselves. Pray for us that we will be faithful to serve those God brings our way in His strength.

Thank you for your part in all that happens here!

In his grace,

Bruce

Bruce, for Wendy too



The Incredible Lautzenheisers



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Bruce & Wendy Dower
Partnership Involvement

Acct.# 10305

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