

Joe & Caitlin FLETCHER

Cadence.org/Fletcher

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

PSALM 95:1-2

SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL



ABOUT US

We operate a hospitality house ministry for the military members and families at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. We have the opportunity to invest in these servicemembers, share the gospel with them, equip them to share the gospel with others, and then send them out to share the good news with the people they meet in their many moves and travels. We partner with the chapel on-base by supporting and strategizing with the chaplains to reach the base community. We open our house weekly for Bible studies and fellowship to give this community a home away from home.

Comprised of nearly four million people, the U.S. military community has proven to be one of the largest, most responsive sub-cultures today. Cadence International is an evangelical mission agency dedicated to reaching the military communities of the United States and of the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It serves all branches of the United States military in stateside and overseas locations. Our vision is to exalt Christ in the nations through the lives of transformed military people.

Dear Friends And Family,

If you had told us a year ago that just a few short months after opening a new hospitality house with Cadence we would have to close it, we would have been baffled. Our ministry started so well and gained traction to the point of hosting around ten households at Bible study each week. We had something going on almost every day of the week, either held at our house or the base chapel. There was so much to do with little time to do it. Then suddenly, there was all the time in the world.

OUR MINISTRY AND THE PANDEMIC

Starting in March, we switched to Zoom meetings. We stopped preparing food, stopped childcare, stopped leaving the house. We instead used ministry funds to help provide toilet paper and cleaning supplies to our community when those items were scarce. We sent care packages to deployed servicemembers. We hosted a podcast called “Anchored” and offered online devotional groups. We adapted and kept pressing on.

In a time that God set apart to be still, we weren't leaning into it. Our persistence pushed us to the edge and wore down our marriage. We cried out to our pastoral care team and field leaders, and they gave us the incredible gift of sending us to a counseling intensive in California for six weeks in August. A small portion of each donation goes into Cadence's “Good Samaritan” fund—we are so grateful they decided to use some of it on us. Our family gained so much from that trip that has forever changed our relationships with one another and has grown us in our walks with God.

The timing of our marital distress was within God's orchestration. Our local Naval command published new instructions just before we left for the intensive that stated servicemembers were to only travel to and from work (with a few exceptions). They could not come to the Anchor. The week we arrived back in Virginia, those new restrictions were lifted, and we were allowed to host Bible studies and other events at our house again.

Cadence has cared for us so well. They have been praying for us and meeting with us to determine the timing of reopening the Anchor. We have a growth plan that we are working on, and we will continue checking in with our pastoral care team. We have been allowed to

open the house again as of October 18. Taking COVID-19 cautions into account, we have begun preparing childcare and working on our future schedule, and will likely have our next Bible study in early November. We are so eager to share the things we learned in counseling and what God has shown us. Our spirits are renewed, and God has blessed us greatly. We intend to let those blessings flow through us to others.

WHAT'S SPEAKING TO ME (CAITLIN)

We've been learning a lot about shame and just how deeply it affects us. I'm not sure I really understood what shame was back in July, but God is pruning back more and more to show me where it lies and hinders the growth of His fruit. I recently heard in a podcast by Adam Young that engaging in your own story or studying yourself to learn why you have certain habits and reactions is necessary for engaging in the stories of others. It creates empathy, and as we pinpoint the areas in our own lives that need healing and as we work to heal them, we can lovingly assist others in doing the same. It has given me a new perspective on Matthew 7:5. It's not that we can't help people get the specks out of their eyes, but how can we do this when there's a log in our own? While the passage is clearly a rebuke, it's also practical advice. Joe and I have been heavily engaging in our own stories and the story of our marriage, for our own healing, as well as others'.

FAMILY UPDATE

Franklin has spent the pandemic learning everything from sitting up on his own to running. He turned one year old in September. Olivia has taken an interest in being homeschooled and is developing her own sense of humor. She's a hoot.

Many of our pre-pandemic ministry activities are still closed down, but we're seeing it as a blessing as we restart. We can make our schedules, balancing our marriage, family, and ministry, and pruning out what didn't work in favor of rhythms that could. We're looking forward to this new normal!

Caitlin and Joe

PRAYER REQUESTS

Resuming Activities—Pray that we would have wisdom over which activities to reintegrate into our schedules first.

Finances—Pray that we would be able to recover finances from some partners who dropped off due to the pandemic hardships, that we would be able to raise Joe's full salary, and then eventually raise Caitlin's salary.

New Chaplain—Chaplain Jones and his family moved to a new duty station this summer. Chaplain Parks and his wife are now here in their stead and have the grand task ahead of them of reopening the chapel and its activities. Pray for God to bless their transition here and for His guidance in our new Command Chaplain's decisions.



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Joe & Caitlin Fletcher
 Partnership Involvement

Acct.# 10863

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*Please do not write a missionary's name or information anywhere on the check. Instead, include this slip with your donation.

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