

Kenji & Amy FUKUNAGA

“[Let us keep] looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

HEBREWS 12:2



Almost exactly nine years ago, I was on a plane returning from my first trip to Okinawa. I had spent the past two months interning with Cadence and fell in love with military ministry. During that summer, I lived and worked with David and Andrea Hutchings. They graciously opened their home and included me in their lives and ministry. Their hospitality and influence in my life were a large part of why I chose to continue serving with Cadence!

Fast forward to today—Amy and I have now had the privilege of serving under David and Andrea for the last six years! They are key mentors in our ministry and personal lives. A couple of months ago, they left the island for a new role within Cadence. Along with the Hutchings, our coworker, Katie, also left the island under the Lord's leading. She has been an auntie to our kids and a close friend and coworker as we have served these students and families the last six years. We were incredibly sad to see them all go, but we are excited about the new adventure God is leading them on. They have been a big part of our

lives and have played a large role in shaping who we are as leaders and parents.

Their departures mean we have taken on the role of team leaders. There are now five of us dedicated to serving the children, students, and families on the Marine bases. Amy and I are excited for this new role and the continued opportunity to share the gospel and our lives both with our teammates and military families!

COVID-19

What a crazy year this has been! I barely remember what life was like six months ago. I remember watching the news back in January as the virus spread in China, never dreaming it would turn our entire world upside down. We have been forced to rethink what ministry looks like, with a focus on social media and personal communication with students and families. While we have not been able to meet in person, ministry has not stopped. We are thankful for technology like Zoom, text messaging, and Facetime which enable us to stay in contact with people. I have

found great comfort in Hebrews 12:2. Jesus is the one who has founded and will perfect our faith, both ours and the students in our ministry! He is still at work in their hearts and will not abandon them, even when circumstances keep us from meeting together.

MIKA

We found out in early April that Mika has a gallstone. Unfortunately, the military hospital here does not have a specialist for that. We explored flying home, but with COVID-19, we quickly decided that was not a good option. Thankfully, we have seen a specialist in town, and we have a good friend who has been able to translate for us. Going to the doctor is never a fun experience and adding a foreign language into the mix has been challenging! Poor baby girl has had so many blood tests, ultrasounds, and most recently a CT scan, and we are no

closer to figuring out the cause of the stone. When we first found out, we were told we needed to have her gallbladder removed ASAP. However, she has been on meds that have helped her body function with the stone. Right now, we are waiting and praying the stone will dissolve on its own. She may still need surgery, but we are thankful we've been given time for her to get bigger and grow older.

Through this whole process, God has been close to Amy and me, and we have felt so supported by friends and family. We ask that you continue to pray that God will remove the stones and Mika will be healed.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are thankful for you!

Kenji and Amy



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