

CHRISTMAS 2020 • SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL

# Laurel & Cedric Givry

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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

*"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11*

JOY! That's what we're celebrating this season and I'm so thankful. Joy isn't dependent on my health, my current supply of toilet paper, whether or not I must wear a mask everywhere I go, or even if I get to see all the people I love and long to see face-to-face. No, joy comes from God and his rescue plan for us. I am working closely with our Fort Jackson MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) group this year and one of our themes is "Chase Joy." I so often find joy when I remember the gospel amid my brokenness, or my children's, or the world's. I find joy when I seek the Lord and find his presence, and the peace he provides with it. I find joy when I take my eyes off of myself and my circumstances and look to my Savior who makes all the difference. Then, my attitude about other things can change and my joy multiplies. Praise God! He's where the joy is!

Here are some snippets of JOY from 2020 from ministry and our family:

**MOPS** Involvement with this ministry has given me the chance to meet **so many** military spouses and minister to them.

We have 45 on our roster right now and I'm so enjoying mentoring a couple of them and building relationships with the 20 ladies in my "small" group. With no childcare available to us through the chapel this fall, we have chosen to meet at parks and in homes and backyards. These ladies want to meet in-person and are willing to put up with a lot to make that happen. They are hungry for spiritual encouragement and applicable truth, so each meeting, each phone call is a rich opportunity to take them to the Word and point them to Jesus. My kids love all the chances to play with "new friends," so this is the perfect avenue for me to minister to the military in this season of life.

**TECHNOLOGY** I know we're all a little "Zoom-fatigued" by now, but I am truly grateful for all the ways I have been able to stay connected with women, even amid confinement and restrictions. I led a book club via Zoom this spring/summer and ladies who moved before and during the timeframe were able to join our weekly discussions thanks to technology. I still see ladies monthly via Zoom who used to attend my IF:table in person. We all know it's not the same

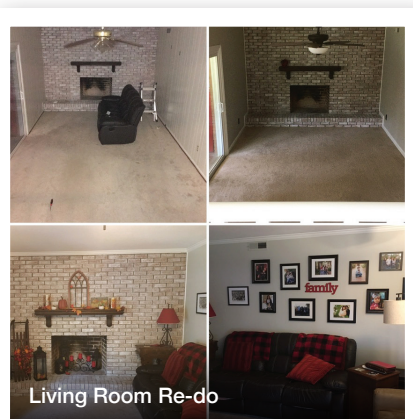
as being together in the flesh, but for many ladies who move and find it hard to meet new friends with the COVID-19 restrictions in place, it is a way to stay in touch with women who will listen to them, pray with them, and speak truth to them.



**FAMILY/LIVING ROOM RE-DO** We spent August-October updating our living room with the help of a friend of Cedric's from work. We removed paneling, put up drywall, painted, put on new trim, and replaced outlets and switches and the ceiling fan. It was a great chance for us to build a relationship with this friend of Cedric's who is a younger believer and is still working hard to establish a new life for himself after years of poor choices. We recently had him and his fiancée over for dinner to let them see the finished room. It was a fun evening, and Cedric and I were able to pass on godly wisdom about marriage, finances, and life that many of you have shared with us over the years. We are thankful for this growing relationship and will celebrate this couple's wedding with them in mid-December.

**OUR KIDS, OF COURSE, ARE A REGULAR SOURCE OF JOY** as well as other things (ha-ha). Benjamin turned four at the end of August, and Samantha turned one at the beginning of April. We were able to see my dad and sister in January, and then visited Cedric's family in France in February, just before COVID-19 shut everything down. We are very thankful that all of our family has stayed healthy this year.

**SCC MILITARY FELLOWSHIP** Our church, Sandhills Community Church (SCC), highly values the connection and spiritual growth that happens through small groups. We love participating in them, and this fall we're trying something new. We have started a group for military members and their families. It is both for military individuals and families in our church and also in the community, so some of the ladies from my MOPS



Living Room Re-do



Benjamin & Samantha

group are coming with their families. We are excited about how God might use and grow this as time goes by.

**YOU** Cedric and I are thankful for you and your prayers, financial support, love, and friendship. You bring us much joy! Thanks for coming alongside and helping make ministry to the military happen. We couldn't do it without you!

God gave us joy when he sent us a savior. May you embrace that joy not just in the Christmas season but throughout the year. *"You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."* Psalm 16:11

With joy,  
*Laurel* (for all of us)



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