

CHRISTMAS 2020 · SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL

# Jim & Rachel Turnage

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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,*

Ah, transition. Definitely not one of my favorite things in life, but I am in the midst of it. No matter how many times I do it and even know what to expect, there is no speeding it up. It just takes time. The Christmas story is full of transition: Joseph and Mary's transition as newlyweds, becoming first-time parents, moving to Bethlehem, fleeing to Egypt, and then moving back to Nazareth. Then the ultimate story of transition, Jesus becoming flesh to dwell among us. It is good for me to ponder.

Our transition stirs so many things in me, both good and bad. I have to admit, this one has been rough. I almost feel like a recent college graduate, starting out in life. We now live in South Carolina, and this former Arizona girl is no southern belle. I have mourned, processed, and am working on healing after leaving Thailand. For so long, I just haven't been myself. Yet, I am so thankful that Jesus is Immanuel, God with us through it all.

While driving the other day, I was thinking about LifeCompass and how God will use me. I have sort of felt disqualified due to many areas of pain God has allowed in my life. How am I supposed to disciple young adults, when I can't even figure it out myself?

I recalled a conversation with our son Jayce. He is a student at Northern Arizona University and is taking some difficult classes. He is studying to become a math teacher. I know from experience as a teacher that when you struggle to learn, it actually makes you a better teacher. You can identify with the learner and help them to better understand a concept because *you* have struggled to understand it.

As I was thinking about this conversation, I heard that still, small voice say to me, "And so because of your pain and struggles, you will be a better teacher to the people you invest in." I knew that Jesus was speaking directly to

my fears. I am choosing to believe that God has me exactly where He wants me and is going to lead me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. And I have even already seen God use it as I identify with others that struggle and share with them what God is teaching me.

I am so very thankful that we have the time and space to transition to America during our home assignment. I continue to look forward to what God has for us here as we seek to merge LifeCompass with Victory Ranch. What a privilege it is to be with the U.S. Military. I'm not sure what all He has in store, but I do believe that this is a time of preparation.

Please continue to pray for us as we transition. Jessa has had a particularly difficult transition and, in the midst of it, she has been sick for about two years now. We are in the process of working with new doctors to figure it all out. I'm praying that God will heal her, but I'm trusting Him to use this for His glory. She dearly misses Thailand and is doing a virtual school, which is not a great way to meet friends. We recently started going to church and she is getting to know some people. Pray the Lord will meet her and gently lead her.

We thank God that Jim is doing so much better. He absolutely loves to dream and envision all that could happen here at Victory Ranch. We also thank God that our son Jayce's health is improving after recently being diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. We pray that he will continue to have good health and will find a great community. Pray for our oldest son Jake, as he is in the US Air Force and is deployed. I pray for godly connections and people that will come alongside him. All that I love about Cadence and their investment into U.S. Military people, I pray for Jake to find! What Cadence does has become so much more real to me now that he is in the military.

Please pray for us too, as we raise support this year. We seek to better communicate with you, as we so believe that it takes a team to do what God has called us to do. With that in mind, we are committing to two paper newsletters a year and have also set up a blog to update you more regularly. If you sign up for the blog, you will get email notifications to keep you informed. Links to sign up for our blog, or to give a special year-end gift to us or to LifeCompass (we're raising funds for a van to use for student transportation) are in the footer below.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our letter and for your interest in us. We so appreciate you!

Merry Christmas! I pray for Jesus' continued work in you!

**Rachel for the Turnages**



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**Jim and Rachel Turnage**

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**Jim & Rachel Turnage**  
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