

Rachel & Eric

Serving with Cadence International

Vaught

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Have you ever walked into the home of a military family and seen the wall hanging of all the places they have been stationed during their time in the service? For many who have been in the military for more than a decade, the display can begin to look like a never-ending train of cities around the world. Just pause there for a moment. Does the idea of packing up all your belongings and moving halfway around the world every two to three years sound exciting, or terrifying? Both reactions are probably true and both have been experienced by every family as they set out on the adventure that is the life of the military family.



Our family just completed three years in Naples, Italy, our third stop in the last seven years. As we have taken this transition time to reflect, a range of emotions marks our time in Italy and Europe as a whole. We are grateful for the relationships we developed with other families and the places we got to see and experience. Eric's work as a physician kept him busy at the hospital and across the European region as he led the Navy's public health response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Rachel and the boys kept busy with the homeschool curriculum, swim team, and cub scouts.

When we arrived in Italy three years ago, we joined Cadence International as Cadence Associates with the intended goal of starting a Cadence Hospitality Ministry in Naples, Italy. It had been many years since Cadence last had a presence in this Navy community. We partnered with the base chaplains in support of the services on Sunday mornings and their outreach to the community throughout the week. Rachel led the Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) for two years, we hosted a weekly Bible study in our home, and we supported other ministries on the base for singles and men's groups. To the glory of God, we have been able to make small steps toward that goal as we left a thriving base chapel community with strong relationships across the various ministries. Please continue to pray for that community as it navigates through decision points regarding ministry and outreach in the COVID-19 environment.

We have now moved just north of Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island. Eric is transitioning to the Navy Reserves and starting a new job leading a community health center in Fall River, Massachusetts. The boys will start at their new school in the fall and pick up new activities as we get settled into our community.

Cadence does not currently have a presence on or near the Newport base, so we will be seeking opportunities to start new ministries over the next couple of years in partnership with the base chaplains and our local church. The Newport base is a very transient population, with most staying less than one year at the Naval War College, officer indoctrination training, and multiple senior-level courses. Despite the challenges of a transient population, all Navy chaplains start their careers in Newport, and this will provide us with great opportunities to introduce them to Cadence and the various ministries around the world. Please join us in prayer as we seek direction for the next steps in ministry and how we can best support military families in our area.

2020 has taught us the value of community at the micro and macro levels and our deep-rooted need to be connected to others. Our living rooms and homes need to be a place open for all to feel welcomed and loved. The temporary fears and anxieties that this year has brought to all of us are, in some



ways, the same emotions experienced by many military families as they move to a new duty location and begin to reach out and build new relationships. How we, the people of God, demonstrate God's love through hospitality will go a long way towards breaking down the barriers that fear and anxiety create.

Finally, if you would like to support our ministry or the ministry of Cadence around the world, you can find the link at the bottom of the page.

Gratefully,
Rachel and Eric



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