

Zach & Cassandra Brown



50% BY EASTER!

So, we decided to do a crazy thing! The Lord put it on our hearts to really get going on our support raising and be faithful to keep our contract date of having our support fully raised by September 2021. As we were praying, we both felt we needed to set a goal to get to 50% by Easter, and then put our house on the market. With that comes lots of meetings, exhaustion, home repairs, and throwing out all the junk we won't be needing when we leave here to set up our hospitality house. We will need your prayers as we seek the Lord to show up in a big way and help us meet this goal. You do the praying, we'll do the working!

CADENCE AND KENJI IGAWA

We had the pleasure of speaking to Cadence Alumni, XO Kenji Igawa, who is ramping up to take leadership of the U.S.S. Howard. As he prepares to head back to Japan, he reflected on his first tour of duty there 15 years ago. Kenji grew up in Los Angeles in a Buddhist home, and in high school came to know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He then went off to college where there were many Christian fellowships where he could connect with other believers and find good and uplifting ways to occupy his time.

After graduating and becoming an officer, he went to San Diego and waited around for a year until his ship moved on to Yokosuka. Once there, he felt very far away from home, far away from all things familiar, and he struggled to find direction and live his life in a way that honored God. Kenji was on a ship where life was pretty miserable. His leadership was angry and heavy-handed. He described the conditions onboard as akin to living in a P.O.W. camp. These circumstances, paired with being in a new and very different world, caused depression and loneliness to darken his life.

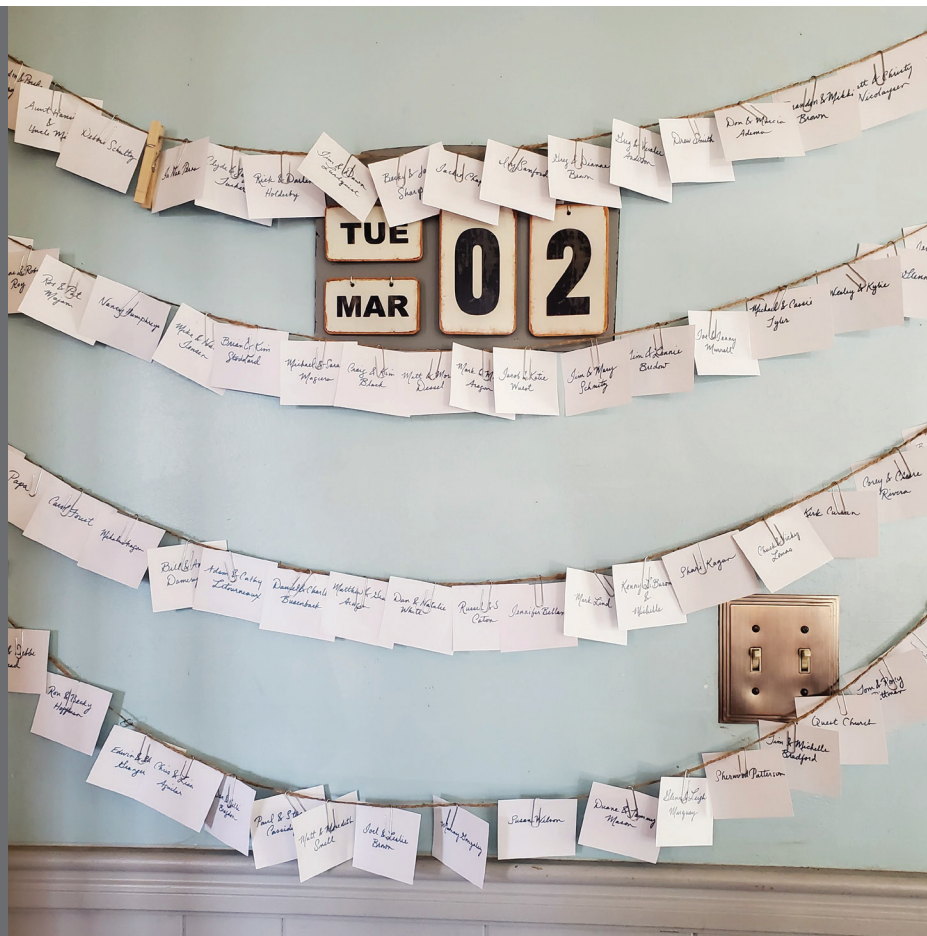
People [on his ship] were burned out, and this led some of them to attend the Lighthouse (a Cadence Hospitality House) rather than choose to drink in the lodge or go out on the town to do even worse things. While he doesn't remember who pointed him to the Lighthouse, it became a safe-haven, and he remembers well the impact it had on his life and relationship with God. I could hear the smile in his voice as he spoke about missionaries Paul and Stacy Cassidy. "They ran a tight ship, you know—they had to set up rules to make it comfortable even for officers. They kept a professional balance while establishing spiritual authority and also allowing for good fellowship within the military culture. It energized and equipped us to go back to the ship, which could be a really dark place. . ."

Kenji shared a few short stories about other Sailors who went to the Lighthouse and how the relationships filled a deep need in his walk at that time. He also shared how special Cadence is, especially outside of the continental U.S. for servicemembers, because good choices seem even harder to make. He remains thankful for Paul and Stacy, and grateful for his time with Cadence and the special role they played by injecting hope through the love of God into what he describes as the darkest point in his life. Please join us in praying for Kenji as he returns to Yokosuka again all these years later.

Kenji's story is a familiar one when speaking to Cadence alumni, and Zach and I hope to soon be the ones providing a resting place and satisfying meal for these men, women, and families.

This is our prayer wall. Zach and I meet together after each busy day spent at work and raising our children, while also trying to raise the support needed to get out and serve with Cadence. We sit together on our raggedy old couch, read God's word together, and then spend time praying for you. If you've received this newsletter, your name is already on that wall. We pray for several of you each night and then move the clothespin down the line. It would be great if you could give me a call or send me a message telling us how to pray for you specifically. We are so grateful for your prayers as well. Please continue to pray that God will move this mountain. We are committed to doing the work, and we know He is faithful to get us where He wants us, doing His work.

Gratefully,
Zach and Cassandra Brown



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Zach & Cassandra Brown
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