



Dear friends,

As I put my garden “to bed” for the winter, I’m already pondering what I’ll plant next spring. Deciding which seeds to get, putting them in their little peat pots, and watching the mini greenhouse daily for sprouts is a fun process. The seedlings pop out of the soil fairly quickly, and then get transplanted to larger pots and eventually the garden. After that, the wait begins. . . the tending, watering, weeding, protection from pests and bad weather. . . and then more waiting! I may start tomatoes in March, but it won’t be until September that the harvest really starts to come in.

Ministry is a lot like my garden. We till the soil of our community, seeking to create an environment supportive of spiritual growth. We provide nutrients (physical food and biblical teaching), we water relationships through spending time together in a variety of settings, we support Soldiers as they move from one stage of growth to another, and we teach them how to recognize and protect themselves from spiritual dangers.

And we wait. Just like plant varieties, people grow at different rates. Some soil is nutrient-dense and ready to support rapid growth. Other soil has a lot of rocks, and it takes time to work through the hindrances to healthy growth. Yet other soil seems to be dormant, and you wonder what’s going on beneath the surface. In all this, God is good, and He is at work in His perfect timing.

Last year, we had a crew of seven committed single Soldiers who stuck it out through the toughest months of COVID-19 restrictions. Now that we’ve been able to return to normal gatherings, God has grown our group to over 35 people. The growth is not just numeric; God is also growing spiritual hunger and an eagerness to pursue Christ and serve others.

What a joy to be part of what God is doing in the lives of our Soldiers and their spouses! Here’s some of what we’re currently seeing:

- Women meeting together weekly to study God’s Word and encourage one another
- After participating in the men’s purity study this summer, one Soldier is now leading others through the study
- Men and women stepping up to use their gifts and serve at the Cadence house, the chapel, and a local church
- People hungry to grow and have their relationship with Jesus make a difference in daily life

I thank God that He has chosen this to be a season of great growth for our group. After a lot of tilling the soil and waiting for seedlings to sprout and grow, it is a delight to be part of this season of growth. Thank you for your prayers and financial giving that are both part of God’s work here. I only send paper letters 1–2 times a year, so if you’d like more frequent updates via email and/or Facebook, please let me know.

May the rest of 2021 be full of joy for you. May you see God’s hand at work growing you, and may He use you to tend and water the spiritual lives of those around you as well. This is my prayer for our group and for you:

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” Colossians 1:9–12 (NIV84)

With love,
Jennessa



As our group has grown, the need to transport Soldiers has as well. I am asking God to provide a larger car so that I can give more Soldiers rides (locally and on retreats) and have room for their luggage and the outdoor gear we frequently use here. I'd appreciate your prayers for the right car. If you'd like to give towards the purchase, I have a special vehicle fund for it. You can give to this fund using the attached response slip, or at Cadence.org/RandallVehicle.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the three women's groups, that we will be changed by our study of God's Word and that I'll have the opportunity to invest in these women outside of small group time
- Pray for creativity with our current space to fit our growing crowd for Friday night dinner and study, and that people will still receive personal attention as our numbers grow
- Pray for wisdom as we develop a ministry team from within our group. Pray this will serve to help people take the next step in their discipleship journey



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Partnership Involvement

Acct.# 10555

- ☐ I will pray for Jennessa
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- ☐ I have enclosed a special gift for the vehicle fund:
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- ☐ I would like to receive Jennessa's ministry emails
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To give to Jennessa's ministry, please donate with a check* made payable to **Cadence International** or give online at **Cadence.org/Randall**

*Please do not write a missionary's name or information anywhere on the check. Instead, include this slip with your donation.

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