

Bill & Dianne Sperry

OCTOBER 2021



Fellowship night at the Rock. Food, fun, and building great relationships.

Greetings from sunny Arizona!

Summer is in coming to a close here (cooler fall weather, yay!), and we continue to minister to the men and women serving at Luke AFB. The duties of our men and women in uniform grow easier as the weather cools. Following their lead in faithfully serving our country as fall and winter approach in Phoenix, we also will be caring for and serving them in the coming days.

We are working through a time of transition of Cadence ministry here at Luke. Peter and Tanya Kinney have been assigned to minister at Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota. They moved the first part of June and are currently getting settled in and working to establish a Cadence ministry there.

As Cadence did not have missionaries ready to take over for the Kinneys, Dianne and I are taking on a bit more responsibility. We are overseeing the ministry of The Well Hospitality House, where we have a great volunteer couple, Don and Val Bassett, who help with the work. Don and Val have full-time jobs and are very involved in their church but are faithfully taking on this ministry until new Cadence missionaries arrive.

Our part in overseeing the ministry is to coordinate the Luke AFB chaplain interactions for The Well and to manage the Cadence finances. We also assist with food preparation and teaching at the Tuesday evening ministry at The Well.

Our ministry, the Rock, is going well, though our numbers are typically small. We have committed before God that it is

not numbers that are the indicators of fruitfulness, but rather the deeper relationships engendered by smaller numbers and greater one-on-one mentorships that often occur.

We are also discovering that God is providing more on-base ministry opportunities. I am holding an on-base Bible study every Wednesday morning and we are currently reading and discussing the gospel of John. Along with the Bible study, we engage everyday topics like family, military duties, and navigating this current chaotic age.

We are also coordinating the on-base chapel ministry called the SMC (Spiritual Maintenance Center), a place where the Airmen can come get water, Gatorade, coffee, and snacks. The SMC is staffed by volunteers (most are retired military). These volunteers are there to offer encouragement and share their military experience with these young Airmen that are just starting their military service.

Here's the BIG news! Starting in November Dianne and I are initiating a brand new on-base coffee ministry. We are going to begin with one night a week (Wednesday) from 4–8 p.m. We will serve some basic espresso-type drinks and will create a venue that is fun and inviting. The purpose of this ministry is multifaceted.

First, we want to provide an atmosphere that encourages them to sit awhile and engage in conversations with us. Our desire is to develop relationships with them and to build bridges of trust. This will allow us to speak to the deeper



Chaplain Adam Roe greets his replacement, Chaplain Alex Johnson and turns the over to him the responsibility of managing the Spiritual Maintenance Center.



Levi and Rachel, newly weds and our worship leaders at The Well.

things in their lives and point them to Jesus as the One that can give them hope and life eternal.

Additionally, as the ministry grows, we will invite Airmen to volunteer in this coffee ministry, serving their fellow Airmen. There, as they serve alongside us, we will have the opportunity to witness to them of God's great love for them.

We have already presented this ministry idea to the chaplaincy, and they are all-in on the idea. They have ordered the espresso machine and all the needed utensils. Once all the gear is in place, we will begin training our volunteers on the use of the machine, cleaning, and maintenance.

As we have been praying about this new opportunity for on-base ministry, I was reminded of the parable Jesus tells in Luke 14:15–24. A great supper is prepared, and friends are invited to come eat. One by one the friends have excuses

of why they cannot come. The man then orders his servants to gather people off the streets and still there is room at the table. The man then orders his servants to go out again "into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in."

There are men and women at Luke that have no desire to go to church, either from lack of interest or because life is too busy. We hope to bring Jesus to them right where they live and work, "to compel them to come in," and we believe this coffee ministry will be the means to that end.

We give God thanks for your support of our ministry here at Luke AFB and we thank each of you for joining with us in ministry. Hearts and minds are being impacted for the cause of Christ because you have invested with us in their lives.

Gratefully,
Bill and Dianne Sperry

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for a mighty work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of all our servicemembers. We sense the urgency of the hour in which we live and feel compelled to share the gospel of Jesus Christ while there is still time.
- AFB from Ramstein AFB in Germany. In my conversations with him, I hear a man who loves Jesus and has a large heart for what his ministry could look like here at Luke. Please pray that his zeal will not be quashed by overwhelming logistical duties.
- the coffee ministry! We thank God and give Him all the glory.
- Pray for our men and women in uniform as they are faced with a difficult choice brought on by the vaccine mandate for all military personnel. Some of them have strong convictions and reservations as to the need for and efficacy of the vaccine. The consequence of refusing to be vaccinated is a dishonorable discharge. Pray that God will grant them wisdom and courage as they consider the path that He has for them going forward.
- Pray for Dianne and me. We need an extra measure of endurance, both physically and spiritually, as we take on these additional ministry opportunities. Pray also that we will be discerning of the needs of those we engage with and how to lovingly help meet those needs.
- Pray for Don and Val Bassett. Don is an elder at their church and helps with teaching Sunday school, and Val is very involved in the women's ministry. Pray that God will grant them strength and endurance both physically and spiritually. Pray that they will see great fruitfulness in their ministry at The Well.
- Pray for Chaplain Johnson, our lead chaplain for the SMC ministry. He and his wife have recently come to Luke
- We have been praying for complete financial provision for the coffee ministry, and we had planned to ask various units and current partners to help—but God has already answered our prayers! One of our SMC volunteers and his wife have committed to provide full funding for
- Pray for Ken and Christie Say, the missionary couple Cadence has designated to take on the ministry at The Well. They have purchased a house and are getting settled in here. They are working on building their support team and will be released to the field when they reach 100% of their funding. Pray that their support will come in quickly so they can begin serving our men and women here at Luke.



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