

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6



Paul & Beryl Metko

Serving with Cadence International
Cadence.org/Metko

Dear Family and Friends,

The header on this letter is so fitting for this Christmas season. The picture reminds us of the angelic announcement a group of shepherds would receive on that holy night. How their every-day, often-despised life trade would be radically **changed**. They, of all people, would come face-to-face with the One who would be the shepherd of their souls! How the world would begin to experience **transforming change** as they were obedient to tell people about their encounter with God Incarnate!

The shepherd analogy has taken on new meaning for me (Paul) the past four months. The first Saturday of the month, I usually meet with some men from our church at a Christmas tree farm for prayer and study. Each of us finds a place for study, reflection, and prayer. I usually gravitate towards a small field with four sheep that often come near to greet me. What a joy to listen to, observe, and learn their unique behaviors. I am reminded of Proverbs 27:23, "Know well the condition of your flock and pay attention to your herds..." I kept this verse by my phone during my years of leadership and pastoral care.

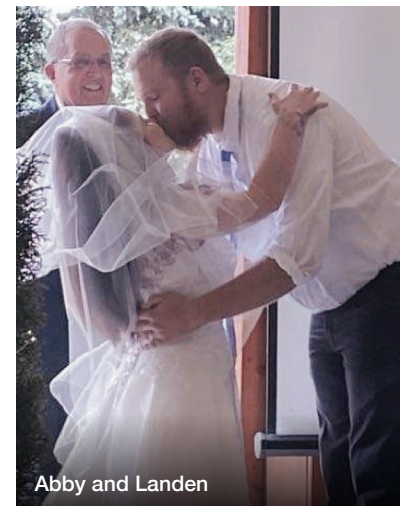
One of the joys in our latter active years with Cadence was to lead and shepherd an incredible group of men, women, and families who continue to serve in our Cadence hospitality houses. In late October, we received pictures of our Cadence staff attending regional conferences, a highlight we still miss. In particular, we noticed the faces of new staff the Lord has raised up for our worldwide outreach. As **change** is a sub-theme of this letter, *please pray* for our staff as they have found and continue looking for creative ways to meet with our military members due to the pandemic. Also, **change in the military culture** with acceptance of various genders has made ministering the gospel in and with love a bit more challenging.

UNEXPECTED CHANGE

In updating our mailing list, we realize that **change** has occurred for many of you. Missing this holiday season are the names of some of your loved ones who are now residing with Jesus. We pray for God's comforting presence and peace for you.

CHANGE FOR THE METKO FAMILY

This long-overdue letter comes after Beryl and I were led in the summer of 2020 to begin a major downsizing and selling of our house. A family decision was made that we would seek to find a two-family house that would meet the needs of John's family and for Beryl and me. The Lord provided such a house in a wonderful rural setting, yet central for both families' needs. Sadly, there were many undetected major flaws that have required hours and finances to correct, some that are still waiting for final repairs. Nevertheless, the house has proved more than adequate for us and our desire to extend hospitality to friends and family. Sometimes, Friday night family nights are like a hospitality house! (Please note our new mailing address at the bottom.)



Abby and Landen

Change for our extended family: Our grandson Landen and his fiancée Abby were married on July 31 (which was our 56th anniversary).



Jason, Kendra, Paul, Beryl, John, Debbe, Jenae, and Rachel

Another grandson, Jason, and a granddaughter, Kendra, both began dating relationships this summer. We are so very encouraged to live with them and to observe their developing relationships with Katie and Scott. Our youngest granddaughters, Jenae and Rachel, continue their high school studies in a program called Classic Conversations.

Our grandson Caleb, his wife Alison, and our three great-grandchildren—Madilyn, and twins Emma and Jackson—moved nearer to us where they are learning skills of farming and gardening with a pioneer spirit!

The most surprising change was the recent announcement that Laurissa and her family would move to the Tyler, Texas area where David accepted an operating room technician position.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please keep Del (with the Portland Police), Scott, and Caleb (with the Portland Fire Department) in your prayers. Every day they see the utter depravity in the actions of people while experiencing little support from city leaders.



Olivia, Ady, Madilyn, Jackson, Emma, Scott, and Lisa

as admonished in the Old Testament, we have the potential of impacting the coming generations (Psalm 78). Now that we have one granddaughter, her husband, and two great-granddaughters living in Texas, we desire to continue to have an impact upon their lives, even with such a distance between us. Check out the website: www.legacycoalition.com.

THANK YOU once again for the years of faithfully following, praying, and partnering with us since joining OCSC/Cadence 48 years ago. Your generosity has been made known to many (II Corinthians 9:8–15). Lord willing, we will be able to attend our worldwide Cadence “Unhindered” Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin in late June. We anticipate being able to visit many of our friends and family. We plan to make this an extended road trip as the Lord continues to enable our adventuresome spirits. We also want to express our thanks and prayers for our military personnel who continue to serve the United States and many peoples around the world.

As this tumultuous year draws to a close, we take comfort knowing our God does not change and that His Son is Lord of all. May we model the Bethlehem shepherds who went out with joy bearing testimony of the eternal message they received: “Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to people He favors” (Luke 2:14).

GRANDPARENTING MINISTRY

Before closing, we want to introduce you to a transformational ministry known as “intentional grandparenting.” The Legacy Coalition has created a six-part DVD series called *Grandparenting Matters*. If our grandparenting is intentional,

A song from the Gaither Vocal Band captures this emphasis: *“There’s a change a-coming. Let it start in me.”*

Celebrating Jesus’ birth and His promised return,
Paul and Beryl Metko

**Glory to God in the highest heaven
and PEACE on earth to people He favors.**

LUKE 2:14



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