

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

Joe & Caitlin Fletcher

Serving with Cadence International
Cadence.org/Fletcher

Dear Friends and Family,

God has been so gracious to us. It's been a busy and wild year as we've had to calibrate and recalibrate our ministry operations due to both military and civilian COVID-19 restrictions. Even in the midst of the frenzy, our attendance numbers have grown, we have seen new Christians born, our marriage has been strengthening, and so has our community. As I write this, we are coming off Thanksgiving weekend, when we saw the vision of what we want our ministry to look like actualized. We had servicemembers and their families share our table, show up early to prepare for the event, and stay into the wee hours of the morning to fellowship with one another. It is an honor to be their "family away from family," sharing our lives and the gospel, and our gratitude is spilling over.

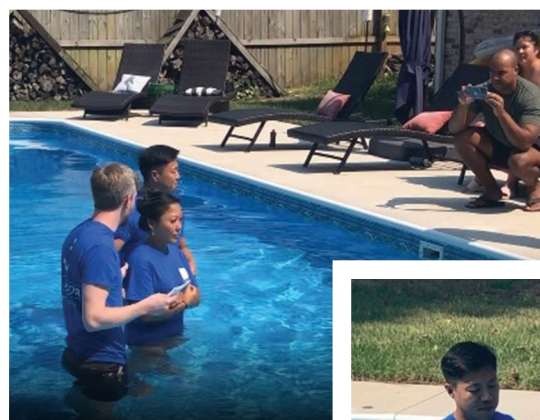
OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Growth (Acts 2:42)

Our numbers have been up and down all year but we're happy to report they are presently up. In September, we received singles sent to us from other Cadence ministries who have jumped right in. Since then, they have invited several more singles, and now our group is about half families and half single active duty servicemembers. We also have at least two regular attendees who we know are not yet believers but they are asking questions and interested in knowing more about Jesus. We are so excited to see what God has in store for them.

Baptism

Also in September, we had a very quickly planned baptism. Our dear sister, Annamarie, became a Christian in August. She told us on a Friday night that she wanted to be baptized and was eager to do it as soon as possible. We met with her the next day to give her instruction and help her prepare her testimony. In the middle of our meeting, Chelsea contacted us to ask if she, too, could join in the fun! The next day, we took a large group across the street to our neighbor's pool and celebrated their salvation.



now working alongside Chaplain Doria and his family—they are an answer to our prayers! Please keep each of them in your prayers as God uses them in these new seasons.

Women's Ministry & Children's Ministry Relaunch

Caitlin has been working closely with the Chapel and another local Cadence missionary to rebuild our weekly programs at the Chapel. Since we have restarted children's ministry on Sundays during the Chapel service, we have seen families come back and test it out again. A handful of our single sailors who come to the Anchor volunteer to teach and play with the kids, and we love that they want to serve alongside us! Our women's ministry has gone through a handful of studies this year and is currently learning the chronology of the Bible. We have seen them grow so much in their knowledge of the Bible.

WHAT'S SPEAKING TO ME (JOSEPH)

Since we started our ministry here in Virginia Beach, we have primarily served couples and young families. Over the last few months, we have seen a shift in the dynamic of our community from married couples/families to singles. With this growing number of single sailors and marines comes new opportunities to learn and grow in ministry. Where it was often a struggle to find couples to commit to time together there is now a struggle to keep up with the energy of the singles. Though we find ourselves working 40 hours between Fridays and Sundays, our hearts are full working with men and women who long for community.

Our situation reminds me of the Bible verse that Cadence has adopted as a mission: "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." (1 Thessalonians 2:8) What felt like a dream and a calling three years ago has become reality day after day. We live our lives with these Sailors and Marines and continually

find new areas in which we can share the gospel with our community. Caitlin and I prayed for this. Many of you also prayed that we would have opportunities to share our lives

Chaplain Turnover

This Autumn, we saw God send Chaplain Lee to serve sailors in Yokosuka, JP and retire Chaplain Snyder. We are

and the gospel with the military community, and God has so graciously answered that prayer. He has given us work to do, and I am humbled and blessed to share in His glory by being His worker.

FAMILY UPDATE

Franklin is starting to talk in complete sentences (though his family are the only ones who understand him) and is proving to be playfully mischievous. Olivia has excelled in her homeschooling this year and loves to read.

Caitlin and I have grown in our marriage so much this year. We have had the chance to dig deep and heal old wounds, learn more about how to love one another better, and share our stories. We have been so blessed.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Finances

We depend on donations for both our ministry resources and salary. In the last year, several ministry partners have had to drop their regular giving due to the strain COVID-19 has placed on their finances. We are working to recoup these finances so that our ministry can keep the momentum that has been built. Our desire is to not have to pause our ministry in order to travel and raise more support. Pray for God to provide the money. We would also appreciate your prayers about whether you might join our team or increase your current giving.

Chapel Dynamics

The Chapel has been rebuilding its ministry programs and with that has come an awkward phase of transitioning to the new normal. Pray that the Chapel and the Anchor will work well together and that relationships will be strengthened rather than strained.

Synergy/Unity in our group

Our current group that has grown rapidly and sustained around 40 singles, couples, and children, is around each other at least three days a week. It is wonderfully active and has also been messy. We have had to address gossip, tension, and consideration for one another. Pray that God would grow this group closer to Him and each other, that they may love well.

We are grateful for you and for your partnership with us!

In Him,
Joe and Caitlin

**Please subscribe to our new update website: TheFletchers.Epistle.Today

ABOUT OUR MINISTRY

We operate a hospitality house ministry for military members and their families at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. We have the unique opportunity to invest in these servicemembers, share the gospel with them, equip them to share the gospel with others, and then send them out to share the good news with the people they meet in their many moves and travels. We partner with the chapel on base by supporting and strategizing with the chaplains to reach the base community. We open our house almost daily for Bible Studies and fellowship to give this community a home away from home.

Comprised of nearly four million people, the U.S. military community has proven to be one of the largest, most responsive sub-cultures today. Cadence International is an evangelical mission agency dedicated to reaching the military communities of the United States and of the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It serves all branches of the United States Military in stateside and overseas locations. Our vision is to exalt Christ in the nations through the lives of transformed military people.



Cadence
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