

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

From "Angels from the Realms of Glory" by James Montgomery, 1816

Sarah
ROONEY

Merry Christmas!

I hope this letter finds you well this holiday season. It's been quite a year, and I hope you can make space and time for loved ones. If anything, this year has taught me to hold onto those we care for and soak in every moment.

Normally, I'd fill my days with a long list of to-dos, but this year I'm being a bit more choosy about how I spend my time. I want to focus on quality over quantity. It is easy to be swept away in all the parties, cookie making, finding the perfect gift, cooking, and cleaning. Since many of us are able to do more things this year, compared to last year, I hope that as we enter back into things, we will pause and see the community around us.

I was reading the other day and came across a line about helping people feel "less alone." This has been resonating with me, and it gives me a different perspective on the things we plan as a chapel team. What events will help create a community of faith and help people feel less alone? For those in Japan, travel back to the States is still difficult and unrealistic for most families, as there is a two-week quarantine after entering back into Japan. I was blessed this past summer with an empty Cadence apartment and amazing teammates who helped me quarantine, which made it possible for me to visit my family. For many, this is not possible, which means there are folks here in our community who haven't seen their families in over two years. We are now entering a second Christmas season where many feel alone and it breaks my heart.

I'm grateful for a team that sees our community and desires to reach out. This past fall we did a chapel-wide camping trip. It was the first time we've ever done such a big event off chapel grounds. I oversaw a scavenger hunt in the dark and the families had a blast playing the game. I was also able to witness a moment of reconciliation and deepening of relationships between a few of our members. The sweetest moment was our outdoor service and beach baptisms.



Over the past few months, I've had various conversations with different students about their relationships with Jesus. One teenager was asked during a birthday lunch what his goals were for the year, and he answered that he wanted to be baptized. As well, a set of twins have desired to be baptized after seeing their older brothers get baptized at the beginning of the year. All these students, of their own volition, stood up in front of their families and communities of faith to proudly proclaim Christ as their savior. It was humbling to listen to their stories and their strong faith.

As I thought about these families, Deuteronomy 6:6–7 came to mind: "These commandments that I give today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." I have sat in all these families' homes and have heard the gospel spoken in them. God doesn't just stay in the church walls but is brought into everyday conversations. God is truly doing amazing things in the lives of these families, and I feel blessed to be a witness to it.



Thanksgiving meal



HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL:

- Weekly Bible studies for men, women, couples, teens, and kids
- Trunk or Treat event with 20 amazing looking trunks and over 450 people in attendance
- Cheering on our high school football team for the first time in over a year
- Supporting a memorial walk for fallen military members in the attack at Kabul
- Chapel-wide campout with baptisms
- Thanksgiving meal with over 100 people in attendance
- Chili Cookoff
- Providing child discipleship programs for CREDO family retreats

THINGS TO BE PRAYING FOR:

- Pray that Japan lifts or minimizes quarantine time for those reentering the country
- As we plan for the upcoming year, pray for wisdom to know how best to minister to families and connect people to a community of faith
- Pray for health and safety
- Pray for our chaplain, who is preparing to leave in the spring

Thank you for going on this crazy journey with me. I have greatly appreciated the emails that many of you have sent to check in on me. I'm hoping to have more time to visit next summer.



Christmas is a time many people make year-end donations. I ask that you consider giving towards the ministry here. Donations go to making these events happen and providing a space that feels like home to those who are far away from loved ones. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve those who serve us.

Love,
Sarah



Cadence

INTERNATIONAL®

Sarah Rooney

PSC 557 Box 1083 FPO AP 96379
090.9100.3466
Sarah.Rooney@Cadence.org

Sarah Rooney

Partnership Involvement

Acct.# 10802

☐ I will pray for Sarah

☐ I will support her ministry with:
\$ _____ per ☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ year
Starting date: _____

☐ I have enclosed a special gift: \$ _____
Name of special project (if applicable) _____

☐ I would like to receive Sarah's ministry emails

☐ Please remove me from her mailing list

To give to Sarah's ministry, please donate with a check*
made payable to **Cadence International** or give online at
Cadence.org/Rooney

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

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email Address

This is not a legally binding promise to give. Contributions to Cadence International are tax-deductible so far as the law allows. While we attempt to honor the specific wishes of all donors, Cadence maintains complete discretion and control over the use of the donated funds and is authorized to redirect funds within the ministry.

DONATE: PO Box 1268, Englewood, CO 80150 • 800.396.6680 • Cadence.org