

Rick & Paula SCOTT

Tears filled my eyes as Sarah prayed, “And Lord, thank you for bringing this family to a college campus instead of an active-duty military base.”

A year ago, as the idea of moving back to the States and planting a military-focused hospitality house near a college campus stirred in our hearts, there were many unanswered questions. Would college students come to a hospitality house? Is there a need for this, and if so, how would we find these students? We knew we wanted to transition back to the States for the next season of our family’s life.

We also believed that God was allowing us to follow our desire to try something new. So, with the blessing of Cadence leadership, we moved to Lynchburg, Virginia to establish a hospitality house ministry for military-connected students near Liberty University.

We said goodbye to our dear friends and beloved Europe and got on the plane in late July. Within a week we had purchased a house and began painting and renovating. Our container of household goods arrived within a few weeks before we were quite ready to unload.

In early September, Rick got a text from a student who is part of the Student Veteran’s Association, a student-led club on campus. John had heard that we moved here to work with veterans and military kids and wondered if we might meet with a few of their student leaders. Still in painting clothes, we invited them over for dinner, picked up some KFC, and sat together around the only available table on the patio. That night we talked about the needs of the veterans and the desires of these leaders to develop spiritual community among the veteran students at their university.



Student Veterans Steve, John, and Sarah



Crowded parking on Friday nights

We learned that they had been hoping and praying for a ministry like this to come to town.

We were invited to visit the Veteran’s Center on campus, began to meet with individuals, and hosted a pumpkin carving night and a gingerbread house decorating party, all while we continued to paint, unpack, install flooring, and work on other house projects.

With the start of the new semester in January, we began meeting every Friday night here at the Hill City Hospitality House for dinner and Bible study. To our surprise, 19 people came that first night, and we’ve consistently hosted 15–20 students each week. We can hardly believe the eagerness and excitement with which they come.

Our group is mostly military veterans between 24–34 years old. Many are in school for ministry training, some to become military chaplains, some for the aviation program, and some to simply take advantage of their GI Bill but are not yet sure what to pursue. Most are new believers, having come to know Christ in the military, but some don't believe yet.

It seems that our ministry here will be as varied as any other place we've been—evangelistic, discipleship oriented, and ministry-training focused.

Sometimes we ministry folk have the ill-conceived notion that we must perform some kind of dog-and-pony-show and at least be exceptionally winsome to get people to come. We forget that it is God who wills and works in people's hearts, and He is the one already at work and simply invites us to join Him. We are humbled by how well things have started.

Our family is enjoying life in America with the occasional bout of culture shock, dismay over supply chain issues, and even still the number of choices on a grocery store shelf. We miss the walking lifestyle of Europe, the beauty of the

architecture, and all that comes with ministry on an overseas military base. But even so, it is with joy and anticipation that we look forward to all that God is doing with the student veterans on this college campus and we feel so very grateful that He is allowing us to share our home with them.

On the business side of the ministry, life here is a bit more expensive than anticipated, and the local financial support from college students probably will not be as strong as from an active-duty military community. Therefore, we hope the Lord will provide an additional \$500 of monthly support and around \$5,000 to help cover some of the new ministry startup expenses we are still facing. Would you pray with us that the Lord would provide, and would you consider helping with these additional expenses? We are humbled when we remember how well the Lord has taken care of us financially since we joined Cadence in 1997 and are so thankful to all of you who pray and give to help us reach military people.

Love in Christ,
The Scotts



Cadence
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Rick & Paula Scott
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