

Serving with Cadence International

Melissa Rafferty

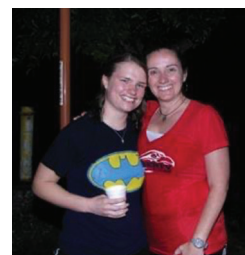
MAY 2022



Ice skating

Dear friends,

On April 1, I celebrated ten years of working at the Wired Bean, and it seems so surreal that I am still here. I have seen the Lord move in some amazing ways in my own heart and life, as well as those around me. It has been both fun and heartbreaking to reflect on the many names and stories of those who have been here over the years. In light of my time of reflection, I have asked Kara to share a bit of her story. Kara was stationed out here from April 2012 to April 2016, and we shared a lot of laughter and tears during that time. She had a huge impact on my life and was so patient as I tried to figure out what ministry was going to look like and what the Lord had called me into.



When I first got to Kadena, I was a single 19-year-old who didn't know a whole lot about the world or Christianity and what having a relationship with God meant. Then I met Melissa at the Wired Bean. A monumental moment that has stood out in our friendship was one of the first nights we talked. I immediately felt comfortable with Melissa and we

chatted into the early hours. I shared many things about my life and the struggles I was having, and she met me with love and understanding.

After that night my curiosity about God grew. From there I started visiting the Wired Bean more often and attending various events that were offered. From her sharing extra food on a camping trip because I hadn't read the flyer completely, to the questions I had about the military, Melissa was there. I also had so many questions about God, and Melissa was willing to help me understand.

A couple of months later I started to attend the Harbor and my faith continued to grow. On May 13, 2013, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Melissa had been stateside and immediately got off a plane that night and met our group at 10 p.m. so she could be present for my baptism before Chaplain McCain moved from the island the next day.

As I matured in my relationship with God, Melissa continued to mentor and help guide me in my walk. She was there to check in on me and my now-husband when we were first dating. She asked the tough questions I needed to answer and helped me understand the importance of having people in my life to uplift me and hold me accountable. She was there when I went through one of the hardest moments, when I lost my dad. . . always pointing me back to who could give me ultimate peace and comfort.

I could go on about all the moments I saw Melissa letting God live through her and the immeasurable impact she has made on my life. I am so thankful God called Melissa into ministry and that she listened. I am thankful for His timing in bringing her into my life at such a pivotal moment and using her to reach me so I could know my Savior.



Wired Bean paint party



Easter Sunrise Service



Newcomb Family

When Kara lost her dad, I was actually in the airport returning from a three-week trip where I had just lost my mom. Through this timing, we were both able to learn how to grieve together. She navigated many situations while she was out here and did so with humility and a desire to grow. As she said, she is now married, and she and Justin are getting ready to welcome their third child into their family and make a move to another country. Please join me in praying for their family, the new baby (they will now be outnumbered!), the move, their marriage, and their growth in the Lord.

The picture above is from our sunrise service and shows a few of the regulars at the Wired Bean. It is so fun to see these young men and women learning and growing in their faith.

This summer I am planning a long road trip after a Cadence conference which will have me away from Okinawa for just over three months. Please be praying for the logistics as I make travel plans (pray gas prices drop!) and work through many details to ensure things run smoothly while I am away.

If you are interested in joining my financial support team, please visit Cadence.org/Rafferty. Donations can be given monthly, one-time, and anonymously. If you have questions about this process, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support over the last ten years. What a journey it has been!

Gratefully,
Melissa



Cadence
INTERNATIONAL®

800.396.6680
PO Box 1268
Englewood, CO 80150
Cadence.org

Melissa Rafferty
Male.Rafferty@Cadence.org
Cadence.org/Rafferty