

Kenji & Amy FUKUNAGA

March 28 marked our eighth wedding anniversary! To celebrate, we sat at Goen, one of our favorite yakiniku restaurants, and chatted about the past eight years. (Yakiniku is a fun experience where you have a grill on your table, and you order and cook your own meat and veggies right in front of you.) When we first got married, I don't think either of us thought we would still be in Okinawa at this point. What a run it has been!

Seven and a half years ago, Amy and I flew to Okinawa, excited and a little petrified about our new life together. While we have had our share of painful and scary circumstances, we have seen so much evidence of God's abundant grace during our time here, not only despite the hardships but because of working through them. The additions of Akira and Mika into our lives during this season of our life are prime examples of both the richness and the difficulty! Akira means "bright," and Mika means "beautiful fragrance," and both of them have lived up to their names. While there have been times I've wished Aki would be a little less lively and Mika's fragrances have not all been pleasant, they add joy into our lives in ways we could not have imagined.



Catching up with Azjaun, one of our first students from eight years ago

We have made lifelong friends who have invested deeply in our lives. We would not be the people we are today without their influence in our lives. Between Cadence colleagues, chaplains and their families, youth group students, and the fourth graders Amy taught, we have friends who have become family all across the globe. We have laughed and cried with them, and they with us. It is hard to go anywhere on this little island without recounting fond—and some not so fond—memories of our time here.

BIG NEWS!

We will be taking a home assignment starting later this summer. "Home assignment" is similar to a sabbatical. We will be moving back to the States from Okinawa for at least one year. It has been a bittersweet and emotional last few months as we come to the end of our time here. This is the only home we have known as a family. We will be leaving many wonderful



Teaching at a recent youth retreat

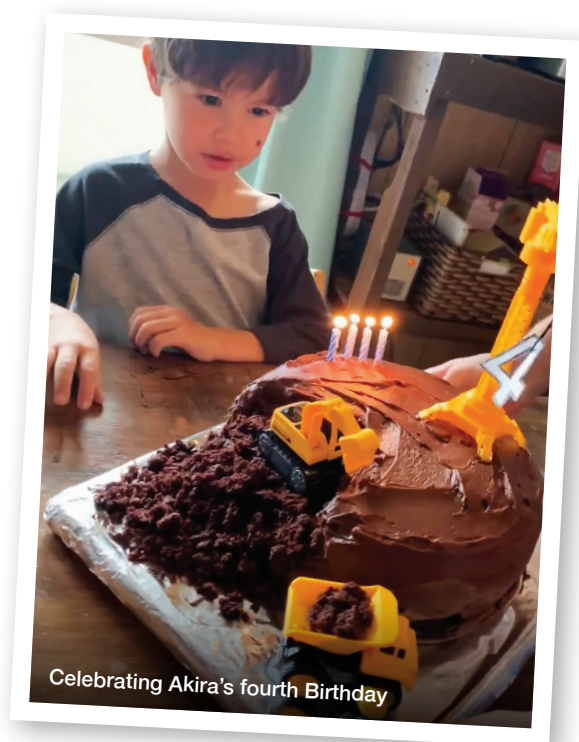
memories and favorite places. But God has made it clear that it is time for us to move on.

We will live in Colorado Springs for a year and travel to visit friends and family across the country. We are excited for a break from ministry and have time to reflect on God's abundant grace over these past years. We will seek counseling and spend lots of time in discernment and prayer, thinking through what our next assignment in the kingdom of God will be. We plan on staying with Cadence and moving to a new ministry assignment in 2023.

We would appreciate your prayers for God's leading in the next year. As well as resting and recharging, we will need to raise more support. With an international move ahead of us and growing kids, our financial support needs have increased. God has been incredibly faithful to provide for us, and we trust He will continue to provide "more than we can ask or imagine!" We will share more about our financial needs as we settle back in the States and start planning our next steps.

Thank you for your prayers and support along the journey of the past eight years. We love you!

Kenji and Amy



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Kenji & Amy Fukunaga
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