

Joe & Caitlin

Serving with Cadence International

Fletcher

Cadence.org/Fletcher

Dear friends and family,

since our last letter to you, we have said goodbye to four Sailors and will be saying goodbye to more soon. Our hearts are grieving but we look back and cherish the time we had with each of them. As I skim through my calendar to pick highlights for this letter, I see so many one-on-one meetings for counseling, evangelism, and discipleship. It is a blessing to have this visual and see that we didn't let the brief time we had with them fade.

BIG NEWS

We were appointed as Cadence missionaries in July 2017. With our fifth anniversary upon us, it was time to reassess. Is this ministry a good fit? Is our family able to thrive? After several meetings with leadership, mentors, community, and more, we prayed and decided that with a bit of tweaking, **we will continue with Cadence for another term at our current location.** We will soon be sent our new assignment agreement to serve at The Anchor for another three to five years. Joe has taken an additional job with our local VA to guide veterans through the vocational rehabilitation

program. It will provide some additional income while we work back up to being fully funded, as well as some rhythm for our days that is needed for our mental health.

We will be taking a break from leading Bible Studies in June and July with a few events mixed in. Our focus will be on rest, restructuring our ministry to meet the current needs in the community, and preparing to kick back off with The Anchor Music Festival on August 5.

FROM CHRISTA ROBERTS

The Roberts family is very active in The Anchor community, and they have become dear friends and ministry partners. Jerry is a Navy chaplain stationed aboard the USS San Antonio, and Christa has spearheaded the rebuilding of the chaplain spouses' community in the lower Hampton Roads post-Covid. They have become dear friends and we will grieve greatly when they PCS (permanently change stations) in a few months to Iwakuni, Japan. Christa wrote a message to share with you, our supporters:



Our family of three made the long trek across the U.S. in the Summer of 2021, starting in Texas and arriving in Virginia. I had a lot of anxiety building, knowing a lot of responsibilities were getting ready to fall solely on me because we were preparing for my husband's deployment. The need to find a community quickly and the dread of finding a new church are always at the forefront of my mind when approaching a PCS. As if that wasn't hard enough, COVID-19 restrictions had added its strain, as most of the churches in Virginia were still only meeting online. We had no church connections, I knew no one, and my husband was in full deployment mode. We knew he had about 10 days after arriving in Virginia to head to his ship. I was now faced with a new home (which I was grateful for), new neighborhood, new state (where I didn't know where anything was), and my husband was about to leave me and our ten-year-old son. This reality and how I would manage really begin to weigh on me. This was our eighth military move, and it was by far the most stressful one.

Then a ray of hope: my husband ran into a chaplain friend, and he immediately invited us to The Anchor, a Cadence hospitality house, where we met Joe and Caitlin Fletcher. When we arrived, I felt unsure about walking into a stranger's house, but with all the cars I saw lined up outside the home, I also felt that there must be something being

offered here that people are drawn to. Being introverted, I gathered up my courage... strange place, strange faces, but the warmest "welcome home, you belong here" feeling I have ever felt upon entering a home. The people there felt like family. I knew that instant that I would be coming back while my husband was away.

After eating a delicious homecooked meal that ministered to this weary traveler both in body and mind, there was worship and a Bible study that ministered to my spirit. I felt in that moment a connection for my soul.

As time progressed, and amid COVID-19 restrictions, I was so thankful for a place to go and meet with like-minded believers. My husband was gone, and deployment had begun. I was left to unpack the house and find a church; loneliness and the weight of this task became so heavy for me. I missed a few weeks at The Anchor because honestly, with everything that had happened in our lives, I had forgotten about it. But then, as I grew wearier, I remembered and intentionally put it on the calendar to make it to the following meeting. Then, our son got COVID-19, and three days following that, I began to feel unwell. I was so sick. I remember having a moment with God and feeling so unwell and thinking, "If I don't wake up



tomorrow, I wonder if anyone would know and who would check on my son." The despair and isolation I felt in that moment was overwhelming. I gave it to God and expressed to Him that He knew our needs and that He alone could provide those needs. The next day, I got a text from Caitlin from The Anchor, and she asked how I was doing. The sigh of relief that someone nearby was thinking of us made me tear up. I told her our current situation, and she offered to drop off food or get groceries if I needed her to. In that moment, God used her and the ministry of Cadence to convey His love. We have been going to The Anchor ever since. It's not just a group that meets once a week, it's a community of people that really care. It's family. I'm incredibly thankful for everything they do to reach military families, and in this case, this chaplain's spouse. Thank you for supporting them to make this ministry possible. It literally saved me at a time when I was in desperate need of community.





ABOUT US

We operate a hospitality house ministry in Virginia Beach for military personnel and their families serving on the bases of the Lower Hampton Roads. 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 chaplains by supporting and strategizing with them to reach the base community, and we care for them as they pour out and care for others. We open our house almost daily for Bible Studies, discipleship, 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.

“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, NIV

PRAYER REQUESTS

Finances

In our last newsletter, we wrote about maneuvering finances. Since we have decided to stay with Cadence, we will maneuver again beginning in June to start rebuilding our savings. We will take on some costs out-of-pocket with money from Joe’s new job and prayerfully work on building up to being fully funded. Please pray for divine meetings, willing hearts, and the finances in place for people to begin giving.

Rest

We have been blessed that Joe’s new job allows him to work from home up to three days a week. It has made the transition a little easier but we are still figuring out how to rest in this season. Pray that our rhythms would be good and glorifying to God.

Our Continued Assignment

With PCS season upon us again, we will reevaluate what rhythms to keep and drop. Pray that we would have discernment over how we spend time with our Sailors and families and that the programs and events we plan would be fruitful and honoring of the time God has given us with our people.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Gratefully,
Joe and Caitlin

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Joe and Caitlin Fletcher

532 Ben Hogan Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Joe: 682.410.8815 • Caitlin: 682.410.8816

Joseph.Fletcher@Cadence.org • Caitlin.Fletcher@Cadence.org

Joe & Caitlin Fletcher
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