



*What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace*
Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

ADVENT 2023



Paul & Beryl Metko Serving with Cadence International
Cadence.org/Metko

To Each One, a Gift has been Given

Our recently completed travels to Texas produced daily evidence of how our Lord has **gifted** His people—be it through hospitality, words of encouragement, various manners of serving, instruction, generosity, etc.—each of which are frequent exhortations in the Bible.

As we have entered the season of **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas giving of gifts**, may our attention be drawn afresh to the One Who has offered the everlasting, life-giving Unspeaking Gift:

“... and God **gave** His one and only Son . . .” John 3:16.
“... but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord . . .” Romans 6:23.

And what should our response be to such a priceless lavish **gift**, but this: **to believe in the Son, to receive the gift, and then to offer our lives back to Him as our reasonable act of worship** (John 3:16; John 1:12; Romans 12:1–2).

The characteristics of the Lord’s gifts are a source of encouragement: they are indescribable, good, and perfect (our paraphrase from 2 Corinthians 9:15 and James 1:17) because their source is in our unchanging God “... **who chose to give us birth through the word of truth.**”

REFLECTING UPON 2023

In some ways, this has been a difficult and challenging year, yet we have drawn incredible and timely encouragement through the abundance of ways you extended your unique gifts to us, such as:

- Your prayers for Paul’s unbelievable healing and renewed mobility following his knee replacement.
- Many of you, whom we were able to visit in May, July, and October, graciously welcomed us into your homes for rich times of fellowship!
- Our small life group of Dale, Cris, Joe, and Karen is an ongoing and compassionate inspiration as each of us enters into the depths of our personal and family lives. We’ve prayed one another through many ongoing health issues. **We love you!**
- Once again, your partnership with us in Cadence was in the spirit of the Apostle Paul’s commendations given to the Corinthian Church (2 Corinthians 8–9). Thank you! Sadly, we know that some of our longtime friends can no longer share in our ministry because they are in heaven where their eternal treasures are also laid.

In many ways, your gifts to Cadence helped make it possible to visit present and past Cadence staff members in South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, and Texas, as well as a few

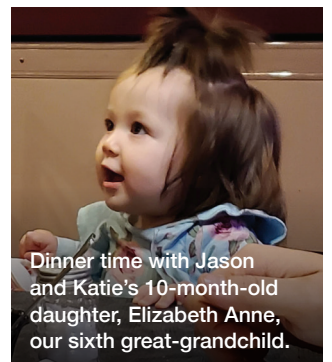
hospitality houses. The house ministries in South Dakota and Texas are staffed by families we mentored 8–10 years ago.

A few years ago, authors Philip Yancey and Dr. Paul Brand wrote a thought-provoking book, *The Gift of Pain: Why We Hurt and What We Can Do About It*. Not to belabor the theme of this letter, but we have all experienced various gifts (not all are tangible) that have led to pain. Which of us has not sought out the “perfect gift” to give someone but never received words of thanks in return? As alluded to earlier, some of you may have ongoing sorrow due to the loss of a loved one or the loss of health. From a recent discussion in my men's study, we drew encouragement from Paul's perspective on suffering and pain in 2 Corinthians 1:1–11. May we know that suffering can equip us for effective and compassionate care and counsel to those who are in such crises. In the fall-winter issue of Randy Alcorn's *Eternal Perspectives*, he includes a very uplifting perspective from JC Ryle's "9 Lessons from God Concerning Sickness," in which he states:

"Affliction is a friendly letter from heaven. It is a knock at the door of conscience. It is the voice of the Savior knocking at the heart's door. Happy is he who opens the letter and reads it, who hears the knock and opens the door, who welcomes Christ to the sick room."

THE GIFT OF TIME WITH FAMILY

We visited David, Laurissa, Ady, and Olivia on our first visit to Texas. We enjoyed eating donuts together, watching the girls play soccer and handle their pet chickens, and more. (We think Texas is the donut capital of the world!). We attended their home “watch party,” an extension of their Oregon church’s ministry. The watch party is made up of families who have moved from Oregon. I went salmon fishing with Del and Landen—such a perfect day on the ocean. Thanks, Landen, for helping your dad and Opa to come home with our salmon limit! Also, in May Paul handed over to Debie the accounting management for our family’s home remodeling business.



Dinner time with Jason and Katie's 10-month-old daughter, Elizabeth Anne, our sixth great-grandchild.

THE GIFT OF MINISTRY WITH SUSAN

For the fourth year, the Lord gifted our church with four teenagers from the Basque area in Spain. Ander, Nora, Saioa, and Teo were cared for and loved by our host families, who sought to share their lives and the gospel.

We hosted their monitor, Joel, who could truly speak into their lives. Lord willing we will visit the Basque area and Germany next September.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for Beryl, who is experiencing much pain in her right hip. A recent MRI on her hip revealed a growing cyst that is necessitating an early as possible hip replacement. This will result in the postponement of a scheduled trip to the Basque area of Spain.

Many of you remember our beloved Chaplain Sam Sanford and his beloved wife, Linda. Pray for them, as Sam is still

in rehab due to a major stroke earlier this year. Perhaps no other chaplain encouraged more OCSC/Cadence staff and ministries during his active-duty years.

Our prayer for you is that your ongoing gifts to family and friends this Christmas season will be in the same spirit as Paul's readers, which I referenced earlier. I close with this quote from Jerry Pattengale, co-author of *The New Book of Christian Martyrs*: "Use your gifts for something greater for the glory of God!"

Reflecting upon "how silently the gift is given,"
Paul and Beryl Metko

STORIES CONTINUING TO BE WRITTEN...

"And there are also many other things that Jesus did (and continues to do), which if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written." John 21:25

Visits with Present and Past Cadence Staff



Sandy and Sue Nafziger and Beryl and Paul



Terry and Lori Einfalt



Us with Kinneys and Kohls at Ellsworth AFB

Hospitality House Alumni



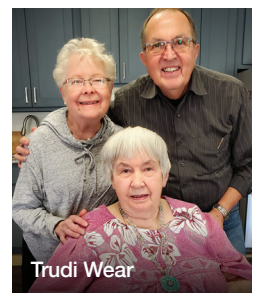
Beryl and Ginny



Steve and Heidi Mitchell



Rick and Helga Needham with us in a restaurant. They helped us locate our first hospitality house in Mannheim Germany in 1983.



Trudi Wear



From Bamberg—the Springs and the Parrs



Texas Trip visiting Diaz and Metko in October

SUSA Students and Host Families



SUSA Water Sports - Basque Student ministry we coordinate each summer at our home church.



Time to say goodbye from our SUSA host families to Teo, Ander, Nora, Saioa & Joel

Our Growing Family



Pearson and Curtis families in September

Cadence
INTERNATIONAL

PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT
Paul & Beryl Metko

To join our monthly support team or make a one-time donation, please give online at Cadence.org/Metko or contact Cadence Donor Services. Thank you!

GIVE ONLINE

PO Box 1706
Boring, OR 97009-1607

Paul.Metko@Cadence.org
503.318.0677

Acct.# 10035