

ADVENT 2023

*Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame*

LIVING HOPE BY BRIAN JOHNSON AND PHIL WICKHAM

Joe & Caitlin Fletcher

Serving with Cadence International  
Cadence.org/Fletcher

*Dear Friends And Family,*

We hope this letter finds you well and in the throes of Christmas celebrations. We are gearing up for Thanksgiving this Thursday when we will host Anchor families and Sailors. At Bible study last night, someone said, “We love spending Christmas with our families, but spending Thanksgiving with our military family is special.” We get to host a day of gratitude, shared around a bountiful table, setting up the season for joy among this highly transient community. Thank you for supporting us to be on mission to them.

IN PICTURES



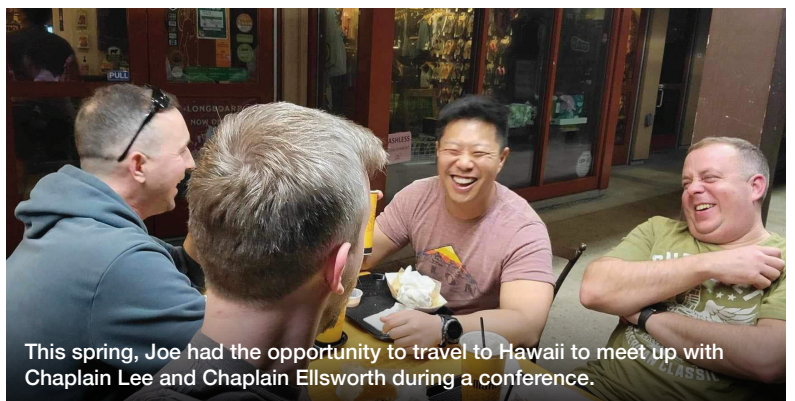
Natalie professed her faith in Jesus this year!



We were able to take several trips to the Museum of the Bible. These trips gave us some visual aids as we tackled questions about translations, cultural impact, and stories from Scripture. These three Sailors have all moved on. Natalie (front) moved to Great Lakes this fall, and Hannah and Ashley (back left and right) both moved to Florida this summer.



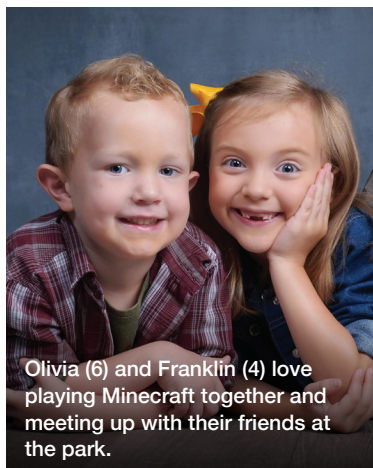
Anchor Music Festival was our most well-attended event yet, with 108 in our yard!



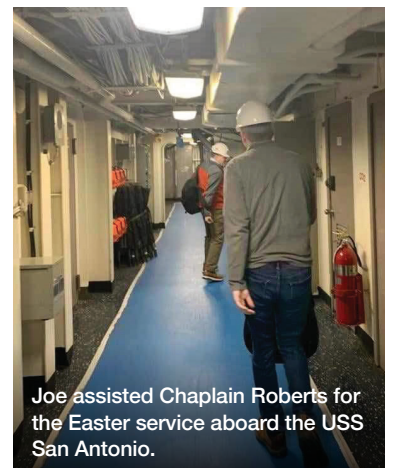
This spring, Joe had the opportunity to travel to Hawaii to meet up with Chaplain Lee and Chaplain Ellsworth during a conference.



In March, we met up with the Jones family, who had just moved to South Carolina from Japan. They were instrumental in building up the Oceana Chapel community when we first planted The Anchor.



Olivia (6) and Franklin (4) love playing Minecraft together and meeting up with their friends at the park.



Joe assisted Chaplain Roberts for the Easter service aboard the USS San Antonio.



## LOOKING TO 2024

This past year held quite a bit of recalibration to find a good fit for extra income opportunities for Joe. He worked at our local VA, assisting veterans through their Chapter 33 benefits. He quickly learned it was not the job he interviewed for and wasn't a good fit. He then went to work for McCarthy Construction and enjoyed the labor, but some tasks aggravated his disability. Then we learned from the VA that Joe is eligible to receive a stipend in order to go back to school and he would receive the same benefits for which he previously worked. He could quit the construction job.

We are praying, meeting with our pastors, and seeking wisdom on what comes next. Joe has this opportunity to return to school and reap veteran benefits that would help sustain our family. We also have the chance to help out at another nearby base. We are working to find the most excellent way in this season to be on mission, sharing our lives and the gospel in the places where the local churches cannot go. We are rallying the Christians who come on Friday nights to join us in this endeavor to seek and save the lost on our bases.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Vision

Please pray God would give us clarity about how we are to spend our time in 2024; that we would know when to say yes (and no) to opportunities that present themselves; and to learn what opportunities we can create to share the gospel and our lives with local Sailors and families.

### Decision

Joe will decide this month if he will go to school and which discipline to pursue. Please pray that his decision will glorify God, be good for him, and be good for our family.

### Funding

We have been meeting with potential partners to recover support that has been lost over the past few years. Giving projections for all nonprofits are trending downward. Still, we are currently hopeful that we can get to a level that will sustain our ministry without us paying out of pocket from our salary. Please pray God would place it on the hearts of those we ask to give generously as unto the Lord.

## ABOUT US

We operate a hospitality house ministry for military members and their families at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. 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 the chapel on base by supporting and strategizing with the chaplains to reach the base community. We open our house almost daily for Bible Studies 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 the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It serves all branches of the United States Military in stateside and overseas locations. Our vision is to exalt Christ in the nations through the lives of transformed military people.

*“So we cared for you. 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 3:18, NIV

## MAKE AN END OF YEAR GIFT TO THE FLETCHERS & THE ANCHOR



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PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

**Joe & Caitlin Fletcher**

To join our monthly support team or make a one-time donation, please give online at [Cadence.org/Fletcher](https://Cadence.org/Fletcher) or contact Cadence Donor Services. Thank you!

**GIVE ONLINE**



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