

Jeffrey & Candace Walton

Cadence.org/Walton

Way maker
Miracle worker
Promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God
That is who you are

Waymaker, Osinachi Okoro

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Korea!

We are well into our first month of the new year, refreshed and ready to go after a two-week break of rest and time set aside for planning. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years have come and gone, and we are so thankful to God for bringing us to this community. He has used us and you all mightily, and we want to share some highlights of the holiday season.

For our Thanksgiving celebration, we hosted nearly 40 people! The table was loaded with three turkeys, a giant tray of stuffing, ten pies, and numerous other side dishes made and brought by Soldiers and their family members. We were so grateful for the many eager volunteers from our group who came to help with preparations the day before and cook on the day of the celebration. Two Soldiers selflessly set up tables and chairs on all three floors of our home. Another family came to help—the husband helped Jeff smoke and deep fry the turkeys while the wife helped Candace in the kitchen. It was our joy and privilege to serve this community in our home. There was much connection, laughter, fellowship, sharing what we were thankful for, board game playing, and lots of feasting! Besides our regulars, we met new folks brought by friends and locals who came because they knew the previous house directors. It was wonderful to host them all and get to know them better. We could clearly see and be so thankful for all the blessings that were happening around us in our home.



Christmas 2023



Smoked Turkey



Stockings



Kid Stocking

Next, we hosted a Christmas Cookie party where another crowd of more than 25 showed up, including families with kids and many single Soldiers. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, and after the kids were hyped up on sugar, most folks hung out at the park in our neighborhood to chat while the kids went wild playing. The single Soldiers also enjoyed decorating cookies; for many, this was their first time spent far away from home. Taking part in a fun Christmas cookie tradition made them feel more at home here. And that is what we are about: providing a home away from home for the Soldiers and their families. Later that day, a few of our neighbors joined in the fun and left with handfuls of cookies that their kids decorated. At the end of the night, our rug had a thick layer of icing, candy, and sprinkles, and our boys had a sugar crash!



Thanksgiving 2023

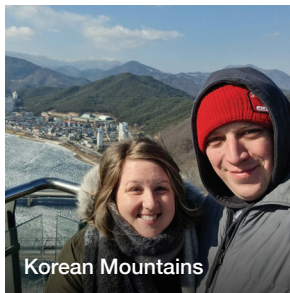


Time to Eat



Thanksgiving Spread

During December, we took a break from our regular study in Luke to go through an Advent study written by David and Joyce Schroeder (the president of Cadence and his wife). It was a wonderful time to reflect on and discuss the hope, peace, joy, and love Christ brought and will bring again when He returns. We finished the final reading on Christmas Day as part of our celebration and had a full house again, with close to 40 people in attendance. Our table was loaded with charcuterie boards that everyone ate for lunch. We had a white elephant gift exchange for the adults, “pass the parcel” game for the kids, and handed out almost all of the stockings several churches donated. It was great to give Soldiers a place to be instead of their barracks room for Christmas. Thanks again to all the wonderful groups who



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Health for our family
- Pray for what Candace's role should be next school year with the possibility of starting a Christian homeschool group out here.
- Praise for new childcare workers
- Pray our family would continue to grow closer as we minister to others
- Pray that Soldiers and families would be bold to share the Gospel at their work and with their neighbors

donated to our amazing Christmas stockings! The Soldiers and their families **loved them!** In the photo, you can see the excitement when they dug into the handmade stockings that we filled to the brim with all the goodies you sent. You all are such a blessing to these men, women, and children here in Korea. God is using you richly in our ministry. Thank you.

One thing that continues to amaze Candace and me is how God works through those who attend our house ministry, not just us. One man in particular is relatively new to Korea and still processing through a hard breakup that occurred right before he came. On Christmas, he told us he didn't really want to be around a large group of people but knew he needed to be with others. He ended up retreating to our third floor to nap for a while, then ate a lot of food and poured out his heart to one guy for hours. He also connected with another guy and talked with him for a long time. It was great to see this man relax, be encouraged by other Christian men, see others pray for him with their arms around him, and then see him leave with closer friendships than when he arrived. Candace and I did nothing but provide a safe place for people to come and fellowship together. God used others to show love to this hurting man in our own home. Praise the Lord!

This story is the reason we love hospitality ministry so much. As we disciple, build up, feed, encourage, and present the gospel to our group each week, our members, in turn, do the same for others. They have been shown a godly example and are now going out and serving others because of the community built on Jesus. We know we don't need to be a part of every conversation, help solve every problem,

or speak the right word of encouragement to others at the right time. God uses more people than just Candace and me. He raises up His Church here in our ministry, and they take care of each other. We create a space where people are brought together so that the Holy Spirit can work through the Body. It is God's ministry, not ours. We just feel privileged to be on the front lines to see what God is doing.

We are so grateful for your continued support. We shared our financial needs in our last newsletter and on Facebook, and God has been faithful to provide us with new support and special gifts that more than cover the support we lost last year! Thank you for your faithful partnership in the gospel. Our heart is to build this community in accordance with Hebrews 10:19-25 and that is only possible with your prayers and financial support. "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places **by the blood of Jesus**, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since **we have a great priest** over the house of God, **let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with **our hearts sprinkled clean** from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised **is faithful**. And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works**, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

God bless you all in 2024. Love,
The Waltons



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