

Sarah Rooney

Serving with Cadence International

Reflecting and Remembering

Cadence.org/Rooney


Dear friends,

By the time you receive this letter, I will be off this little island I've called home for so long. I've spent much time these past few months reflecting and remembering. I'll often find myself in a spot just staring, picturing all that has happened there over the last nine years. It's as if I have mini-movies playing out in my mind—all the Trunk or Treats, VBS', kids running around, and so much laughter.



I could never have imagined that when I boarded the plane to come to Okinawa it would impact me so deeply. I've spent my thirties here and have grown immensely. I have made friends who are now scattered all over the world. The students I ministered to in my first few years are now in college. I have watched kids learn to walk, hit their first home run, and wrestle with big faith questions. I have fallen to my knees in tears praying to God for a miraculous healing that didn't come. I've witnessed marriages that God has redeemed. I could go on and on about the work that God has done in this place.

I've been reflecting on Ecclesiastes 3: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" (v. 1). As I wrap up this season of living in Okinawa, I can confidently say, "I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it

and nothing taken from it" (v. 14). My being here or not being here is not going to stop God's goodness. I'm grateful He has allowed me to be a part of His good work. His work will endure! It may be years before we see any fruit from the seeds He has planted, but I trust His plan.

WHAT'S NEXT?

This is the big question! The plan is to stay with Cadence but work in the U.S. There are two questions I've been asked the most:

Are you excited about going back to the States? The short answer is no. I will miss this place. But I'm at peace with this decision and know it's the right one. It's time. It's time to be somewhere that offers more consistency and to live somewhat closer to family (not an international flight away!).



Where are you going next? This is a very common question in the military world, but it's not as easy to answer. I'm currently headed for a "home assignment."

Cue the follow up question: What's a home assignment? This will be a time for reflection, to visit supporters, receive counseling, and raise funds. The first step will be a Cadence-led debrief, and then I'll put together a travel calendar to visit different hubs. I'm excited to share in person about the work God has done.

I'll also be sharing my updated financial needs. As you are all well aware, the cost of living in the U.S. has significantly increased in the last few years. God has been gracious and always provided for my needs, and I know He will again. My goal is to raise the needed funds in six months. Once I am at full support, I can begin full-time ministry again.

During my home assignment, I will also visit potential ministry locations and will work closely with Cadence leadership to find a place that will be a good fit for me. The need for Cadence Children's Ministry in the military community is great, and there are several different options to consider.

HOW TO PRAY?

- Safety as I travel (which side of the road do I drive on?!).
- Adjusting to living back in the U.S. (grocery stores can be very overwhelming!).
- New monthly financial partners.

I am grateful for your prayers and financial support over the many years. Thank you for allowing me to serve the ones who serve on behalf of us and our country.

Sarah



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

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