

Entering A New Season With The Metkos

Dear Family And Friends,

PRAY FIRST.

This may sound like an unusual introduction. Let us explain. **PRAY FIRST** is a powerful admonition from our pastors to our church family. This may seem like an unnecessary reminder, but as we write to you, you will likely connect with why this jogs our minds.

The paths which the Lord directed each of us in our early careers through the Air Force, the Army Nurse Corps, and in ministry eventually led us to be with OCSC/Cadence. All of this was *the direct result of the prayers of our home churches in Ohio and Oregon*. Our pastors prayed weekly for us, along with other service members from our congregations serving in the military during those early years of Vietnam.

Our assignments in Japan and Thailand from 1965–1967 opened our eyes to God’s heart for the nations. The Lord led us to Psalm 91, which we claimed as our family’s life chapter.

In 1968, we were led to move to Portland to prepare for cross-cultural ministry. We initially thought we would go to Southeast Asia, but in 1973, that door seemed to be closing. Almost immediately, Dick Patty, Executive Director of OCSC, who had pursued us during our Biblical Studies program, invited us to consider multi-cultural military ministry. Again, we were reminded of the effective **role of prayer**. When we shared this news with Beryl’s mom, she simply said, “I told you two years ago that I thought the Lord was preparing you for military ministry, but you disagreed, so I just continued to pray for you!” In other words—**PRAY FIRST!**

Our thankfulness to the Lord for His timely revealing of mercies in those early years cannot be fully enumerated. Some of the instrumental factors include the following:

- We are grateful for the many individuals whose Christian character, example, and counsel helped firm up our decisions.
- Various pre-OCSC/Cadence ministries in which God allowed us to serve proved to be the necessary preparation for the multi-faceted dynamics of a hospitality house. God led us to use Colossians 1:28–29 for our first prayer card: “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and



Our family celebration in July for Paul’s 80th birthday.

BERYL’S CORNER—MINISTRY TO FAMILY

“He alone is my Rock and Salvation.” (Psalm 62:2).

Thank you for the numerous ways you have been encouragers! How we praise the Lord for the assurance of your prayers! There have been so many cherished moments when we’ve been together face to face, yet we learn to be content when we’ve communicated in other ways.

Thank you for praying us through some trying days earlier this year. I am so grateful to again be at Paul’s side as his helpmate. He was such a caregiver in the months preceding and following my hip replacement in January. I experienced another setback in April when I had a mini-stroke. I am grateful to the Lord for the new joys of working in the kitchen together. Paul is displaying new zeal with food prep and cleanup! For me, coming alongside him with the yard and garden work is an added blessing.



Del, Laura, Abby, Landen. Abby and Landen were not able to join us for the celebration.



Our oldest grandson, Caleb (who had to miss Opa’s 80th for work), pictured with Alison, Madilyn, Jackson, and Emma.



Our 2024 New Life SUSA Students June 29–July 31

teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose, also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.” (See the copy of our second newsletter from 1974).

- The Lord’s timely provision of needed resources and funding (a few of you were those initial contributors who committed to standing with us for our first assignment) led to 51 years of ministry with OCSC/Cadence.
- We must thank the many chaplains who personally welcomed us into their communities and chapels in Germany and later in the Americas. Those partnerships were invaluable for the latter 22 years of field leadership roles in Europe and the U.S.A.

NEW SEASONS

God granted us an extra season of ministry when we were invited to serve in the Cadence HR Department from 2011 to 2015 as mentors to new staff coming to the mission. We were also assigned to mentor many of our overseas staff who were transitioning from one field of ministry to another. Those years were true gifts from the Lord—a treasure-filled time with ongoing relationships.

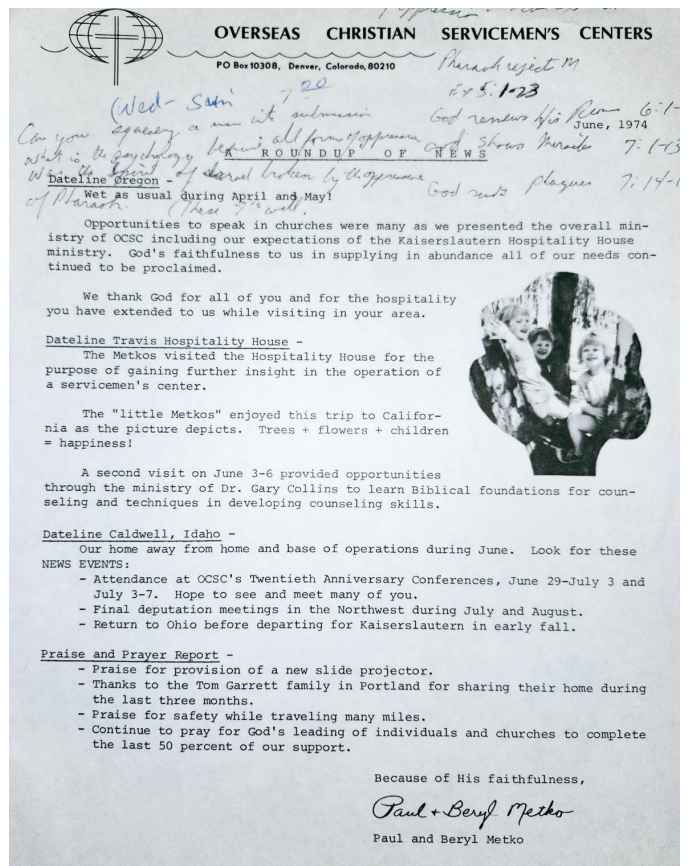
Another reason to PRAY FIRST

On July 31, 2015, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary, and we entered Cadence’s ministry phase for career staff as Cadence Ambassadors. The past nine years have provided enriching times of fellowship with members of our stateside staff, many of whom we had previously served as Field Leaders and mentors in Europe and the U.S. We have often shared pictures and highlights of our visits with those colleagues in past letters.

We have felt led to pray and seek counsel on our relationship with Cadence for the future. A long-time desire and prayer came into focus that perhaps one day we would conclude our time with Cadence. Although we remain in good health, Beryl’s minor stroke this spring resulted in further prayer and counsel with our family. During these years, we entered those third and fourth generations of parenting on which the Bible instructs us. We are thankful for increased opportunities for more individual time with our family.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- We desire to strengthen our time with family. Join us in prayer as we seek to be more intentional in how we invest time in encouraging our growing family. We have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, all within an hour of us, except David, Laurissa, Ady, and Olivia in Tyler, Texas.
- We want to remain obedient to God’s calling to continue loving, encouraging, and serving others.
- Pray we use our time wisely in Bible studies and our life group.
- We need the Lord’s direction in knowing how He wants to use us to support our local church, including ongoing involvement with SUSA.
- Pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, particularly this past year, that they will experience the Lord’s comforting presence.



METKO NEWS FROM THE BEGINNING • June 1974
Copy of our second OCSC Newsletter announcing our upcoming assignment to the Kaiserslautern Hospitality House

Thus, in late May, we submitted our letter of intention to resign from Cadence International. Our resignation will be effective September 30.

LOOKING AHEAD

The May 23 reading from Spurgeon’s Devotional *Morning and Evening* continues to bring confidence to us. The Scripture focus was “**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me (us).**” (Psalm 138:8). The Lord has been bringing to mind many other Scripture promises that have influenced His direction and purposes for us.

This year alone, the Lord gave Paul another opportunity to assist in the “Perspectives on the World Christian Movement” course. He served as the instructor coordinator for the 15-week course. This unique course has been so instrumental in our lives and ministry since 2016. The Lord used those studies to help introduce and lead our church’s ministry through SUSA (www.summerintheusa.com) to Basque Teens from Spain starting in 2018. This ministry continues to hold our interest. It mirrors how Cadence staff “share the gospel and our lives with the military community.” (I Thessalonians 2:18). Lord willing, we will visit Basque Country in January 2025 under the auspices of SUSA.

As we bring this letter to a close, please know we would love to keep in touch with you. If you would like to receive our future communications, please email us at oneopa@gmail.com.

 “It will be worth it all when we see Jesus . . .”

With gratitude,
Paul and Beryl