

Wow! It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner again! As we reflect on this past year, it is impossible to forget all that God has done in our time here at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. We can only be thankful.

Here are some highlights from this year:

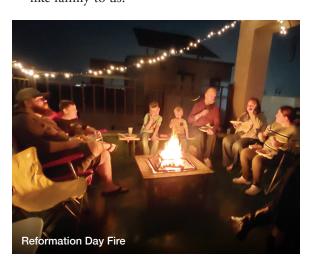
- During the spring, our group became so large we divided into two, and we are excited to watch others take the helm in ministry for the second group.
- In July we hosted our pastors and their wives from Bedrock Community Church, our home church in Bedford, Virginia. Their visit bolstered our spirits and hearts!
- Candace taught a women's Bible study this summer and then started a gospel-based homeschool group in the fall, which she co-leads with another military mom.
- At summer's end, our good friends, the Reeves, visited us from Cary, North Carolina. What a blessing it was to get a taste of home as they reconnected with us, loved on us, and gave us an entire suitcase full of Trader Joe's loot! It was so fun to show them around Korea and Humphreys and spend time with these friends who are like family to us.

THE UPS AND DOWNS

With all the good things that have happened, we have also had our fair share of trials. Candace is still going to physical therapy for her foot injury in the spring, but her recovery has been going very well these last few weeks. We've also battled a lot of sickness. I (Jeff) just got over a horrible bout of pneumonia, but our group has continued to meet throughout the year. There are the challenges of raising boys, maintaining our marriage amidst busy schedules, and working through other relational challenges here. However, we are reminded of James 1:2–4,

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let that steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

We can only trust God through it all and see that God has been with us each step of the way. He constantly reminds us of His presence, and we can see Him working behind the scenes on our behalf.









BILL'S STORY

As you know, military life is difficult, especially overseas. We see the struggles of Soldiers and their families daily. Many are here without their spouses. Take Bill, for example (name changed for privacy), who has been in Korea at Camp Humphreys for over a year. When he arrived, he and his wife were headed toward divorce. After he started attending our chapel and we got to know him better, he began attending our weekly Friday night meetings. In his mind, a divorce was inevitable. He had messed up too much, ruining any chance of reconciling with his wife.

However, a few months ago, Bill agreed to one-on-one, purposeful, intense discipleship with me. As we slowly worked through Romans together, he realized that getting right with God takes priority over any other relationship. Bill brought up a passage that I had recently taught. It was Luke 14:25–35, where Jesus talks about the cost of being a disciple. Jesus even uses the word "hate" in the passage. He says we must hate all our other relationships compared to our relationship with God as one of His disciples. Just like we should sacrifice our time, money, and friendships to be with a spouse, we must treat our relationship with God the same.

Bill and I were talking about this during our weekly discipleship meeting while reading Romans 5, and he suddenly ignored me and started to text on his phone. I initially thought he was being rude until he said, "I am texting my wife to let her know we need to talk." This was an answer to prayer. For several weeks I had been encouraging him to be completely honest, confess his sins to his wife, and repent. God changed his perspective in that moment. Bill realized that to make things right with God, he needed to make things right with his wife.

One of my favorite quotes from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, is "Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes." In that moment, I saw Bill's perspective change. Previously, he'd had no hope for his marriage and was unwilling to confess his sin. But when his perspective changed, he realized that even if his marriage fell apart, God was calling him to be obedient and confess to his wife.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Bill's story is all too common here in Korea. We have the privilege of speaking truth into the lives of the people here. Thank you all for your generous giving each month, enabling us to live here in Korea and minister to the men and women who are serving our country in a foreign land. You are a big part of our ministry. We could not do this without you. Thank you!

As we look at our current giving, we are sadly coming up short. For various reasons, giving has decreased. As you look at your end-of-year finances, would you consider financially giving to our ministry here in Korea? We need an additional \$1,500 a month to keep up with our expenses. This goal will be met if 30 people either start giving or increase their current giving by \$50 a month. We also have a few expenses at the beginning of the year, including rent (rent is paid once a year in Korea), auto insurance, couch replacement, and vehicle registration. We need to raise an additional \$3,000 in special gifts to help offset those expenses. If you haven't started partnering with us financially, would you prayerfully consider supporting us?

Please also pray for us as we seek a permanent Cadence facility here at Camp Humphreys. Pray that God gives us wisdom, discernment, and guidance as we consider the different options. We look forward to the time when we will pay a mortgage instead of rent!

Thank you all for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support! It means so much to us that you are back there holding our lifeline. God bless you all as you celebrate Christmas and New Year's with your family and friends. We have so much to be thankful for!

Love, The Waltons



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