

Dave & Bonnie Lambert

MARCH 2025

SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL

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Dear friends,

It was the summer of 1992, and Bonnie and I had just moved back to the States after four years of ministry in Baumholder, Germany. We had eyes toward moving to Japan to start a ministry at Yokosuka Navy base but knew that would take some time. With two little ones at home and a third soon-to-be-born, I needed to get a second job. I ended up digging ditches, or as my boss and friend, Scott, liked to say, “I worked the dumb end of a shovel.” It was hard, dirty work, often either hot or cold, depending on the time of year. One thing I quickly learned about digging ditches was that it was measurable. We would show up to a job site, cut the grass out of the yard, dig a ditch and lay pipe in it, then cover it back up and replant the grass when done. At the end of the day, I could point to what we had accomplished.

Measuring success in ministry tends to be more elusive. How do you quantify spiritual growth? What does success look like? You work hard, study diligently to teach the Word, and spend hours with people, but seeing growth can often be difficult to measure. You rarely see immediate results; sometimes, it takes years to become visible.

Bonnie and I were talking about this recently, and a picture came to mind—one that encouraged me in our role as Asia Field Leaders for Cadence. If I may, allow me to share that picture by introducing a few people to you.

I met Anthony on our first day in Yokosuka in 1994. He was in seventh grade and had more energy and enthusiasm than any other four people combined. He was also new to his understanding of his need for a Savior. I quickly learned that if I opened the doors for anything, Anthony would be there, even sometimes opening the doors without me! For four and a half years, Anthony was one of my key youth group kids. We spent countless hours laughing, playing, and searching the Word together, talking about what it meant to follow Jesus while making Him Lord of our lives.

As the time grew close for Bonnie and I to move from Yokosuka, Anthony announced that he was graduating from high school a year early since his mom was retiring from the Navy and moving back to the States. Anthony was unsure where he would land or what he would do, so I encouraged him to go to Bible school for at least a year.

I hated the thought that he might walk away from his faith, knowing he was moving from where he had grown up and heading to the States, which was really a foreign country to him. A year of Bible school could not hurt. Anthony not only went to Bible school but stayed and graduated with a Bible degree, then interned with me one summer. He also met Jess, his future wife, while attending school. After graduation, I was thrilled when they applied, were accepted by Cadence, and moved to Germany to be in full-time ministry. I was so excited to watch this play out, but the story did not end there . . .



Anthony and Jess on my left, along with Beth and Grady, other former interns.

We appreciate your prayers as we head back to Japan to lead our Asia Team Annual Staff Conference April 2–18. Pray for the safety of our whole team as we gather in Tokyo for a week of refreshment, training, and celebrating what God is doing throughout Asia.

Anthony and Jess had a young couple begin to attend their hospitality house in Germany. Jeff Walton, a young Army officer, his wife Candace, and their two small boys found in Anthony and Jess's



Bon with the Waltons on a recent visit to Korea

ministry a home away from home, solid Bible teaching, and support while Jeff dealt with the stress of his Army career. As their time in the Army was coming to a close, they decided they wanted to offer to others in the military what Anthony and Jess had done for them. So, Jeff went to seminary, and upon graduation, they applied and were accepted by Cadence! They are now running a ministry at Camp Humphreys, a base where close to 50,000 Army personnel are stationed. Camp Humphreys is located in Korea, and it happens to be on the field that Bonnie and I lead! This story took over 30 years to develop. I never would have guessed when I met Anthony as a seventh grader what the future would look like or what the fruit of those countless hours

with him would be, but I am thankful for being able to see God's work over all these years.

It has all been possible because of your faithful partnership with us. We could not have gone to Yokosuka, would not have met Anthony, and could not now lead the Asia field where Jeff and Candace are serving without you standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us. Thank you, friends, for doing so!

Thankful to have traded in my shovel,
Dave



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Dave & Bonnie Lambert

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