

Dave & Bonnie Lambert

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SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL

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Hansen from front



Hansen stairs

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It does not stand out for its beauty or curb appeal and would not even warrant a second look when driving by. The main entrance is on a busy road, through a gate, and down a flight of concrete stairs. The metal door is not inviting; nondescript is an understatement. Yet once you open that door, everything changes. No, you do not step into luxury; in fact, I would argue the exact opposite. You are greeted with folding tables and plastic chairs. A few large sectional couches, which have seen better days, take up half the room. What stands out the most is the people—lots of people!—too many, really, for such a small space. The room is loud with conversation, laughter is ever-present, and those worn couches are filled with people playing guitars, engaging in discussions, or even finding a way to nap despite the noise surrounding them. The smells from the small kitchen alert you that a home-cooked meal will soon make its way onto the plates of all those crammed into the room. Extra tables are being set up, and saliva glands are going into overdrive with anticipation. There is life in this place, this room with 50 or 60 Marines. This is a place many consider a home away from home, a place where they are heard, seen, and loved. **This is Cadence's ministry at Camp Hansen Marine Base on Okinawa, Japan.**

Bonnie and I had the privilege of being in this home away from home for 10 weeks earlier this summer, diving into conversations, cooking huge meals, and loving every minute of our time. We loved it so much that we did not want to leave. Those Marines had quickly become family to us, and that old building had quickly become home to us as well.

Home. What comes to mind as you read that word? We have learned that it is not the building, the location, the furniture, or even things on the wall that make a place home. It is the



people. It is the love that is given and received, the memories of sitting around the table eating meals together, the deep conversations, the laughter until sides hurt and tears come. This is what makes a home. We have been blessed to have experienced "home" in

California, Oregon, Colorado, Germany, and Japan. Each place has special memories for us.

A few weeks ago, Bonnie and I went up to the mountains for a few nights to celebrate our 43rd anniversary. While there, we spent time looking back on all of the places we have lived, highlighting God's blessings over the years. We wrote out pages of bullet points of the ways we have seen God work and the many blessings He has given us. The thing that stood out the most was the people who came to mind. You! Life is richer, deeper, and more fulfilling because of the relationships we have been blessed with. No matter where we lay our heads at night, what we value are the relationships each place offers.

Now we are moving homes again—not far, just a few miles east. We will be moving into a multigenerational home with our son Andrew, his wife Bekka, and our two grandsons. This will allow us to deepen our relationship with them and also give us more freedom to travel for ministry. While we will downsize our things, our prayer is that this new home will be a place where relationships will grow, laughter will be ever-present, and the conversations deep and meaningful. And we hope it will be a place where many will find themselves sitting around our table and enjoying a meal with us. You are all invited, so come hungry!

With love and appreciation,
Dave and Bonnie



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PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT Dave & Bonnie Lambert

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