



Cadence International
CFC #10528

Sharing the gospel and our lives with the military community

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CADENCE CONNECTION

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"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

I Thessalonians 2:8

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Focus on
Military Families



*David & Joyce
Schroeder*

**I am very grateful
that in recent years**

our military families have been receiving more national acknowledgement and appreciation. They are worthy of this attention. Our military families have always paid a price for our country's freedoms, and this past decade of global conflicts and war on terrorism has been no exception.

Recently, I visited our Cadence ministries in Japan and South Korea. I was on seven bases—three marine, two air force, one navy, and one army. I met countless, wonderful, military people and their families. At Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, I was able to participate in a chapel youth group for middle schoolers run by our Cadence Student Ministries staff. As I visited with some of these students, I was once again overcome with a deep feeling of affection and gratefulness.

They are a special group, these kids of military parents. They are worthy, not only of our appreciation, but of our love, commitment, and the sharing of our lives and the gospel!

As you read the stories in this Cadence Connection, I trust your heart will be stirred to pray again for our military families, and for our Cadence staff who minister to them. Thank you.

David Schroeder
President

military families speak

FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

Parents' Perspective

Our son David grew up going to Christian school and was raised in a close-knit Christian family. His decision to join the U.S. Army was something we felt the Lord led him to do. We heard about the ministry of Cadence to military personnel and were very pleased for him to connect with Cadence while stationed in South Korea at Camp Casey. He has enjoyed fellowship times and Bible study since he arrived in December of 2010.

We have heard stories of how some of the soldiers spend their free time and the great need for spiritual and Biblical influence. Our son could have easily drifted without the positive influence of the Hospitality House and those who minister through it. We are so thankful for their work in providing support for our son and others.

- Scott and Diane Curtis

*David, Scott and Diane
Curtis's son, at home*



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Find the Cadence Connection online at **www.cadence.org/connection**. If you know friends who may enjoy these articles, they can read them online or sign up to receive the Connection.

A Sister's Perspective:

About Ben by Elizabeth Wellman



Ben and Elizabeth

"I'm enlisting in the United States Marine Corps," he says. His voice is deeper than I have heard it. It is as though my brother has grown up and no one has remembered to tell me. I feel very young and small, looking up at him. *When did he get so tall?* I think. I will think this again, a mere thirteen weeks later, at his graduation from boot camp. His back is so straight, his eyes shadowed by the wide brim of his white dress cover. He seems so much older. *When did he get so tall?*

And now you might lose him. Every headline about a soldier brings back the lump in my throat. I can't watch the news anymore. I turn it off and pray instead.

"If God wants to take Benjamin home, He'll do it," my mother says, "Whether he's in a combat zone overseas or sitting on the couch at home. He has a plan for Ben. I can trust Him with my son." Her heart is aching but she hugs my brother and smiles anyway. My father says very little. There is a quiet pride in his crinkled eyes and soft murmur. He reaches his hand out to smooth the front of Ben's dress blues. I can see them thinking back on their years in the Navy. Their eyes say everything. They love their country. They love their son.

Ben is days from deployment now. I need to tell him good-bye. I don't know how. "You promise me you won't let anything happen to you," I say. "I promise," he chuckles. Suddenly he is three years-old again, baby cheeks ruddy with joy as he stomps along behind me, trying hard to match my pace. He smiles a dimply baby smile up at me, his older sister he mistakenly finds quite wise, quite knowledgeable about the great, big world. I blink and he is twenty and smiling down at me, a confident, handsome smile that belonged to my grandfather from his own days in uniform. Not yet, I want to cry. You're not old enough to do this. *To hold a gun, to fight for your country, to leave me, any of it.* I swallow the panic and instead, say the other thing I am feeling, "I am so proud of you." He straightens up. Again, I think it. *When did he get so tall?*

A Daughter's Perspective:

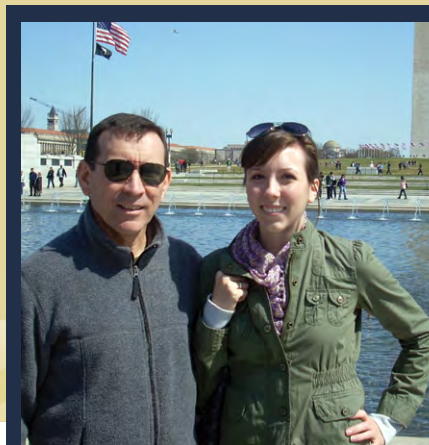
Growing Up a Military Kid by Sarah Kidd

Growing up with my dad serving in the military was a good life... it was definitely hard at times, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. Until recently, I had never lived anywhere longer than four years. My dad has served with the U.S. Air Force for nearly all of my twenty five years and I just always understood and accepted that we were a military family. I've always been so proud of my dad and the way he serves our country. I love seeing him in his uniform and seeing how seriously he takes his duty to his country. Even though it interrupted whatever I was doing outside with my friends, I always stood proudly when the National Anthem played every day at 5:00.

For the most part, I enjoyed moving around. I loved seeing new places and getting a fresh start with new friends, but saying good-bye was always hard for me. As I counted down the days until we moved, I would start thinking, "This is the last time I'll ever eat at this McDonalds", or "This is my last Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday here..." I would make myself miserable during those last days, but soon we were in a new state, on a new base, and I was fighting with my brothers over who got the biggest bedroom.

My favorite assignment was living at Yokota Air Base (AB) in Japan for three years when I was a teenager. I absolutely loved the experience of living in Japan. But what I loved most was the closeness of the military community on base. Every family was far from home and even farther from extended family so we really depended on each other and I made lifelong friends while living there. Some of my best memories come from my involvement with the youth group on base, run by Cadence missionaries. I had come to know God right before moving, so their involvement in my life was critical to my development as a Christian. Their influence, and the ways I grew closer to Christ during that time, was invaluable. They also provided an instant group of friends, fun retreats, and support that I desperately needed.

I thank God for my dad's commitment to the U.S. Air Force which allowed me to grow up as a military kid, and I'm so excited to be heading back to Japan (Kadena AB) soon to work with those same missionaries and the teenagers living overseas today.



Sarah and her dad in Washington, D.C., this past spring

Sarah recently joined Cadence and is in the process of raising funds to move to Japan to serve with the Cadence Student Ministries staff there. She will carry on the investment made in her life with current military students. See www.cadence.org/kidd for more about Sarah.

A Wife's Perspective: Tough Stuff by Melissa Leeper

When my husband and I made the decision for him to serve in our Army, I don't think we knew what we were getting into. We had covered the decision in prayer and strongly felt God's calling for us to make that decision. However, I don't think any amount of information could have prepared us for the lifestyle, but with God's help, we are living the life of a military family!

Surviving his absence during Basic Training and school tugged on our heartstrings as we were newlyweds when he left, but it was manageable. We then received orders to be stationed in Germany! It sounded very glamorous and daunting at the same time. I was to join him later, once all of my paperwork was in order. Seeing him off at the airport, again pulled at those heartstrings, as we had to be apart again. I joined him in Germany three months later and we finally got to start experiencing life together. There was a lot of training, so he was gone at least one week each month, sometimes more, sometimes less. Even in the routine of those departures, the heartstrings pulled, but each time it also hurt a little less, until our first child was born.

God has always been my rock, but as our family expanded from one, to two, and now three children, my husband's absences have continued to pull on the heartstrings! Our toughest challenge yet, has been a recent deployment that we are going through. Being a geographically-single parent, as we like to call it, is tough stuff. My husband dearly misses us when he's away, and we really miss him, and explaining to my children where their dad is, has become routine.

We are strong in our faith in Jesus Christ; we are strong in our marriage and share a great desire to raise a wonderful family. I think those things are what sustain us and keep our heartstrings from breaking. We are covered in His love!

Being a military family isn't easy, but it is the life we are called to at this time! My husband will return, God willing, and my children will remain awestruck by the hero that he is to them, and I will continue to love him as we serve our country together!



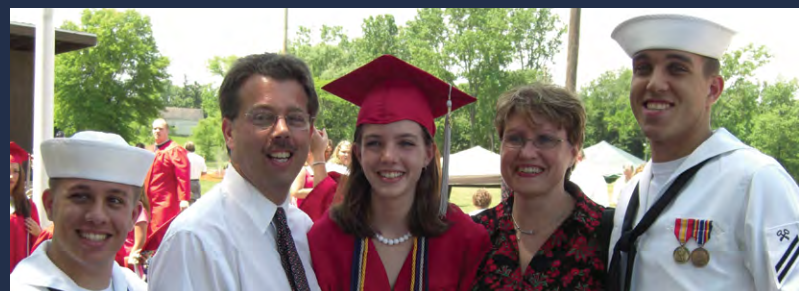
The Leeper Family

A Father's Perspective: A Whole New World! by Rev. Chris B. Williams

When you send your children into the military you are sending them into a whole new world. You know you will be sending them into a den of lions that will want to tear at their spiritual lives that you spent a lifetime instilling into their very being. Their Christian upbringing will be challenged and looked down upon. Yet, in spite of this, their life in Christ will be their strength and you, as a parent, must rest in how you taught them the Word of God and brought them up in Christ.

You know there will be days when they are lonely, scared, and homesick. However, something we did not realize—it is a whole new world for the parents as well. You can no longer hug them to comfort them during their dark days. You have limited contact with them and limited time to give them an encouraging word. What do you do when your child does have an opportunity to call you and they express to you their loneliness and lack of any ministry nearby to meet their spiritual need or just need to have someone to listen or even have a friend? You, as a loving parent, make many phone calls to search for a ministry. If you are unable to find a local ministry, when you do have an opportunity to speak with them, you encourage them, pray with them, and maybe even cry with them. You, as a parent, learn to lean on the peace, comfort and protection that can only truly come when you have a close relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. You, as a parent, use every opportunity to encourage them to continue to read the Word of God and pray. You, as a parent, pray they soon get plugged into a church nearby that will take over where you left off. You, as a parent, place your child into the loving arms of our caring Savior and trust completely and fully in His protective care.

It is just as much a whole new world for the parents as it is for the child you send away into the military. Thankfully, Cadence International fills in that void of parenthood when you cannot be there. We are forever grateful for Cadence and ministries like it.



Chris and Robyn (2nd and 4th from left) are currently raising support to work with Cadence in hospitality house ministry.

Their daughter, Justina (pictured here at her graduation with her brothers and parents), recently died in an automobile accident. Chris and Robyn will serve in honor of her desire to minister to those serving our country like her brothers. See www.cadence.org/williams for more about Chris and Robyn.