

CADENCE CONNECTION

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH 2010



David Schroeder

My favorite quote about girls comes from a daughter who remembers a moment with her father from years gone by. She says, "It was the twinkle in our father's eyes when my sister and I paraded around in our new dresses that made us so glad we were girls."

As a father of four children, two of them girls, my heart resonates with the power and importance of those twinkling eyes. Our daughters, Kerith and Kyrie, were created by God to be delighted in and enjoyed—to be "twinkled at" by their father!

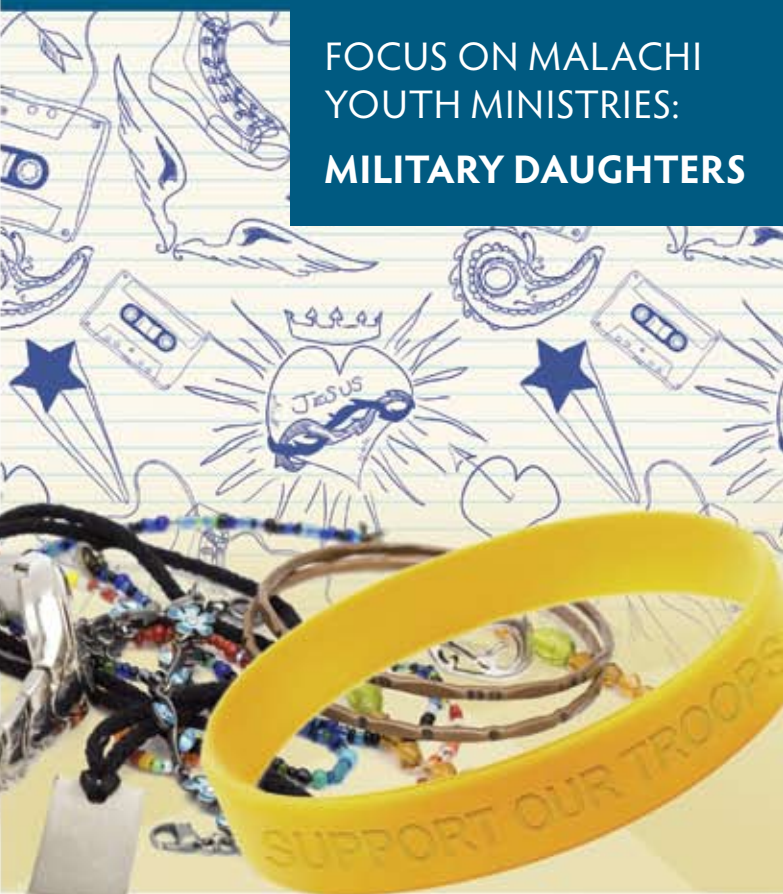
There are thousands of daughters in the military community—a precious group of girls whose mom, dad, or both serve our country in the armed forces. As you read the testimony of four of them, Kate, Cailin, Holly, and Grace, remember that they represent their many "sisters" living in the military community.

They deserve our prayers, our love, and our gratitude. **They, too, pay a significant price for the defense of our freedom.** Many of our military daughters have endured having one of their parents away from home during significant events in their lives. It's part of their sacrifice for us. Most of them love their lives in a military community. Some of them have trusted Christ as their Savior. **All of them are precious to our Heavenly Father—and I picture Him looking down on each of them with a delighted twinkle in His eyes.**

David Schroeder
President



FOCUS ON MALACHI YOUTH MINISTRIES: MILITARY DAUGHTERS



A Place to Call Home

Kate Schantz (military kid), age 18

I am 18 years old and I have never known a time when I was not associated with the military. I do not officially have a hometown and have lived wherever and in whatever home the military has provided. I have been to over nine schools across the world with



Kate Schantz (right) with youth group friends

most of my schooling in Germany.

Many people do not understand what being a military dependent is like. For me, my dad has been an army engineer for twenty-five years. Being a military child has given me opportunities many people can

only dream of. I have been able to tour the world and embrace different cultures. I have learned to adapt to my surroundings and how to change schools and homes. I have learned how to make friends and how to say goodbye to them. I have learned the importance of love, friendship, and family.

The military has taught me lessons on humility, sacrifice, and how to cherish life and freedom. I have been taught the value of a life, how fragile it is, and to never take life for granted because I have seen how easily it can be taken away. I know the cost of freedom because I have seen my dad and his fellow soldiers risk their lives to protect the rights and freedom of my fellow countrymen. I have known grief, anxiety, and hopelessness. I have comforted friends who lost their fathers while defending our country. I have witnessed pain and suffering. But I think the biggest lesson the military has taught me is how to handle separation. My dad has missed nine birthdays—ten if you count my birth; he has missed concerts, recitals, prom, and many more important events in my life. But even though he missed so much, and his job taught me more than a child my age should be taught, it gave me a miracle. It gave me the best high school experience. It gave me my youth group, Common Bond.

I know that when my dad was gone, we went through a stressful year in my house. My mom told me that she was so thankful that God gave me such a wonderful youth group and friends who could help me with the stress of being a military family. You always feel God's presence in the leaders, the students around you, and even in yourself from the moment you first walk in. **It personally gave me a place I could call home.**



A Whole New Person

Cailin Ballard (military kid), age 14

I have been with the Military Chapel Youth Group for about two years now, and it's interesting to think about how my life could be so different without ever going to youth group.

In the summer of 2006, I found out that I would be moving to Germany. I was devastated. As an eleven year old, that's like finding out I could have cancer. In the past I have moved before, but was too young to care about it. I mean, I had lived in Georgia for six years—it was practically my home—and now I would go to a new, different, and strange country where they spoke (in my point of view) jibberish? Not cool. It was especially not cool to be the new kid, just starting middle school and having no friends.

By the time seventh grade came around, I had made a few friends. A classmate introduced me to youth group, and at that time I thought it would be like a boring, adult Sunday sermon. When I got there, I sa I was totally and completely wrong! The leaders made learning and studying the Word of God so much fun, plus there were awesome games and snacks.

Before February 2009, I didn't know God at all...and that's a scary thing for me to look back at. During February, the youth group would plan a totally awesome weekend retreat every year for the middle school called "Escape." We would get to miss school on Friday (yes!) due to traveling, and get 3 days to learn about God in the coolest ways. When I was in seventh grade, I didn't know God and only paid attention to the games. On my second trip to Escape I was saved. I had done a lot of "not so good" things in the past, and at that place it was like Jesus actually came to me and said, "I forgive you." **From then on, I totally believed and gave my heart to Him, feeling all my sins gone.**

I don't know how I would be or act without the people in the youth group. They have done for me and taught me so much that I feel like a whole new person.

Cailin Ballard is pictured on the cover (far left) with friends and Malachi Youth worker, Leah Vanderlaan. In the picture, the group was on the way to the retreat where Cailin gave her life to Jesus.

malachi
YOUTH MINISTRIES

Malachi Youth Ministries is the youth division of Cadence International®.

The vision of Malachi is to be a disciple-making movement of God that transforms the world by reaching and equipping military students. Malachi exists to uniquely demonstrate God's love for students on military bases in a chapel context, under the authority of military chaplains.

Find out more at www.malachi.org.



Blessings and Challenges

Holly Martin (military kid), age 15

I have grown up in a military family. My dad is in the Air Force, and ever since I was born I have moved around. I have been blessed to experience many amazing opportunities, but also I have been through many challenges.

I have moved seven times in my life and I am fifteen years old right now. I was born in Florida and have moved to a different place about every two years due to my dad's job. I have been blessed to have moved all over the United States, and gotten to travel around and see so many wonderful places! However, it has been challenging to pack up the whole house and leave my friends to move to a completely new and different place and go to a new school and youth group. I have learned a lot and know that I am better for it. About two years ago, my family got assigned to Stuttgart, Germany. I was really nervous when I first heard this because I had never moved out of the United States or traveled out of North America. When my family moved to Germany I didn't really know what to think about the whole situation, but our sponsor family told us that there was a wonderful youth group here. At first, I just wanted to stay with my family, but then my parents encouraged me to go. I still remember my first time meeting Leah, Jon, and Christine. They were all so positive and welcoming. I had an amazing time at youth group and met so many nice people. I am very happy that I went to it.

Throughout my two years in Stuttgart, Germany, I have always found comfort in going to youth group with the amazing youth leaders and positive, fun environment. It always raises my spirit and gets me excited about what God has planned for my life. It provides a positive environment for middle and high school students to come together, hang out, and praise and worship through singing, playing games, and studying God's Word. I have learned a lot from youth group and thank God for the amazing leaders who bring so much happiness to youth group. I have fun, but also learn about the Lord. I am very happy that there is a youth group here, but especially that **it teaches us the chief end of man: to glorify God and praise him forever.**



Holly Martin

Common Bond

Grace Swehla (military kid), age 17

Being a military brat means almost NO stability. You never know WHEN you're going to move, WHERE you're going to move, IF you're going to move. Things can change in an instant. It makes life hard, since high school is so centered on your home, friends, and school. Finding a group of new friends is always a first priority when you move. If you get mixed with the wrong group in your haste to make friends, you can find yourself in BIG trouble. Especially if you don't know the area, culture, or people.

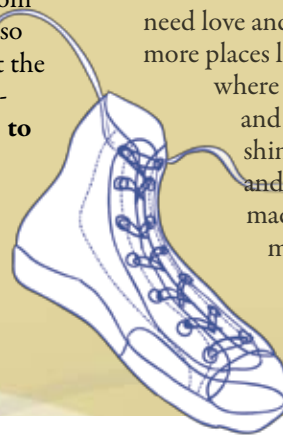
Christian youth groups have always been a very important part of my life. They are a safe place that I connect with right away to make new friends who have the same beliefs, values, and struggles; a place where I will be accepted, loved, strengthened, and encouraged, and can do the same for others. We learn more about God, who He is and what He wants for us, as well as play games and worship. We are given the tools necessary for spreading God's love and Word and become excited to share the best part of our lives. Youth group is fun, open and friendly. Even for non-Christians it is a fun and safe place where they are welcomed and loved. I can say, "Come to youth group tonight!" to friends, acquaintances and strangers without fear of being strange or awkward. I have seen many of my struggling friends give up nights out partying for a fun night at youth group.

Our group is called "Common Bond" because that's what all believers have. So many personalities are present, but that common bond binds us into strong friendships. All the high school cliques meld together into one family. Common Bond also provides us with opportunities for service, growth in faith and culture, and positive relationships with adult Christian role models who honestly care about our generation as well as each individual.

There is so much to be joyful for. When we all praise and worship our God together, it is a fellowship I never want to be without. I have heard people say that my generation is lost. This is not true, but when people continue to believe it we sink deeper. We need love and encouragement—more places like Common Bond where we can be ourselves and see God's light shine through others and ourselves. It has made the difference in my life, and I am now a firm believer.



Grace Swehla (left) on a youth group team-building trip



your prayer guide

FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, & MARCH 2010 | CADENCE CONNECTION

week of January 3-9 Pray for the 30,000 troops scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan. Pray also for their families, for God's strength, courage, comfort and grace during their time of separation.

week of January 10-16 Pray for Military Childrens Ministry (MCM) leadership as they travel to Germany and Azores to plan their summer missions trip in partnership with Liberty University.

week of January 17-23 Pray for Cadence staff as they minister to military people and their families as winter months can be discouraging for many. Pray for the light of the gospel to shine bright in the darkness.

week of January 24-30 Pray for our staff at Ft. Hood as they continue to minister to the military community in the aftermath of November's tragic shootings.

week of January 31 - February 6 February 1st is National Freedom Day. Pray for all the service men and women who faithfully serve our country to protect our freedom.

week of February 7-13 Pray for Cadence leadership team as they begin the financial planning process for next year.

week of February 14-20 Pray for the Cadence Women's trip to Thailand, Cambodia, and Burma, lead by Karla Tillapaugh.

week of February 21-27 Pray for the 2010 Planning Committee as they work on preparations for the upcoming mission-wide conference that will be held in Green Lake, Wisconsin, June 27-July 2, 2010.

week of February 28 - March 6 Pray for MOPS groups around the country as they begin to make their homemade greeting cards to support children of deployed parents through the KidsLink Downrange project.

week of March 7-13 Pray for the upcoming Malachi Youth Spring Break Project in Cambodia. Students will be working with the extremely poor families of the Cambodian military.

week of March 14-20 Pray for the new missionary candidates who are preparing to come in April for candidacy.

week of March 21-27 Pray for our house missionaries as they prepare their homes for the Easter holiday on April 4th.

week of March 28 - April 3 "Month of the Military Child" begins on April 1. Pray for the children of military personnel, especially for grace in the sacrifices they make.



www.cadence.org