

Nate & Louise Johnson

OCTOBER 2023



50th Stories on the Porch

IMPACT AND LEGACY

Last month, I had a bizarre mixture of events that were clarifying for me. My stepdad, Marty, passed away in late July. His memorial service was held on August 19. Exactly one week later, we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Travis Hospitality House. Both events celebrated impact and legacy.



Me and Dad

My stepdad was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer at the end of May. We enjoyed less than two months from his diagnosis to his death. I was grateful for the opportunity to visit him in June and have precious time to share some of my favorite memories with him.

From the day I learned of his diagnosis, I began to journal all the ways he's impacted my life. I am truly grateful for the ways he leaned into my life. His memorial service was filled with stories of his impact on the people around him and the community at large.

It has long been my desire for my life to make an impact. I remember a scene from the movie *Mr. Holland's Opus*. It follows the story of a high school music teacher and his legacy of impact on the school where he worked. (Spoiler alert!) The movie ends with students from his years of teaching gathering to celebrate his influence on their lives. I am unsure if it's because my dad looks a little like Richard Dreyfuss in the movie or because he was also an educator, but that movie always made me think of him.

The impact of one life on another can be huge. It can mark them for eternity.

The Travis Hospitality House fiftieth anniversary celebration absolutely amplified that theme. From the moment we arrived at Travis, we were bombarded with opportunities to celebrate the impact and legacy God has brought about through that facility and those who have been a part of ministry there.

Since we arrived a week before the celebration, we spent time working on the property by day and meeting with Airmen by night. We got to see so many of the people who were part of our lives and ministry while we served at Travis. It was really fun to sit down with them and hear updates on work, relationships, what God is doing in them, and what may be next for them. It was also so rich to hear about the impact our time in community together had on their lives.

The weekend's celebration took all those thoughts and feelings to the next level. About 80 people gathered for the different festivities. Our goal was to celebrate all the ways God has worked through the Travis Hospitality House over the years and His legacy of faithfulness in the lives He has touched through the ministry at the house.



50th Group Picture

It is hard to share just one highlight from the weekend. It was such a rich tapestry of moments that all pointed to God's goodness and movement in people. Some came to the house to see the place where they first met Jesus. Many wanted to reconnect with friends who were



Listening to Stories about the House



Travis 50th Welcome

part of their lives and the ministry for a specific season. Others could not believe all the changes to the property and neighborhood.

I was particularly inspired by **Dan Hash**, who grew up as a Cadence kid, as he shared about his parents opening the Travis Hospitality House in 1973. He and Josh had a fun moment as they spoke about the bedroom they both occupied while living there and what it was like to grow up in that place. His words of encouragement and stories were such a gift to me as they resonated with my own experiences serving there.

The Wing Chaplain from Travis, **Chaplain (COL) Steven Richardson**, shared the impact and blessing of partnering with the Travis house and Cadence International. He shared about the confidence it has given him to know that the Travis Hospitality House and the Peak Airmen Ministry Center are there to help share the gospel and disciple Airmen in the community. As I looked around the room, I was encouraged to see so many of the Airmen we had the opportunity to share the gospel and our lives with during our time there. I love seeing them continue to grow in their faith.

David Schroeder, Cadence president, and his wife **Joyce** shared their thoughts. It was so rich to hear stories of faithfulness and impact through the years and the ways our founders have lived faithfully to the end of their lives. Joyce also encouraged us all to run well over the whole course of our life's journey to honor the house's legacy.

In the end, it was such a rich opportunity to see how God uses people and places for His glory and purposes. I know there will be a much richer celebration in glory as we see all the ways God has moved in each other's lives. We will hear story after story of His movement. It will make these celebrations pale by comparison.

I still long for legacy and impact, but I know there is a greater glory to be revealed and a more significant celebration to come. In the meantime, I long to be faithful. I want to live in a way that honors the invitation of God to impact those I am charged to care for.

I am thankful for your legacy with us. You have allowed us the opportunity to love Servicemembers, their families, and now our missionaries as you partner with us. Thank you for your role in God's movement in the hearts and lives of those stationed in the WestPac field. We are so grateful for the way God is moving and look forward to future stories of what is being done today that will ripple throughout the years to come.

Nate, for the Johnsons



Cadence
INTERNATIONAL®

PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT
Nate & Louise Johnson

Nate.Johnson@Cadence.org

707.472.1041

Louise.Johnson@Cadence.org

Website: the-johnson-ministry-team.epistle.org

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800.396.6680 or 303.762.1400
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