



*What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace*  
Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

ADVENT 2023

# Nate & Louise Johnson

Serving with Cadence International  
[Cadence.org/Johnson](https://Cadence.org/Johnson)

## Dear friends,

I was just sitting at the table making a to-do list for the next few days as we prepare to welcome company for the Thanksgiving holiday. Our oldest daughter flew in yesterday, two of our Airmen from Travis will arrive in the next couple of days, and a Villamigo from Spain is dropping by later this week. Then, more Airmen, small group folks, and Cadence friends will join us to feast on Thanksgiving Day. My heart is full as I anticipate time with so many of our loved ones this week.

My mind wandered a bit to last year's Thanksgiving, and I was struck by what a difference a year makes. Last year, most of our family was still deep in the throes of grief from the transition to Denver. We did not feel connected with a community and missed the joy and life that came with field ministry. Nate always says that year one in a new community invariably feels funny, which has been the case for us. It has been a long and difficult season for our family. We still have days of grief and longing, if I am being honest, but it is encouraging to look back and see how the Lord has moved and healed some of our pain since last Thanksgiving.

Part of the healing has come as we've learned and served in our Field Leader roles. We returned from our first staff conference a week ago, and if I may brag for a moment, our team is AMAZING. Almost half of our missionaries just finished their first year on the field, and we are so impressed by how they and our more "seasoned" team members are loving, learning, engaging, and serving their military communities. They are thinking deeply and wisely about ways to engage the young servicemembers, couples, and families in their ministries. It is a huge privilege to be their biggest cheerleaders and coaches as they share the gospel and their lives across the WestPac field.

Another joy this year has been welcoming company and reconnecting with friends from many seasons of ministry. We get teased a lot about the number of visitors we have! Living in a location people want to visit has been sweet, and we've had at least one set of guests every month this calendar year. We love that offering hospitality to military folks still gets to be a part of how we connect and serve "our people." Hosting a small group for church gives us another opportunity to open our home and has helped make life feel more normal again.

All these mental wanderings bring with them a deep thankfulness for you, our support team. You have encouraged us, cried with us, and celebrated with us through this year of ups and downs. Thank you for your kindness, understanding, generosity, and especially prayers. We are very grateful for you.

We hope this Advent and Christmas season is filled with hope and joy for you and your loved ones.

With love from Colorado,  
**Louise, for the Johnsons**



## A FEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for us as we continue to learn how to be "with" our WestPac staff from afar. Our staff conference was a great momentum builder. Our regular calls and notes are also a beginning, but we are praying for additional ways to lead and encourage them.
- Pray for continued fruitfulness as we engage with those God has invited us to invest in locally. We praise God for our small group and the opportunity to mentor some Denver Seminary students. We are also praying for ways to reach out to our neighbors and Kara's coworkers and bosses.
- Pray with us for our spring community visits in 2024. We will visit at least one ministry a month on our field from January to May. Pray for opportunities as we observe and seek to offer meaningful feedback to our staff.
- Pray for our kids. Each of them has varying levels of connection in their individual communities. We praise God that Ellie and Kara both have jobs they love.





A visit and games with a Villamigo



Our WestPac field during our recent staff conference



Chatting with some of our staff at staff conference



One of our highlights of life here is attending church with Margaret Patty, one of Cadence's founders



Attending a chapel service on base while visiting Char (staff on the WestPac field)



Our team during the summer intern debrief



Visiting with the Eilands during my dad's memorial

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Due to some of our partners needing to reallocate their giving, we have been underfunded since late spring. We feel clearly called and encouraged by God’s movement in the WestPac. We also know that God has been and continues to be faithful to provide for our family. As we come to the end of the year, would you please consider helping us with a special gift to cover our deficit while we work on finding additional monthly partners?



PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT  
**Nate & Louise Johnson**

To join our monthly support team or make a one-time donation, please give online at **Cadence.org/Johnson** or contact Cadence Donor Services. Thank you!

**GIVE ONLINE**



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