

Nate & Louise JOHNSON

One month ago, we celebrated the first anniversary of our roles as the WestPac field leaders. As the year has gone by, we have learned a lot about what our roles do and do not entail. Louise and I were chatting about it a bit ago, and she commented that our roles are like coaches for a sports team. Instead of being players on the field, we get to watch the action and support from the sidelines.

We have a unique perspective that comes with watching the game unfold from this vantage point. We see when our team members are discouraged or have huge successes. We note trends, tendencies, and temptations for our team. We observe areas where greater coaching is needed and suggest running different plays to address their situation more effectively. And, of course, we encourage, support, and cheer them on as much as possible.

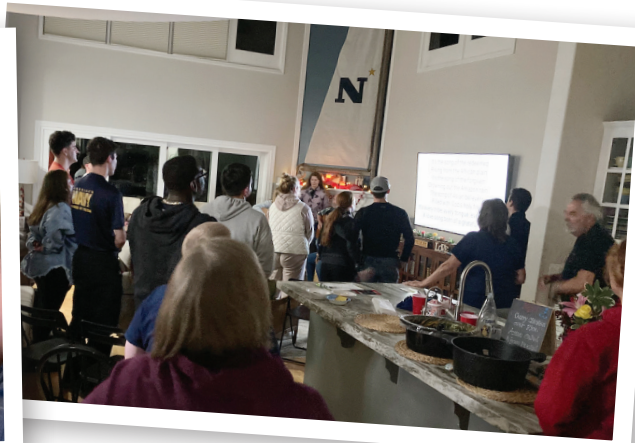
Since February, we have been visiting our staff for their annual reviews. As I write this note, we are cruising at 35,000 feet to Alaska for our last set of visits for the spring.



These trips have given us opportunities to see first-hand how things are going at each site, and it is exciting to get a front-row seat to watch God's movement across all these unique ministries. We have been blessed to see men and women begin following Jesus, be baptized, and teach or lead worship for the first time. We also see the obstacles our team is facing. Those take the form of facility difficulties, finances, relational dynamics, health and fatigue, and logistical challenges.

Regardless of the situations or circumstances, we enjoy coming alongside our staff to care for and coach them. Most of the time, those conversations are easy and encouraging. Occasionally, there are moments when hard things need to be said, or a challenge is required. We walk through both the fun and tough conversations, knowing that there are deeper relationships and growth for all of us through the process.

Recently, we were approached by the VP of Field Ministries (would that make him a general manager in the coaching analogy?). He asked us if we would consider adding five additional communities to our region, so the WestPac is



growing from nine ministry units to fourteen. It will functionally mean that we will oversee almost every ministry Cadence has west of the Mississippi River. This shift adds a bit more to our workload, but we are excited to get to know our new team members. They include ministries that work with the Space Force and university cadets, so our region now serves Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guardians, cadets, and their spouses and families. Whew!

We are grateful for your role in the impact of the gospel across the WestPac. Thank you for praying for the different ministries and the unique ways they are loving and serving those God has entrusted to them. Thank you for financially partnering with us so we can care for and coach the WestPac field for greater kingdom fruitfulness. We are blessed by your support and partnership.

A few things to pray for:

- Fruitfulness for the WestPac as we reach out to those who do not yet have a relationship with Christ.
- Discipleship opportunities in local ministries. Pray for those who are ready to take the next steps in using their gifts for God's kingdom and glory.
- A wave of people released to do ministry wherever God takes them. We are entering the time of year when many in the military community will leave their current duty station and move to their next location. Pray as God strategically moves people to places where they can have kingdom impact.
- Pray for us as we navigate the addition of new team members and the impact of that on our family.



- Ellie and Jeremy are getting married on June 15! They will report to their new base in North Carolina on June 30. Pray for friends, a church, their new marriage, and their own ministry opportunities as they relocate.
- Krista will graduate this summer/early fall since she decided to combine her junior and senior year classes together. Pray for her as she completes her schooling and begins to search for a job.

With gratitude,
Nate and Louise



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