SERVING WITH CADENCE INTERNATIONAL

Nate & Louise Johnson

CADENCE.ORG/JOHNSON

But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the Lord's praise,
for he has been good to me.

PSALM 13:5-6

THANKSGIVING 2026

Confession: I love nerdy board games. I especially like the kind of game that comes in a square box with lots of brightly colored wooden pieces and takes about an hour to explain—a game that is mentally challenging and leaves you pondering how you might have played moves differently and more strategically for greater effectiveness.

My favorite style of game is called worker placement. These games often have tokens called meeples. Each meeple usually represents a turn that you can place on the board to do some kind of action. It might be used to gain resources, claim a place on the board, pick up cards, or even gain more meeples to be used in future turns. These meeples can be used strategically to further the objectives of the game.

What is the point of this education in my nerdy hobby? As I have spent much of this last year adjusting to my role as the VP for Field Ministries, the best analogy I have found to describe my job is that it is the most advanced form of a nerdy board game I have ever seen. I, along with others on my team, consider all the different things we could do and decide how best to utilize our mission resources. Cadence deploys people and the varied gifts that they bring so they can minister as effectively as possible in the unique locations where they serve military people.

The wall across from my desk is filled with pictures of our staff around the world. Each picture represents a hospitality house, student ministry, women's ministry, children's ministry, or on-base ministry center. Cadence has just under 50 ministries around the world. I often glance at my wall and consider the different staff and ministries that we have placed. I look at our missionaries who are actively working on raising support, staff who are approaching a sabbatical, or Limited-Term Staff who are willing to help us bridge ministry from one staff to another. I chat with our Field Leaders, Mobilization team, Finance team, HR team, and other staff as we consider movements, timing, and logistics.



Our Field Leaders at FLS.

Throughout the day, I have different alarms that remind me to pray for staff who are in the process of developing a support team to join with them in their future ministry, as well as staff who are facing difficult situations with visas, relationships with other team members, chaplains, or people who are struggling.

As I have spent much of this year learning my job, I have come to grips with a few realities. There is much that is outside of my control. My perspective is limited, and my understanding is incomplete. People are not meeples. They are volitional and don't always want to go where I think they should go. We don't have personnel to fill all the places where we have needs. Bottom line, we have limitations.

These realities have driven me to realize that there is a deep need for faith and an abiding trust in God. Prayerful dependence is required as I submit our mission's needs to the Lord and ask for wisdom and direction. God graciously allows Cadence to lack some of the resources we need so that He can be glorified amid the uncertainty. He is sovereign. I am not.

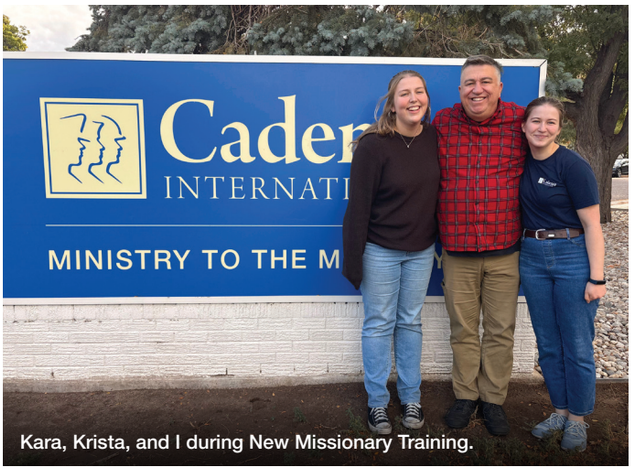
There are many times when I think about the needs of our field and don't know what to do. We need staff at various



The Family (minus Jeremy, who was deployed) at the Cadence Worldwide Conference.



Josh got baptized at the worldwide conference.



Kara, Krista, and I during New Missionary Training.

locations around the world in the coming year. It is not my job to solve all the issues. Sometimes I forget that. Yesterday, I felt the weight of these limitations when our mission president reminded me that my role is to keep my eyes up and out and to invite people to faithful obedience.

Fortunately, my hope is in Jesus. Not me. This year has been filled with many reminders of that deep truth I need to return to again and again.

Amid the challenges of the role, I have the privilege of working with an amazing Field Leader team who cares for our staff. They do so much to care daily and directly for our Field Staff. I am blessed by regular connections with them. We have also started some Micro-Fields to care for the WestPac field while we look for future field leaders. I have the opportunity to encourage, challenge, brainstorm, and coach these Field Leaders and Micro-Field Leaders as they invest in others within their areas of responsibility.

In April, we hired a new administrative assistant named Cameron, who helps with the logistical pieces of assignment agreements, letters of introduction, and many other details. He has been a deep blessing and a battle buddy for me as we seek to serve the needs of our fields.

I have been learning a lot about when and how to leave things undone—to work hard while in the office and then to leave things in the hands of God when I go home. When I started my role, Louise accurately and wisely said that the hardest part of my new role would be leaving things undone. The command to rest and place things in God's hands has been a choice—to remember His sovereignty and power to work while I delight in Him and His gifts.

Another incredible blessing has been the addition of both Kara and Krista to the Cadence team. In July, Krista applied to be an administrative assistant for Cadence. She currently spends ten hours a week serving as part of the Headquarters staff. It has been a deep blessing to be part of weekly chapel on Wednesdays with her, or to see her sitting at the welcome desk when I come into the building.

Kara was officially appointed as a Cadence missionary in August and attended our new missionary training in October. Her desire is to serve military dependents doing Cadence Student Ministry. She is currently in the process of raising support, and her picture is on the board I mentioned earlier in the letter.

Our family is heading to Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, for Thanksgiving. We are going to join a ministry family there as they prepare to serve Thanksgiving dinner and host the many men and women who will come. Our family is delighted to have the opportunity to partner with them for a weekend of ministry. All of us miss serving in this way and look forward to gospel conversations, dishwashing, and maybe a few board games. Would you pray for us as we go? We are excited to be a blessing to them and have a chance to be reminded of why we do what we do.

If you would like to give a special gift during this season, we would love to bless the Fort Hood community there and help offset some of the costs of Thanksgiving by purchasing additional groceries. Louise and I will also be attending the Eastern Field Staff Conference, where I will be sharing during a few sessions, and Louise will be cooking meals for the staff team. Special gifts will help to offset some of the expenses of these trips and allow us to bless the staff while we are there.

A few prayer requests:

- Please pray for staffing. There are five locations that will need staff next summer as current staff are scheduled for sabbaticals: Fort Hood, Texas; Kaiserslautern, Germany; Rota, Spain; JBER, Alaska; and Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.
- Pray as we seek to identify, prepare, and train future Field Leaders.
- Pray for Kara and Krista as they adjust to their new roles within Cadence. Pray for Kara as she raises support for her Student Ministry assignment.
- Pray for the ability to rest in God's work and let go of things that are out of my control and put them back in God's hands.
- Pray for us as we travel to Fort Hood to serve at Thanksgiving.



With deep gratitude,
Nate and Louise

Cadence INTERNATIONAL

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

511 White Cloud Dr.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

707.472.1041

Nate.Johnson@Cadence.org
Louise.Johnson@Cadence.org

Acct.# 10516