

## In Memory of Nathan West- 2019

By Heather West, his widow

Nate's love for the unborn started with his younger sister's pregnancy at age 14. Her daughter was raised with Nate during his high school years. Nate adored her and the whole situation made a very big impression on Nate's heart. Seeds were planted that God would use in years to come.

Nate always loved children and he taught preschool while pursuing a degree in education. He later went into business and pursued a Master's Degree in Business. He met and married his college sweetheart and a few years later started having his own children- 5 of them eventually!

Nate adored his children and loved being a dad! He taught Sunday School, coached youth soccer, volunteered at the local elementary school, and positively impacted the lives of many children!

About 10 years ago, God prompted our family to begin a debt free journey. We got to know God as our provider as we had to depend on Him as our source instead of our credit cards. Our debt journey should have lasted 7 years but in year 3 we were challenged, through a Bible Study, to find a path God had us on and then pray for the impossible to happen. Something so impossible, in fact, that it could never happen on its own; to pray so big that ONLY GOD could be given glory through it if it occurred.

We chose to pick a prayer about our debt reduction. At that time, we had two young boys at home and three large debts left including two mortgages and a school loan. We decided that it would be completely impossible to pay off the largest debt, an entire mortgage, in one year- especially since the value of the loan was more than our annual income.

So with the prayer challenge, but honestly, a lack of faith, we began to pray the impossible. Odd things began to happen, Nate got a retroactive raise and bonus. Then a grandma gifted \$500. We got 4 refund checks from overpayments in one month. Then our family got an unexpected inheritance from a relative. Our tax refund was 3 times the normal amount. And after 3 months of unbelievable amounts of money arriving at our door, Nate looked at me and said, "God is going to do this! I don't want to just pray for our largest debt. I want to pray for all of our debt to be eliminated this year!"

Our business had experienced some very difficult years but that year we saw unbelievable, explosive growth. By the conclusion of that year, the profit sharing bonus wrapped up our debt journey completely. We saw God do the impossible! We experienced an impossible prayer answered before our very eyes. Our perspective on prayer, our view of God's roll in business and money and ownership, and our faith was forever changed. Haggai 2:8 says, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine says the Lord of Hosts."

Our third child was born a few months later. We found out about Grace House and it's wonderful ministry through our church. Being debt free allowed us to give to ministries instead of banks and has freed us to give in ways we never dreamed that we could at our age. Causes involving children were always close to Nate's heart including adoption and pregnancy centers.

God blessed our family with our first baby girl and a year later our 4th boy. A week after this fifth child was born in 2018, Nate found out that he had cancer on his tongue. After a surgery, he was cancer-free and life continued as normal.

In September, he felt a lump in his neck and the cancer had returned and began aggressively growing in the head and neck region. We experienced the Lord guiding us and carrying us through this difficult time.

In January of this year (2019), Nate went to be with the Lord. The day he passed away, I read in the Bible about the death of Jacob and felt the Lord whisper, "It is going to be soon." On my way to the hospital that day, I heard a sermon that was entitled, "This is part of the plan." After an afternoon of praising the Lord through the reading of scripture and singing songs with family, while surrounding his hospital bed, he passed away while I held his hand. On my drive home that night I heard the song by THE AFTERS for the first time entitled, "Well Done". The lyrics are as followed:

# Well Done

The Afters

*What will it be like when my pain is gone  
And all the worries of this world just fade away?  
What will it be like when You call my name  
And that moment when I see You face to face?*

*I'm waiting my whole life to hear You say*

*Well done, well done  
My good and faithful one  
Welcome to the place where you belong  
Well done, well done  
My beloved child  
You have run the race and now you're home  
Welcome to the place where you belong*

*What will it be like when tears are washed away  
And every broken thing will finally be made whole?  
What will it be like when I come into Your glory  
Standing in the presence of a love so beautiful?*

*I'm waiting my whole life for that day  
I will live my life to hear You say*

*Well done, well done  
My good and faithful one  
Welcome to the place where you belong  
Well done, well done  
My beloved child  
You have run the race and now you're home  
Welcome to the place where you belong*

*What will it be like when I hear that sound?  
All of heaven's angels crying out  
Singing holy, holy, holy are You, Lord  
Singing holy, holy, holy are You, Lord  
Singing holy, holy, holy are You, Lord  
Waiting my whole life for that day  
Until then I'll live to hear You say*

*Well done, well done  
My good and faithful one  
Welcome to the place where you belong  
Well done, well done  
My beloved child  
You have run the race and now you're home  
Welcome to the place where you belong- Well done*

I am very confident that God has used Nate's life and even death for His Glory!

Nate had life insurance, so when considering what to use the tithe for, I decided to incorporate two causes close to Nate's heart- Children and freedom from debt. Although our gift isn't enough to pay off the mortgage alone, we will be doing matching funds for any donation toward the debt reduction of the Grace House DeLand Mortgage.

Together, with your gift matched, Grace House can eliminate their mortgage THIS year. Currently, Grace House pays approximately \$2,500/ month toward the DeLand mortgage payment. If the mortgage can be eliminated this year, that will free up \$30,000 per year for Grace House- **for every year to come!** Let me say that again. If this mortgage gets eliminated this year, that will free up \$30,000 per year for Grace House. So in 10 years that is \$300,000 and in 17 years that total is over a half million dollars.

Not only will your gift toward the mortgage this year be doubled by our match, your gift will continue to bless the ministry in years to come by eliminating this large expense of \$30,000 per year. To break this down on a practical level, it would take 25 families each month paying \$100 for years to come to create this same impact on Grace House.

Dollar for dollar, any gift you give will be doubled. If you give \$5,000, your gift will be doubled by the match to a \$10,000 impact on the debt reduction. If you give a month's mortgage payment of \$2,500, your gift will be doubled to \$5,000 with the match. Whatever number is on your heart, double it and that is the impact you are going to have if you give tonight.

I would challenge you to give in honor of someone you love that has passed away. Perhaps give in a multiple of that person's age if he or she were still living today. Maybe you desire to do a gift in honor of each of your children. Some in this room are business owners, who know that God is in control of those businesses and God is the One who has blessed you in your work. Maybe you came in tonight with a number in mind to give to this ministry. I would challenge you to give sacrificially this year.

The womb is the most dangerous place in America. Our nation is at a critical point on the "right to life" issue with a movement toward later term abortions in many states. Sonograms and ministries like

Grace House save the lives of the unborn. This ministry impacts people in our local community! My prayer is that not only will you give generously today, but that you will invite your church members or others you know to join you in giving to this life giving cause.

I can think of no better way to honor Nate's life than to give life to the unborn.

Please partner with me. Give at <http://www.gracehouse4life.org/donate> Thank you.