

CADENCE CONNECTION » In this issue »  
NETTIE MILLER *The beginnings of Cadence  
International's ministry of hospitality: Nettie Miller's  
Legacy, pictures, & stories of military ministry  
impact today*

# CADENCE CONNECTION

SUMMER / FALL 2011



Faith and Hospitality: Nettie Miller's Legacy



"We loved you so much that we were delighted to  
share with you not only the gospel of God, but our  
lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

I Thessalonians 2:8



Sharing the gospel and our lives with the military community

**Cadence International**

PO Box 1268

Englewood CO 80150



David & Joyce  
Schroeder

Dear Friend of Cadence,

We joyfully honor the life of Nettie Miller, one of our Cadence founders, in this edition of Cadence Connection. Nettie and Jesse's story of God's leading them to begin this ministry to military people of this nation and the nations of the world can be found on the Cadence web site at [www.cadence.org/home/history](http://www.cadence.org/home/history).

Suffering, sacrifice, and service marked the Millers' lives and ministries. As they linked arms with fellow mission co-founders, Dick and Margaret Patty, Tom and Dotty Hash, and C.P. and Alma Tarkington, God powerfully used these four couples to form a foundation for military ministry that continues to be built upon to this day.

When I think of Nettie specifically, the word "hospitality" immediately comes to my mind. She so ably and faithfully shared her home, her life, and her love of God's Word. She pioneered the mission core value that would eventually express itself in the Cadence mission statement—"We share the gospel and our lives with the military community."

It is this "sharing" of the Good News as well as our hearts and lives that underscores the people and ministries of Cadence. We open our lives, our hearts, our homes, and our Bibles to military people and their families, and we see the incredible fruit of living and loving in this way.

Nettie Miller taught us this, and we celebrate her legacy.

David Schroeder  
President, Cadence International

## Nettie Miller, the Innovator

by Dotty Hash

Nettie Miller was the most creative, ambitious, capable woman I have ever known. Her husband, Jesse Miller, was the godliest man, and both had a passion for the Lord and for His Word. Here is a brief review that demonstrates a testimony to her faithfulness to the Lord in ministry:

**1949:** In Tokyo, Nettie was the first teacher for Far Eastern Gospel Crusade, now SEND International ([www.send.org](http://www.send.org)).

**1950:** In the Philippines, she and Jesse started the first Christian Servicemen's Home, laying the pattern for many to follow afterward. Tom Hash, my husband (now deceased) of 54 years, and C.P. Tarkington were the first airmen to receive Christ under their ministry.

**1954:** Nettie was involved in the founding of Overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers (OCSC); she did most of the clerical work of getting the organization started and was a prolific letter-writer, always of great encouragement.

**1956:** She returned to the U.S. to establish the home office of OCSC, now Cadence. In the basement of their small home in Lakewood, Colorado, the office was staffed by her and Jesse and volunteers; expenses were paid from their own funds; Jesse and Nettie led the mission until 1978. They also began a weekly prayer meeting in their home.

**1960s:** Nettie became the first teaching leader of Bible Study Fellowship in Colorado with 500 women coming every week. That ministry continues to this day. She also did the clerical work for their book *Prisoner of Hope*: the story of Jesse's imprisonment during WWII in the Philippines, which has been reprinted many times and is still in demand today.

**1995:** After Jesse's debilitating stroke, they moved back to Denver, where Nettie once again taught a women's Bible study in their home. She was Jesse's primary caregiver.

**During her last 10 years,** her ministry of hospitality through Cadence continued as she initiated a prayer meeting of the retired OCSC/Cadence missionaries as well as started fellowship opportunities for women working in the Headquarters office.

September 27, 2010, my dear friend, Nettie, was promoted to the presence of Jesus, whom she loved and served all of her life. *Her legacy will live on.*



Clockwise from top left: Tom Hash, Dotty Hash, Nettie Miller, and Jan Schmautz, Cadence missionary at the Colorado Springs Military Hospitality House. (2008)



# NETTIE, HOSPITALITY, & HER IMPACT IN MILITARY MINISTRY



## *Giving without Ceasing*

*by Chuck Hall*

I vividly recall a day in 1952 at the servicemen's center in Manila. Several of us servicemen were sitting around resting—in fact, many of them were taking a nap. I got up to stretch my legs and as I did I could see Nettie working in the kitchen. She did not see me but what I saw has stayed in my mind. She was working on slicing cheese and putting it on crackers, but more memorable were the tears flowing down as she worked. I stepped back as to ensure she did not see me and sometime later learned the reason for her tears; that was the last food they had in the house. Nettie was a joyful host and even though she knew that what she was about to serve us servicemen was all the food they had, she wanted to give it to us. Her hospitality was what drew many of us into the center.



*Chuck Hall went on to attend Moody Bible Institute and then complete his Th.M. at Dallas Theological Seminary. Today, he and his wife Lois live in Texas where he teaches Sunday school classes and mentors those interested in knowing more about Christ. Chuck and Lois also have the privilege of serving with Ministry Essentials International ([www.meintl.org](http://www.meintl.org)), an organization started by his daughter and her husband that was molded after similar principles and practices used by Cadence International.*

## *Seeds of Hospitality*

*by Jan Utecht*

My time with Nettie was in Alconbury, England, while she and Jesse were filling in at the military hospitality house. While there, I met John Miller (Nettie's son) and his wife Ali, who were newlyweds. Ali and I became friends and spent a bit of time together, which was blessed by Nettie. I attended a Bible study on Genesis that Nettie was leading, and she asked me to finish in her place because she and Jesse needed to get back to the States for the sake of Jesse's health. (Leading was VERY scary for a relatively young Christian at that time!) My family and I went to the house together on nights that Jesse was teaching, and Jesse baptized my husband Rick and me at Godmanchester Baptist Church. While our time with Jesse and Nettie was brief, it was long enough to make a difference in our lives that will carry on until it's all over.



*Today Jan and Rick Utecht are full-time Cadence staff, and they direct the Misawa Hospitality House in Japan. One young staff sergeant in the Air Force, Don Gregory, shared that "Jan invited me in. It was just like being at home. It managed to take away from the loneliness of being away from home. It felt just like family."*

## *Ongoing Ministry*

*by Margaret Patty, Fellow OCSC/Cadence Founder*

I met Nettie in 1955. She had welcomed baby Judy into their home the day before I arrived in the Philippines. Even with the new baby, I was welcomed into their home for the two weeks before my wedding.

Ministry didn't stop, even though Nettie was not feeling well. My first Sunday there the long table was filled with sailors (and us!), and a big chicken dinner was served. Nettie was masterful in guiding conversation around the table, always exalting the Lord. I quickly learned where her strength came from as I passed by her bedroom one morning to see her on her knees before the day began. God not only uniquely prepared her to worship and serve Him well, but strengthened her daily in His assigned tasks as she sought Him.

She allowed her home to be completely disrupted in those two weeks as various missionaries "turned to" to transform her living room into a wedding chapel, complete with fence and arbor

and hanging flowers. This was characteristic of her welcoming spirit, and in the years that followed we always felt welcome for overnights, and even weeks at a time when they settled in Denver.

Nettie had so many talents! She was a very accomplished seamstress, and we wore our “twin dresses” together that first Christmas. (She’d copied mine to the “t.”) She loved to sing, and often led out in starting a song for all to enjoy.

And she was organized! Before she headed downstairs at nine to start her day in the OCSC office, breakfast was served, dishes were done, the vacuuming and dusting were done, the clothes were washed and on the line, and the dinner salad was in the refrigerator! Needless to say, while we admired her abilities, none of us ever felt we had to try to emulate her. And she was content to let us be who God had created *us* to be.

She took her ministry of God’s Word very seriously, and in her teaching days in Denver she was often up very early, preparing thoroughly, to be able to impart God’s truths accurately and in an understandable way. These truths were not only shared with women, but she lovingly embraced and taught her grandsons who are living godly lives today.

## Submissive Strength

*by Bob Bingham*

I recall the days when the OCSC offices were in the basement of Jesse and Nettie’s home. Nettie always worked to be sure the house was ready for the group of us who would come over each week for a prayer meeting. In fact, there were times when I would arrive and she would be outside finishing the lawn mowing. Those of us who would attend the weekly gathering would fold letters and then often we would sing together. Nettie always made sure we started on the right note. She had hymnals that we would use and then the great four-part harmony would begin. We then finished our evening with prayer. Nettie always seemed to have endless energy and she was a gracious host. Even though she was a strong and capable woman, I also recognized her willingness to allow Jesse to lead their household.



*Bob Bingham was exposed to, and learned, many lessons through the ministry of Jesse and Nettie Miller. They have stuck with him over the years. Today he spends his time focusing men and women on an intimate relationship with Christ.*

# CARRYING ON NETTIE'S LEGACY

## Why We Serve Our Military through Hospitality Ministry

*by Lanny Groves, Victory Villa Hospitality House Director (Rota, Spain) and Cadence Regional Leader - Korea*

My journey to serving in military ministry started with an unlikely beginning when I went to my first army assignment in 1988. I was an infantry soldier at Camp Casey, South Korea. I remember well my first night at my new unit. A guy met me at the company area and invited me to go out to town where he offered to show all that the “ville” had to offer, none of which was good. I was not a Christian during my time in the military, and I spent my free time drinking with the guys and essentially wasting the remainder of the day. A few years after becoming a believer, I began to reflect on my time in the military and realized that I saw very little Christian outreach. As I pondered that first night, I remember thinking how much better had that soldier said, “Let me take you to this guy’s house for dinner and Bible Study.” It was through this experience that God began to burden my heart to serve our military where they live by opening up my home for Bible studies, fellowship, and to offer them an alternative for their off time.

In 1998 Stacey and I were married and went on staff with Cadence International to serve our military at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. I had come full circle! We are currently serving America’s Navy and Air Force in Rota, Spain. We love sharing our lives and the gospel in this intimate environment of home ministry!

*Sharing life and laughter at Victory Villa, Rota, Spain.*

