

## Larry Nielsen

I would like to honor JD Brunk today. I am what I am today because of his belief in me, his investment in me. My father was a good father, but he didn't know many things that I needed. JD Brunk helped me see things in myself that I could never have possibly seen anywhere else. Like I said, he believed in me when I couldn't even believe in myself. He began to tell me and encourage me and be a blessing to me to not stop, just continue pressing forward with everything that God had given me.

It was a really difficult time. But over a short period of time, through his encouragement and investment, I began to actually believe in myself. I am the legacy that he left, and I'm trying my best to pass on that legacy to the next generation. He has affected so many lives all over the world—it is amazing! I could spend hour after hour telling you story after story of what he has done. But we don't have time for that. All I would like to do is say, "Thank you JD Brunk for your investment in me and for your belief in me. I am in fact, an example of the legacy that you left. Thank you."

I have heard the word influencer used many times in recent days, and I see who it is connected to—am ok with it—yet here is a man that influenced 1000's of lives and only those he touched knew him.

I am so very blessed to be one of the many whom he touched. When I first met Don and Jo Brunk there was no reason to continue to live, but by God's grace He took me to them so they could show me that I still had lots of things to do. I learned what it was to be a Christian and to stand for something, not just fall for anything.

I had the privileged of spending many years with them and learning all the time how to be kind when a person did not want to.

I have never seen anyone live what he spoke more than Don.

No words can say what he meant to me or to the many lives he touched.

The photo says it all, he was always about influencing others.

God put me with the best and I am so grateful to be able to carry on this legacy that was given to me.