

This Was No Vacation

A lot of our friends have commented that the lockdown was almost like a vacation for them, but we had the opposite experience! We had our most-intense church discipline cases yet, plus had to help with domestic conflict and suicide intervention. We also put on a Covid-style wedding. During the lockdown, Nate conducted extra teaching ministry over the internet, then, when the lockdown lifted, there was a lot of in-person pastoring to catch up on; we served

meals in our home to over 150 guests (not all at once!) during the month of June alone! Other highlights include graduating our daughters Hope and Lillian from Nate's N.T. Greek class, starting a sermon series on 1 Samuel, the return to active status of the third elder to our church session after he had taken a couple of years off, and getting to know in-person a dozen new folks that began attending our church over the last few months. Thanks for praying for us during this time, and please keep praying for wisdom and for us to find the times of rest that we need.



Wedding of daughter Irene to church member Jacen Clapp



Church guys after a Saturday morning workday (Nate in back w/ Hebrew shirt, son Jed in orange)



Nate took our younger kids canoeing (as well as other kids in the church).

Family News

Although it was sad, due to public-health restrictions, to have to un-invite hundreds of friends and family that we had invited to Jacen & Irene's wedding, it was a joy to be able to gather all 12 of our children together to celebrate the day outdoors in the Kansas Flint Hills. The colorful wildflowers were in peak bloom, and the weather was perfect – a rare occasion in Kansas! A special highlight was getting to see our new grandbaby Hosanna from In-

diana for the first time in-person! Pray for God's blessing on Jacen & Irene as they establish their new home across town. Please pray for our son Peter and his wife Hope too, as they recover from a miscarriage while moving 2 hours away for a year of tech school. And pray for our policeman son-in-law Brian who has to risk his life in the middle of the night to stop crime (and for Grace Anne, who never knows if her husband will come home in one piece after work) and also for their move to a nearby town!



Irene & Jacen on honeymoon in AK!



Special dinner with 4 of our 6 married kids!



Paula w/ newest Grand: Hosanna!

Kid's Corner: Lillian Faith

Hello! Since my last kid's corner three more siblings have married and left home, so I am now the oldest kid at home! I also have five nephews and four nieces which I am excited about! Meanwhile, all this COVID19 stuff has not affected me like it would some other people because I don't leave home much anyways. The main thing I have missed is hosting Scottish country dances. Now that it's summer reading time, I just finished book 2 of the *Terrestria Chronicles* about a boy named Josiah who, in the first book, is a slave

but then gets saved by King Emmanuel and becomes a Prince. Then in the second book he goes on a journey to visit seven castles. Those books are allegories, and they have been very fun to read! I also finished my first read through the Old Testament a while back and am halfway through reading it again! Pray that I will continue to grow in the Lord and that I will not miss Irene (my sister just older than me) very much, as she has just gone and gotten married, and that I can be a good example to my younger siblings! You could also pray for God's guidance as I finish high school over the next year.



Lillian goofing off with next-younger siblings



Household photo from December



Lillian, our 7th-born



- Please pray for repentance and faith and restoration of those under church discipline. Our hearts break for them and their families.
- Pray for wisdom and stamina and rest for us and our other church elders and their wives (Chip & Libby and Mark & Beth) in navigating this season, and also for our church evangelist Jason in leading us to advance the Gospel, and our deacon Brian as he trains three more deacon candidates and helps members through financial crises in the wake of the lockdown.
- Pray for son Beni & Rachel as they adjust to parenting three children while doing international student ministry, for son Peter & Hope as they move away for a year of tech college, for daughter Grace-Anne and her policeman-husband Brian (also moving to a new house), for daughter Irene & Jacen as they get established in marriage and in body life with the church (We're amazed at how many guests they've had over already!), and for Lillian (profiled above) to grow well-prepared for adulthood.
- About ten young single members in our church have asked us to pray for a spouse, so let's pray for them too!

