



Nate (right) & parishioner at Christmas outreach



Worship service in our new church building



Nate, Paula & grand Annie at our Reformation Day festival.

New Mercies I See

During our family study of Francis Schaeffer's video series, *How Should We Then Live*, I was struck by Mrs. Schaeffer's comment that the famous passage about God's mercies being new every morning comes right from the middle of Jeremiah's Lamentations, not from the rosy outlook of Israel's golden age. It is down in the trenches, while faithfully enduring hardships, that we see God's mercies most clearly. We thank God for showing us so many mercies over the past several months. For instance:

- The week after I (Nate) asked for prayer for relief from back pain and headaches, the pain ceased! *Thanks for praying!*
- Praise God for the success of the Bethlehem Revisited Christmas outreach, where over 2,000 guests heard the Gospel.
- God provided gifts to cover over \$50,000 in medical expenses we incurred last year between Hope's knee surgery and major dental treatments for Paula and all five kids at home!
- The quarterly ARTIOS workshops for local church leaders are a dream-come-true for me (Nate). God has brought me together with the pastors of five other Bible-believing churches in central Kansas with a common vision for encouraging faithful elders and deacons and for equipping young men who aspire to these roles of leadership in the church. Many of these pastors don't have seminary training, and it is a joy to equip them for greater effectiveness in ministry.

- God has brought our daughter Grace Anne and her family through several stressful months of precarious health for a daughter born with a rare genetic disease. It was Providential that our daughter Hope could graduate from high school and begin helping them full-time!
- A parishioner gave me (Nate) the newly-published *Reformed Dogmatics* by my favorite theologian, Geerhardus Vos. It has been a real refreshment to my spiritual life to review the glorious attributes of God and the magnificent plan of salvation He designed!
- It has also been a joy (despite the hard work) to preach through more of the Psalms and see parishioners identify themselves with David's situations and trust more deeply in God. Now I'm enjoying preaching through 2 Peter, showing the contrast between ungodly thinking and the truth of God's word. When I finish 2 Peter this summer, that will complete my 1,500-page commentary on the General Epistles of the New Testament, another exciting milestone!



Family band concert last Oct. @ Wilsey Christian Church Daughter Hope tending "Baby Jane" & Jane's siblings



Family dinner (Irish Stew!) during a family retreat

Kid's Corner: Maggie

Hi! I'm turning 11 in a couple months! Since my last Kid's Corner two years ago, I've taken up cross-stitch, taken a guitar class with my Dad (it was fun!), and started Spanish and Greek. I've also started making dinner for the family with Jed every Wednesday. My favorite dessert recipe is lemon bars. A few times a week, some of my nephews and nieces come over, and we play

together. (We're up to 20 of them total plus two on the way!) In school, my favorite subjects are Science and Reading. Currently, I'm reading a George Washington biography; I'm also hoping to finish my first read through the Old Testament this year. I started a flower garden last year, and I'm looking forward to planting a bigger one this spring! Please pray that I'll be able to be diligent in school!



Prayer Corner

- Keep praying for our granddaughter **Jane** and her family and also for daughter **Irene** and daughter-in-law **Jandi**, who are expecting soon, and for daughter **Hope**, who has started her first full-time job, providing nanny care for "Baby Jane."
- Praise God for His mercies over the past months and pray for God's guidance as Nate preaches through 2 Peter and seeks to shepherd the congregation. (Please also pray for guidance about what to do with Nate's commentaries on the New Testament General Epistles.)
- Please pray for our church leadership team to find fresh inspiration and enthusiasm for leading and developing the church this year, as many of them emerge from a season of challenging life circumstances.
- Thanks for praying for our family life. Sickness and bad weather forced us to hunker down for most of January, so we got some good homeschooling done. But the spring semester promises to be busy with teaching Greek classes, childbirth education classes, counseling, discipleship groups, men's prayer groups, launching two new worship teams, starting a nursing-home ministry, hosting a homeschool graduation dance for daughter Hope, and visiting out-of-town family.
- Pray for God's blessings on daughter **Maggie** (see Kid's Corner).



Hand-drawn, stylized family portrait given to us this Christmas by a parishioner.

