

Equipping Christian Leaders to Fulfill the Great Commission
13 December 2021

2021 has seemed busier than usual. In addition to leading Lord's Day worship and preaching through 1 Samuel (my written commentary on 1 Samuel is almost complete!), there's been lots of counseling, Bible studies, some new church members, extra travel in the second half of the year (to make up for all the restrictions in the first half of the year)... and lots of car problems, 6 grandbabies born, lots of hospitality (catching up on folks we hadn't seen for over a year because of Covid), mentoring other church pastors, teaching worship guitar and childbirth education classes, family band concerts and recording – all that on top of home renovations and addressing minor health is-

ssues in several family members (getting rid of the mold in my bedroom has me feeling a lot better!). God seems to be directing my attention toward equipping Christian leaders in the areas of enduring persecution, facilitating church growth during revival, and rebuilding after communities have been broken. I have no experience in these areas, but I have been reading some good books, including *Reformed Preaching* by Joel Beeke, *Is It Abuse?* by Darby Strickland, *The Heart of Domestic Abuse* by Chris Moles, and *Overcomers: God's Deliverance Through The Ethiopian Revolution* by Kay Bascom.



Left to right: Nate preaching on Deut. 6:7 after embedding a razor-tipped blowgun dart into the lectern as an illustration, A man in our church harassed by pro-aborts, Paula and some of the church ladies at a baby shower (do you recognize which ones are our daughters?), Paula & Nate at the Getty SING! Conference.



Belize Mission Trip Update

After Nate, Lillian, and Hope bought plane tickets in September to visit a church development effort near the Mexican border of Belize, Covid canceled the trip and nullified the refundability of our “refundable” tickets, so we are looking for a time to reschedule. Thanks to your prayers, the passport agency finally got Hope’s passport to us after a 4-month wait (and that was supposedly expedited)! We’ve considered rescheduling the trip to January, but it looks like it will have to be postponed until summer. So far, about 80% of our \$3k budget has been met. If you want to add a donation, checks can be made out to CTR Church, designated for “Belize Mission Trip.”

Family News In Photos



Left to right: Paula holding new granddaughter Heidi, Dalton & Lillian's engagement, Our daughter Lillian nanny-ing for our son Josh's family in Ohio after the birth of Nellie (our 15th grandchild), Our family band (The Kansan Celts) just released on social media the songs from our first CD and we're training our younger kids (through performances like the one pictured above) to fill in for our bigger kids that have since moved away, Nate holding new granddaughter Madeline.

Kid's Corner: Jedidiah Quentin (10 yrs old)

In the two years since my last kid's corner, I have gained 2 nephews and 8 nieces. I have 6 nephews and 9 nieces now. I really enjoy playing with them. I also



learned to bike, so now I can bike around the block with my sisters and friends. I had a bike crash and got a little concussion, so I couldn't bike or climb trees or do anything active for 31 days, but I am all better now.

Since I am the only boy in the house, I got my own bedroom a year or so ago. That means I can keep the fan as high as I want. I

still enjoy cooking and really like making fried ham and all sorts of eggs. I also really like board games now, but no one ever wants to play *Axis and Allies* with me, so I have to play it by myself. The good thing about that is that I always win :).



Jed, our 17th-born w/ his niece Nellie

A couple weeks ago, I got a jaw expander, and it is really annoying. Mama says it will help my breathing and snoring, but it means I can't have hard candy or toffee. We have toffee sometimes at Christmas.

I am in my first read through the Bible and have made it to Daniel. I started at Genesis. Please pray that I can keep growing in being a man of God.



Thanksgiving Dinner with Nate's parents

- Praise God for the safe births of 3 more grandchildren: **Madeline** to Grace Anne & Brian, **Heidi** to Beni & Rachel, and **Nellie** to Josh & Jandi! Please pray for God's grace for each of our **married children** in parenting!
- Praise God for bringing **Dalton** into our daughter **Lillian's** life, and pray for our preparations for their wedding on April 9!
- Please pray for wisdom for us – as well as our church elders and deacons – in setting vision and direction for the coming year, for the effective “equipping of the saints for ministry” (Eph. 4:12)!
- Thanks for praying for **Paula** and her family after the passing of her father this summer. The busy pace of our life has made it hard to find time to process (please pray for wisdom in how to pace ourselves to avoid burnout!), but Paula has been able to do a few things to memorialize her Dad, and her Mom seems to be doing well after moving to Paula's sister's home in NC.



Merry Christmas!

