



Nate & Paula
@ airport

Betsy, Alie, & Nate – guess where?

Nate (left) with men in the church at a grill-out

Granddaughter Jane
on Christmas Eve

Middle-East Trip Report

A few years ago, our church sent a member to minister in the Middle East, but after a couple of years, her health broke, and she had to return. This past December, Nate, Aletheia, and Betsy arranged to go with her to Cairo to touch base with people she had gotten to know there and to learn more about ministry in that part of the world. Praise God for His provision for us to take this trip, for how perfectly-smoothly our travel connections went, and for all we learned! Throughout the Middle East, God's people are finding ways to share the Gospel through media, education, relief

work, sports, the arts, and face-to-face conversations, and the Church is growing despite persecution!

Meanwhile, Paula went to visit our eldest son (Josh) in Cleveland, OH, while Jed spent a few days with Peter's family and Maggie with Irene's family. We all got back together the week before Christmas and welcomed our son Beni and his wife and 6 children to join us for Christmas week, bookended by our family hosting a Handel's *Messiah* sing-along and a New Year's Eve community Scottish Country dance!

Family Photos



Grandkids @ Thanksgiving
(Imagine the noise!)

Our "kids" Peter, Amos, Jed, Grace,
Alie, and Maggie at Thanksgiving

Grace, Irene, Lillian, Hope, Alie, Betsy,
& Maggie: Our 7 daughters all grown up!

Paula met new grand
Felicity in Ohio!

Church Leadership Lessons

This fall, our church elders (including me – Nate) have been learning some hard lessons about leadership as we have been confronted with complaints from several members in our congregation and have been considering what our part has been in contributing to these problems and how to correct them. Preaching through

Second Corinthians has been very helpful in this process since so much of the book is concerned with resolving a strained relationship between a church leader and the church he had planted in Corinth. Please pray for us as we try to develop a better system of pastoral care and respond well to these issues.

Kid's Corner: Maggie

Hello! Since my last Kid's Corner, I have started taking piano and violin lessons, as well as my second round of guitar classes, and am teaching myself the mandolin. I have also gained 8 more nephews and nieces (plus 3 on the way!); I have gotten into making sourdough bread, and I still like to bake (especially desserts)! I also like jewelry-making and doing almost any craft. When I'm not doing school or music or crafts, I like to read – especially outdoors (as long as it's not freezing!). I have started Grammar (which I really enjoy) and

American History with my three older siblings at home, and I have also been helping out with church administrative work. In December, I got to stay with my sister Irene and her family and to help with her new baby and act in a nativity walk-through with Hope and Jed. I am looking forward to taking a "womanhood trip" with Mama and my sisters to celebrate my 13th birthday and to learn about growing up to be a woman. Please pray that I will be able to find time to practice my instruments more and that I will keep growing in my relationship with God.



Maggie (left) @ Bethlehem Revisited Outreach



Maggie babysitting kids during Parenting Bible Study



Maggie, Paula, & Jed, reunited after Paula's return from OH



Maggie with nieces (Irene & Jacen's girls)



Love that smile!

Prayer Corner

- Praise God for giving Nate, Alie, and Betsy good health, safety, and smooth travel connections in the Middle East, and for giving us renewed vision for God's Kingdom.
- Praise God for the birth of granddaughter Felicity to Josh and Jandi, and pray for the impending births of our daughters Hope, Lillian, and Grace Anne!
- Pray for God to use Nate's men's discipleship, worship guitar class, church orientation class, Sunday sermons, elder meetings, deacon-training classes, Telios missionary training class, and Artios church leadership workshops to equip Christian leaders to fulfill the Great Commission!
- Please keep praying for healthy relationships in our church and for God to give the elders wisdom and enthusiasm to shepherd the flock.
- Pray for God's blessings on Maggie (see Kid's Corner)!

