

Ministering to Soldiers

I (Nate) haven't seen the movie *Stop Loss*, but Joe says that it exactly describes some of what he sees as an army officer. The stress these soldiers experience in their day-to-day routine is phenomenal. Over coffee on a rare day off, Marcos told me this week that he does all the work of a regular soldier, then has to go do paralegal work late into the night – and they don't pay overtime. A representative of

our state district in Kansas told me last week that soldiers in this war, with their multiple deployments, are facing even more difficulties than the Vietnam vets before them. Three men from our church are in Iraq right now, and two more leave later this year. One of them complained that although he has a protestant chaplain, SHE doesn't seem to be a Bible-believing Christian. Meanwhile, I'm only aware of one evangelical chaplain at nearby Ft. Riley. With 50% of the adults in our congregation in the army, I have a special set of pastoral challenges. I praise God, however, for the three new military families who started attending this year and I love the way they jump right in to church involvement!



Chris, Joe, and Sam, some of the young men in our church.

Various & Sundry News

- ☼ We held our first church retreat over Spring Break at Living Waters Ranch with about 50 people in attendance! Mark Travers from Briarwood Church and Turning Hearts Ministries was the speaker, and all were encouraged.
- ☼ In our weekly Apologetics study, we finished exploring *Mere Christianity* and have started into *How Should We Then Live*. I've been leading an additional study through the book of Romans for several Greek students.
- ☼ I've been working with a K-State database professor to develop an internet-based accounting system for The TentMaker Project. The first prototype is now online!
- ☼ After interviewing two candidates for an internship position, I decided not to hire an intern after all. I had hoped an intern could help with things I'm not good at



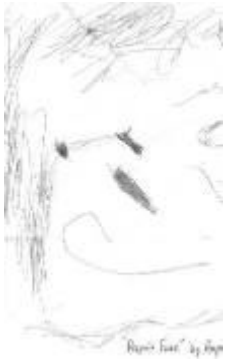
Nate confers with Phil, an elder at Heartland PCA, Wichita.

and lighten my workload, but I'm realizing what I really need is to

trust God and wait on His timing.

- ☼ It is the tradition of the Heartland Presbytery to put mission churches under the leadership of an established church, so Christ the Redeemer Church was recently placed under the guidance of Heartland PCA of Wichita.
- ☼ Our three oldest kids (Josh, Beni, and Amos) all qualified at local speech and debate tournaments for the NCFCA regionals (Springfield, MO – May 1-3). They are hoping to go on to nationals (Birmingham, AL – June 2-6)! Meanwhile, Josh got his driver's license, and Amos turned 13, beginning his initiation into manhood!

Kid's Corner: Hope



My name is Hope. I'm three years old. I like my toy doggies. I like playing house with every [sic] of my friends and my sisters... I like coloring, too; I like to color a hand [and my picture of Papa's face – see left]... I have been learning my letters – a, b, c, d.....q, r, s, t, u, v, now I sung my abc's, next time won't you sing with me... I like playing with Aletheia... I like to sing "Yes, Jesus Loves Me" and "Wide as the Ocean." Pray that I will grow up to be a godly lady.



- 🌿 Please pray for God to help us be good shepherds for our military families, and pray for God to uphold these dear soldiers and their wives with His mighty arm!
- 🌿 Pray that Nate's midweek Apologetics and Romans studies will effectively equip the young men who have been attending.
- 🌿 Pray that Nate and Dr. Chilton can find the time to complete the TentMaker Project database and figure out how to give the Ugandan leadership access to it online.
- 🌿 Please pray for God to give me (Nate) wisdom, self-discipline, and courage to say NO to the "urgent" things that are really not necessary for me to do.
- 🌿 Pray for wisdom for the Heartland church elders as they oversee us, and pray for Chip as he is examined by them to be ordained as our first elder!
- 🌿 Pray that God will protect our three teenagers (Josh, Beni, and Amos), sharpen their abilities, and build in them a compelling vocational vision.
- 🌿 Praise God for our beautiful daughter Hope, for her love for singing and play, and pray that she would grow in the spiritual, physical, and intellectual disciplines of being a godly lady.



Our Girls: Hope, Lily, Irene, Grace, & Aletheia!