

Vocational Counseling Through the Church?!

"When I went to do a home installation, the woman who lived there tried to seduce me! Should I quit this job?"

"The guys at work constantly make fun of me because I'm a Christian. How should I respond?"

"I sometimes have moral reservations about the business choices of clients I counsel. Should I turn a blind eye to their morality, since this isn't a religious business, or should I speak out?"

I (Nate) have been surprised at the amount of job-related counseling that has become part of my life as a pastor! The surrounding quotes are some of the challenges that have been presented to me in the last year. Some seem just impossible. Others, I feel wholly inadequate to address because they are

so far outside of my experience. But I see that simply being there to talk, process through the issues, and pray is important. Hollywood and the rest of the entertainment industry reinforce the idea that work is not important beyond earning money and power, but God teaches us that work is part of His calling on our lives to reflect His character and to spread His kingdom, and I want to impart that vision.

Please pray for God to give us wisdom in counseling people in these issues, and pray for the 2/3 of our congregation who are young people trying to get established in a career!

The boss wants me to work on Sunday. I'm afraid they will fire me if I don't do it. Is this an 'ox in the ditch?'

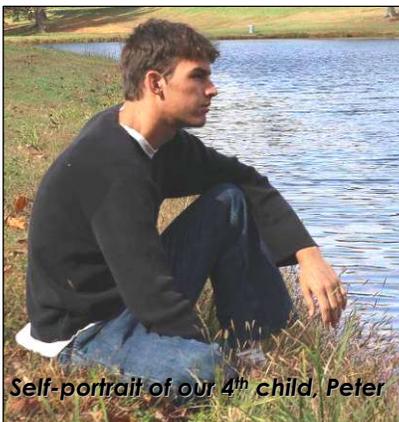
"They won't give me the 40 hours a week they promised because I wasn't fast enough for them. What kind of jobs can I do with my disability that could make enough to support a wife and children?"

"Hey, I'd like to go into the ministry; could you hire me as an assistant pastor?"



Wilson Winter Pastimes: LEFT = Girls' coffee date, CENTER = Amos, Rachel and Beni, a friend, and Paula finishing conceal-carry certification at the firing range, RIGHT: Lillian, GraceAnne, and Hope showing off their Jiu Jitsu belts and stripes!

Kid's Corner: Peter Justin Wilson



Self-portrait of our 4th child, Peter

In 2016 I graduated high school and have been trying to figure out a vocational direction before applying for higher education. Toward this end, I did three short internships, one in tree care, one in service dog training, and one in tech systems repair. While all three had elements I loved, none of them grabbed me, so this past November I started working at Chick-fil-A to get a more steady income while I keep searching. **Pray for wisdom for me as God opens and closes doors, and for courage to explore the paths God reveals to me.**

Film-making has become an extremely side-hobby for me right now, but if you hit the first link under <http://www.NateWilsonFamily.Net/#Arts>, you should be able to see recent projects on my YouTube channel. Meanwhile, I've decided to upgrade my camera and do a little more still photography, and you can see highlights of that at <http://pwilson.portfoliobox.net/>!

But most importantly: for anyone who may have noticed a pattern in the last few Kids Corners, I feel it my duty to inform you (as the faithful, yet underappreciated – and underpaid – date chaperone for my older brothers) that I have managed to remain unattached! Feel free to celebrate with me on Singles Appreciation Day this Feb 14th!

Four New^{ish} Music Albums!



Over the winter, Nate digitally re-mastered four of his old music albums from the 1990's. These recordings were originally made with cassette recorders at home, so it won't sound as good as what you hear on the radio, but the passion and vision for the worship of God and the spread of His kingdom which was captured in these recordings from thirty-odd years ago is something we wanted to preserve and share, and the digital editing Nate did makes them more listen-able.

- Mission – Paula is the vocalist for several of the songs on this album. It's mostly 1980's-90's garage-band-pop-rock-style with a strong focus on reaching the whole world with the Gospel message.
- Holiness – Nate explored hard rock, reggae, a cappella, acoustic, new wave, funk, and even rap on this album, and it's a rather hard-hitting challenge to holiness in relationship with God.
- Psalms & Hymns – Six psalms put to new music, three classical sacred solo vocals, five hymnbook selections (4-part a cappella or just one voice and acoustic guitar), and a couple other acoustic songs by Nate and his brother Ben.
- Spiritual Songs – Scripture and praise songs written by Nate, Paula, and a couple of other folks. A few band recordings are included (one with James Ward on keyboard), but most of these are just voice and acoustic guitar.

All four are now available as free MP3 downloads (+ lyric sheets) from <http://www.NateWilsonFamily.Net/#Music>



- Pray for healing from winter colds and also from **Nate's** back pain.
- Please keep praying for wisdom as we counsel people in their job and family situations, and as we raise children and lead the **church** – also for God's blessing on several recently-started Bible studies.
- Pray for grace through the stress and travel involved in **Grace & Irene's** speech tournaments this spring.
- Keep praying for our sons' vocations:
 - a good job for **Josh**,
 - wisdom for **Beni** in his county and campus leadership,
 - blessing on **Amos** as he starts a new job at Menards while trying his hand at raising chickens,
 - and favor and guidance for **Peter** as he cooks at Chick-fil-A.



Family photo at Beni's Wedding last fall