

Jabori asked around his new Army unit at Fort Riley, KS, to see whether any of them attends church. Everyone pointed him to Dalton, so he made the connection. When Jabori approached this new contact, he saw that Dalton's arm was in a sling, so he opened the conversation with a question: "How did you injure your arm?" The soldier replied, "At church." "Whoah," said Jabori, "what kind of church do you go to???"

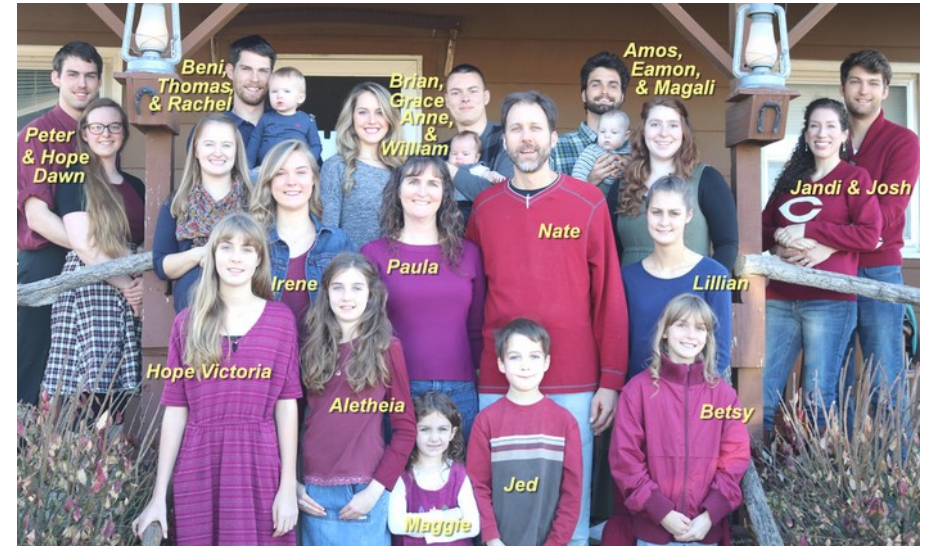
I couldn't help but laugh when Dalton and Jabori came to church and told this story of how they met. Dalton is the same guy for whom we had asked y'all to pray last fall while he was deployed for nine months in Europe. He is a member of CTR, and I'm proud of him for becoming known as "the soldier who goes to church!" As for how Dalton injured his shoulder, he slipped while playing on a tree-swing with my kids one Sunday next to the barn where we meet for church!

There are so many more stories to tell of our adventures in pastoring Christ the Redeemer Church in the "Little Apple" - hard stories as well as happy ones - and most of them with unfinished endings. Thank you for your support in our lives and ministry over the past year!

For me (Nate), 2018 has been extremely difficult due to emotional pain in several relationships and physical pain from back and joint problems, but I have nevertheless been encouraged by the launch of our church's first deacons and by breakthroughs in my spiritual life and in my marriage relationship. God has used all this to help me see the need to cut down my work hours to a sustainable level and to build stronger relationships with Paula and our children. Please pray for me to actually do that! I would also appreciate prayer in the coming year as I seek to lead Christ the Redeemer Church in 1) launching our first home-grown missionary (our son Beni and his family are going into full-time ministry with International Students Incorporated at Purdue), 2) launching our first church Evangelist (Jason Brown and his family are starting a full-time ministry locally), and 3) renovating the barn we rent for worship services! This will all be really faith-stretching for our church, but God has blessed us so far, and with thankful hearts, we look forward to what is yet to come!

On the family front in 2018, our son Josh passed the bar in Texas, Jandi (his wife) finished law school, and now they are expecting a baby. Son Beni & his wife Rachel are expecting their second baby. Son Amos & his wife Magali - and daughter Grace Anne & her husband Brian - gave birth to our second and third grandchildren. Our first grandchild (Thomas) learned to walk, and our daughter Irene finished high school, leaving only six more kids to graduate. God is good!

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings to you in the New Year!



Nate & Paula Wilson, with all our children, spouses, & grands!

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