



Saturday, 12/10/16

PEACE THROUGH THE CROSS

READING: Ephesians 2:12018

Nate and Hannah were born to a mother who made choices that made it impossible to care for her children. Even though Nate and Hannah were brother and sister they had different fathers and neither of them were involved in their lives. Consequently, the children became wards of the state of Oklahoma.

Hannah, being a brilliant and curious little girl, was full of energy and questions. She was quite the handful. As a result her foster parents got the state appointed doctor to diagnose her with disorders she didn't have. She was heavily medicated throughout the day. As a result she was deemed too much of a challenge for the foster parents, and she and Nate were separated. They lived in a world that was far from ours and just as foreign.

In 2011 Nate and Hannah joined our family. Nate was introduced to real food; things other than hot dogs and pop-tarts. Hannah was weaned from her unnecessary meds. We called Nate our little marshmallow because he had very little muscle tone and could not jump. We got them a trampoline. We began to teach them boundaries and rules, as well as things like manners and proper behavior.

We also taught them about the love of Jesus, of how we are brought close to Him and His Heavenly Father through his blood, and how in this, Jesus is our peace. As they grew and learned more and traded their previous life for the new one they now had, they were no longer far off. Instead they were brought near; near to a new family, near to a real family, near to a mother and father, but more importantly near to the salvation of Jesus Christ. But more importantly in this nearness came the peace that was promised them when they were still far away.

This same promise is preached to us whether we be far or near, for it is Christmas Time! The time when we celebrate the birth of Christ our savior. With His birth comes our reconciliation to God in one body through the cross and in this we all have access in one Spirit to the Father. What a peace we can claim knowing we are now a part of God's family and are reconciled to Him through Jesus who we now celebrate.

-Eric Hathaway