

From the Adanks

MARCH 2024

First, I want to thank you all for praying for Rebecca and me about our desire to return to the Mormon West. We need prayer as we seek God's next step for us. A few months ago I was challenged by a godly mentor to assess physical limitations that I have been experiencing for a while. About two years ago I began having daily chronic back pain, and like so many people I had been weakened by Covid as well. I began physical therapy in early December to help me regain strength and mobility. Unfortunately Rebecca and I both caught something that kept us sick for about a month, and during that time the Rehab was not possible. Please pray with us about this matter. I want to be physically able to do the work ministry requires. I need more stamina, and we hope God will use this therapy to restore that. We still hope to return West as the Lord aids in this matter.

We have also been seeking God's will about the type of ministry God wants for us. Most of my ministries in the past involved working alone to plant churches in Utah where there was no other Gospel-preaching work nearby: Ferron (an existing church-plant), Manila, Coalville, and Randolph. At this time I do not believe the Lord wants us to plant another church from scratch unless we are in a team-ministry like we had wanted to have with the Johnsons in the Logan, UT area. There is nothing like moving to a town to start a church where there is no other Gospel witness. We would also consider pastoring out West in an established work that needs a pastor; the Director of the Mission has offered to help us in this. We just want to be where the Lord wants us. We came to Iowa to be an encouragement to family, but we never planned to stay here permanently. Please ask the Lord to direct us.

We have been attending Immanuel Baptist Church here in Newton since the autumn after we moved. The membership is largely composed of seniors, but they chose a young pastor about three years ago. It has been a blessing to be around brethren who have known the Lord for 50 or 60 years, something uncommon in the Mormon West. I was approached by the leadership of the church to fill two different offices for 2024: Deacon and Treasurer. I allowed them to place my name on the ballot, but I explained to the membership that we hope to return West and thus could not promise to fill a position all year. I was not elected to either office.

I "lost" my computer recently and have had problems getting it back. My backup files were corrupted, and programs that I use for my work for Northwest Baptist Missions are now gone. Please pray that I can get those programs back. So far, everything I have done including paying a repairman has failed.

Family Matters: We enjoyed the entire family gathering together in December. Gabriel is serving as a Chaplain's Assistant in the National Guard. Our daughter, Lydia, is expecting her third child. Noah was in two car accidents in December, but the Lord took care of him both times. Our dog, Cookie, died in September, but the Lord allowed us to get a Welsh Corgi puppy in January from another missionary family in NWBM (the Brockas) using Christmas and birthday gifts from family. Rebecca has been struggling with lots of fatigue in recent months, but a friend in church has infected her with the "joy" of quilting. I don't know how she has the patience for all that detail, but her quilts are beautiful. I turned 65 in November but my old body cannot convince my young heart to get in line.

We are thankful for all of your prayer and support. We know that our presence in Iowa for so long has been atypical, and we appreciate your faithfulness to us at this time. Our situation has been a burden to both Rebecca and me, and we pray daily about it. Hopefully we will have some news soon.

In Christ,
Andrew Adank
Ps. 25:8 & Gal. 2:21