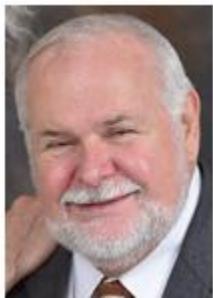


Scott's Thoughts

January 4, 2026



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old have passed away; behold, the new have come.” (2 Corinthians’ 5:17, ESV)

We spent January 1, 2026, quietly at home. Ava fixed a pot of ham and beans then made a pan of cornbread. We prayed for our Children, our forever family here in Newkirk, and each other. We also prayed for the work of the Church here in Newkirk that our outreach could expand and God's church could grow here in Newkirk.

Looking back and ahead! 2025 is now history. It was a trying year for Ava and me. We each had a number of medical issues that affected our year. In January, Ava began to lose weight without trying to do so. After a while, her skin color began to change. After seeing several doctors, it was determined that her bile duct from her liver to her stomach was blocked. The solution was to insert a stent to restore the flow. That went well enough but in the process the surgeon found a tumor on the pancreas. The diagnosis changed immediately to pancreatic cancer. Ava tried herbal treatment for thirty days with no change in the tumor. She then had the wiffle procedure to remove the tumor. This was to be followed by six months of Chemotherapy. As of now, she has five treatments left. (The last treatment will be mid-February). So far things are looking good for her to have a complete recovery.

In January of 2025 I went to Iowa City, Iowa and was evaluated for a P. U. S. H. kidney transplant. After two days of exhausting tests, I was denied being put on the list for transplant. It was not a flat denial; I was

given a short list of conditions I must meet to qualify. I still need to be able to pass a treadmill test and find a live donor. I have worked on the other items on the list since returning from Iowa City and have made some progress on the treadmill but have had no response on the live donor. I have also had some new issues surface during the year and we are working on those.

As we look forward to this New Year, we would both like for our health to improve enough that we could return to Ukraine on another mission trip. We pray daily for our friends there, not just friends but brothers and sisters in Christ, for the many people we have taught, and many more that we have been privileged to work with. The war in Ukraine has not stopped the mission work that is ongoing there, if anything it has increased its effectiveness. We also look to God to help us meet this year's challenges and embrace its blessings as we progress day by day.

Please join us in prayer that God will be glorified and more and more people will turn to Him and obey His Gospel.

“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13–14, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott