

**The WHEELERS church planting in SW Iowa**

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Greetings from the heart of corn country!

As some of you know, Patti and I finished our furlough reporting last month. We revisited many of the towns in the area and it still looks like Treynor is the best location to plant a church. After eliminating other potential properties, we made a formal request to use the “Legion” room of the community centre by the fire station. It took a few weeks for the city management team to approve the application, so I went straight away to pay the deposit to secure it for our use. Lord willing, in mid-July we will launch. Between now and then, we shall be inviting as many folks in the area as possible. Treynor Days, the annual town celebration, will be held at the end of this week, and will, we trust, give us a concentration of folks in the town centre, which will be a help for meeting and talking to folks about the Lord and the little Baptist church starting in town. So, pray that the Spirit of God will lead in every conversation and all literature distribution will ultimately be to the praise and glory of Christ our Saviour.

Once the brethren around Nebraska and Iowa learned that we had returned to the area, I started getting called on to fill in for those men going out of town or being ill or recovering from surgery. Pastor Harold Holder up in Blair is (and has been) quite poorly. He is wanting to retire from the pastorate, but the man they’ve called won’t relocate from Texas for a few weeks yet. So, until we start meeting in Treynor, we’ll try to help up in Blair as we can. Bro. Harold is a dear man who loves our Lord and His church. Pray for him in his health struggles, and the Great Commission Baptist Church that he leads, that they might go from strength to strength as their new pastor arrives later this summer.

Two words come to mind when thinking about this past year: **transition** and **patience**. We had to *transition* from ministering in a Welsh culture to operating in an American context. It required a *transition* from ministering in a local context in a relatively small area to having an extended itinerant ministry across the country. It is the latter that has forced upon us new measures of *patience*. Being seasoned-citizens has helped; the young versions of Tom and Patti would have chafed at the month after month of travel, waiting to get started again (we do remember deputation in the last millennium). And now, on the threshold of the new ministry, it is a toss up between excitement and nervousness.

Gospel-loving friends, thank you, again, for partnering with us in the Lord’s work. Keep on praying. The devil hates biblical, Christ-focused gospel ministry. God give all of us many who will have ears to hear in the coming months.

We appreciate you,

Tom & Patti Wheeler