

Scott's Thoughts

March 1, 2026



“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11, ESV)

On Saturday, February 21, Ava and I left Newkirk for a week of travel. The only thing different about this trip was that it has been over a year since we left town together for any reason except to go to doctors' appointments. This trip did include an appointment with a doctor, but we spent most of the time visiting old friends and family. Our first stop was Hugo, OK. We lived in Hugo in the mid to late nineties. We enjoyed living there and made many great friends. It was nice to drive into town and see the sign in front of the church building saying, “Welcome Back Scott & Ava Dutton.” Their current minister said he had several calls asking him if we were moving back to town. No, we were just visiting. They did let me preach at both services on Sunday. After our Saturday drive, preaching the morning service, and eating lunch, we went back to the hotel and took a three-hour nap.

Monday, we visited with three families that are experiencing some rough times. We did so to encourage them and they also encouraged us. Late Monday morning we headed to Richardson, TX. We relaxed and made our daughter's spare bedroom our headquarters for the rest of the trip. We just visited with Annie and loved the dogs for the rest of the day. Tuesday, I had the doctor visit with the neurosurgeon who did my brain surgery eleven years ago. It was just a check-up, but as sometimes happens, it brought me

some hope. He wants me to have a CT Scan because there is a chance he can make an adjustment to my shunt that could help me with the current issues I am experiencing. I ask that you will be praying about that.

Ava made the trip with minimal discomfort. She came alive as old friends hugged her and surrounded her with love. They have been praying for her for over a year now and it encouraged them to see her as a walking example of God's power. I will ask you to continue your prayers as her treatment moves from chemotherapy to radiation. We do not have a plan for radiation yet because she needs a more current CT Scan or maybe a PET Scan before proceeding with radiation therapy.

Wednesday, I met early in the morning with a church group called “Romeo” “Retired Old Men Eating Out.” This group has changed in membership since we lived in Richardson, but I still recognized many old friends. They asked me to speak on the current state of the war in Ukraine. They had a lot of questions, so I did my best to answer them. Wednesday evening, I met with the mission committee for the Waterview Church of Christ. For some years now, they have partnered with us to help with mission work in Ukraine. Thursday, we drove home and arrived at four P.M. We began the process of unpacking and settling back in Newkirk. Once again, we were surrounded by those we love.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24–26, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott