



# *The Pannell Family*

## Missionaries to the Upper Midwest

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Montana  
North Dakota  
South Dakota  
Minnesota  
Iowa  
Nebraska  
Wyoming

2021 has been a busy and exciting year for our family! We thought we might take a look back at everything that has happened to get a good look at the big picture of our ministry and deputation. We have several prayer requests too, so check the end of the letter for those.

**January-** We spent the entire month in Minnesota getting our first taste of Midwestern winter! It was surprisingly pleasant to live in the winter weather and snow and we were able to visit and present in a lot of churches. Scott got to go ice fishing for the first time with some missionary friends and we gained several supporting churches.

**February-** Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi, East Georgia, South Carolina and more! Those are all the places we took the camper for meetings in February. We celebrated our 11th wedding anniversary and got to spend time with several of our favorite missionary families.

**March-** The majority of the month was spent in Louisiana and Tennessee. We embarked on what was intended to be a 3-4 month trip making a loop out west, then north around the western half of the country. Our biggest prayer request was to be ready to move to Sioux Falls by March 2022.

**April-** We headed west and while driving through Texas, we experienced a major breakdown. Miraculously, we were within minutes of a Baptist church our friends had visited; the church had a camper hookup for us, invited us to service, took us on for monthly support, and paid for our repairs. That week forced us to truly depend on the Lord, and allowed us to see Him work in ways we cannot explain. We left Texas to head to Arizona, Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming but got struck with a stomach bug. By the time everyone stopped getting sick we had missed so many meetings and had not covered the miles we needed in order to reach the remaining stops on our road trip. We packed up and headed back home.

**May-** After fully recovering from the stomach bug and getting everyone back home to rest, we got to enjoy the Hope of Israel Annual meeting. We gained 13 new supporting churches over the course of April and May so we were excited to be getting closer to Sioux Falls. We also finally hit 50% this month!

**June-** June was a BIG month for us full of exciting decisions and announcements. After much fervent prayer and consideration we announced that we would be moving to Sioux Falls on September 1, 2021. We began to raise \$15,000 as a startup fund to get us moved, purchase literature for outreach, and pay our first few months of rent.

**July-** What a blur! We continued regularly scheduled deputation meetings, sold our camper, Scott took a load of our belongings to Sioux Falls to store in a storage facility until we could move. Our oldest, Maddy, celebrated her 10th birthday and we began saying our goodbyes to family and friends.

**August-** We officially moved out of our camper and into a prophet's chamber. All of our belongings were packed into our utility trailer, the cargo rack on our excursion and the tool boxes of Scott's utility truck. The anxiety and panic began to settle in as we were unable to secure a place to live in Sioux Falls. After weeks of searching we were able to contact an agent who facetimed us a tour of an available home. She signed our lease virtually. We hit the road on August 30 and headed to our new home in the midwest!

**September-** The big day finally arrived. We pulled into Sioux Falls late on the night of August 31 and stayed in a hotel just minutes from our new house. The morning of the 1st, we drove to the house, saw it for the first time in person, signed our lease and immediately began unpacking the trailer to move in. All of the \$15,000 we needed had come in and we had reached 60% of our needed support! We made a quick trip back to Georgia for Scott's ordination service.

**October-** We had a few meetings in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. After mentioning in our prayer letter that we needed an extra freezer and a fuel efficient vehicle, we received an oversized deep freezer for our garage; it was filled with meat by several different families who donated to us! What a blessing! Scott was able to purchase a used Trailblazer with 4 wheel drive for the winter. Our first Bible study went on the calendar for November 1 and we officially began outreach and visitation to invite our neighbors!

**November-** We hosted our very first Thursday night Bible study! We had a few guests who enjoyed coffee and snacks and our study on "What the Bible really says". The second week of Bible study we had 10 guests in our home! It was truly exciting to have people attend and be willing to hear the Word preached. We also realized we would need a larger space to meet if that number of guests continued to attend. Scott established Cornerstone





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Baptist Church and had invitations printed with the church name and the gospel.

**December-** Money came in to purchase a digital piano for the church. We were able to secure a conference room at our community center, which ended up being so much more than we could have hoped for. We have two classrooms and a full kitchen available to us at no charge! We have had two families consistently attending our Thursday night Bible studies and one couple has begun personal discipleship with us! We prayed about being able to reach every home in our zip code with a program the postal service has called "Every Door Direct Mail", and literally the next morning \$5,200 was sent to us. That amount was the exact cost to reach 20,707 homes— EVERY home within our zip code. These mail outs will be sorted and sent out in January.

As you can tell from our monthly recap, 2021 was a busy and wonderful year. The Lord continued to bless our deputation and our ministry throughout the year, even through difficult times and new situations that missionaries have not experienced in the past. We are so thankful for the wise counsel of our pastor, other veteran missionaries in the midwest, and the guidance of the Lord. Our family is so grateful for supporting churches that remained faithful to their giving, and went above and beyond when we were in need.

At the close of 2021, we currently have 72% of our needed support coming in. All of our personal needs are provided for and that is a great blessing. However, the remaining 28% makes up the funds needed to support our ministry (things like rent on a building, printed literature, mail-out campaigns, etc). We are ready to rent a building, but because of our support level and the market here in Sioux Falls, this next step is proving to be difficult.

One building we looked at had a meeting space to fit about 25 people, and two small offices. The owner was asking for \$1300 but came down to \$800. After much prayer and consideration we realized that the zoning was not right, and we would need to install several safety systems in order to get the zoning for a church. The cost was far beyond what we felt the rental was worth to us. We also considered another location that had a large storage area for \$700 that came with access to a club house type area with tables, chairs, fireplace, etc. It would have given us a place to store all of the church startup items we have, and give a place to meet both for bible studies and church services. However, the clubhouse area provided shared access to all tenants of the storage facility and had no offer to guarantee access on a given day. Everything else we have looked at here in our area is upwards of \$2000 per month with very few accommodations.

We are currently praying and negotiating over a particular building just a couple of minutes from our house. It is a storefront attached to a small strip mall that sits at the corner of a major intersection. The building has a large meeting space that is over 1,800 sqft that could double as sanctuary and fellowship hall, as well as 3 offices that would make great classrooms; it already has storage areas and bathroom and is zoned in the classification we need. We are really praying that the Lord would provide a year or even two years worth of the lease payments up front before we commit to the property.

We are excited to begin 2022 as we expect the Lord to do mighty works in our lives this year. Our deputation will continue through the month of March and then we will no longer be traveling to meetings. Our goal is to begin Sunday services in April, thus the need for a building as soon as possible. Please pray with us over all these things we have mentioned as we look forward to the coming year:

- the remaining 28% of our needed support
- 12-24 months worth of rent for a building by the end of March
- Our last 3 months of deputation meetings
- Young couple we are discipling
- Our Every Door Direct Mail invitation to reach soft hearts, for people to attend services