

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries in Taiwan
with Baptist Mid-Missions

"Good news from a far country" - Prov. 25:25

August 21, 2007

Dear Praying Friends,

It's been a long time since our previous letter. We last wrote from Taiwan; we are now in Midland, Michigan for a year-long furlough. In the period of time between these two endpoints we have been engaged in **training, transitioning, and traveling**. We have had our share of **trials**, as we continue to learn to trust God, and **triumphs** as God continues to bless His **truth**.

TRAINING. As we made plans to return to the U.S. for a year of stateside ministry, we gave serious thought and effort to conserving the fruit of five years of labor at Cornerstone Baptist Church. This required **training** our congregation to "do the work of the ministry" in our absence. Of course, this has been our goal all along. We are excited to watch as God's people step up and take responsibility for the work.

We are also excited to see how God has provided for the congregation's need of pastoral leadership. Tad and Hannah Wychopen arrived in Taiwan to take our place on June 7, one week before we departed. A week was hardly sufficient to **train** them for the multi-faceted responsibilities that they were stepping into, but they have continued to receive "on the job **training**." Since they have not yet learned the language, they must communicate through interpreters. In spite of this handicap, God has truly blessed their ministry during their first two months on the job. In early September they will be joined by the Pat Delaney family, who are experienced missionaries from Singapore. They and the Wychopens will be splitting ministry responsibilities at Cornerstone Baptist while both families pursue language study. Please pray for a unified spirit among the two missionary families and the church.

TRANSITIONING. We said goodbye to Marsha Gamber on June 4 when she left Taiwan and returned to Michigan. Her ministry to our family and to the church will have a lasting impact for years to come, and for eternity. At the same time that we were arranging for the continuation of the church's ministries and getting the Wychopens settled, we were also trying to pack up our own things for furlough (we didn't sleep at all the last night), and we flew out of Taiwan on June 14. **Transitions** are never easy. As we re-enter American culture we are experiencing reverse culture shock (since when have people started wearing pajama pants in public?) and all of the stresses involved in a change from one location to another, from one ministry to another, and from one lifestyle to another. God continues to show himself faithful to us through all of our changes.

The home provided for us by Calvary Baptist Church of Midland, Michigan has certainly made one part of our move easy for us! Before our arrival the church completely remodeled the interior of the house, furnished it, and fully stocked it with everything we would need. We moved in on July 29 and had only our suitcases to unpack.

Another **transition** for our family is the change from home schooling to a traditional Christian school in a large local church. The kids must adjust to a regular class setting and new friends, responsibilities, and schedules. Mom and Dad are slightly bewildered by the sudden hurricane of three teenagers with all of the sports, music, scholastic, and social activities in which they are involved. We need God's grace and wisdom to balance the needs of our family with the needs of our ministry to the churches as we travel and report. Pray that we will all **transition** gracefully.

TRAVELING. We arrived first in California where we visited for two weeks with Matt's family in the Sacramento area. We enjoyed the reunion with his parents and with his brother's family which lives and ministers in an extremely remote area of Alaska. It was the first time in five years that our two families had been together.

From California we **traveled** to Michigan where we stayed with Marla's family for a week. Marla's

parents have given us their second vehicle, a 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan, to use during our furlough. We praise the Lord for the provision of this specific need in answer to prayer.

Next we *traveled* to Cleveland, Ohio to participate in Baptist Mid-Mission's annual conference. We were refreshed and encouraged as we sat under the preaching of God's Word, renewed acquaintances with friends and co-workers, and gained valuable information and tools during the various workshops. During the conference we received our 20-year service pins, which reminds us of two things: life is short; and God is faithful!

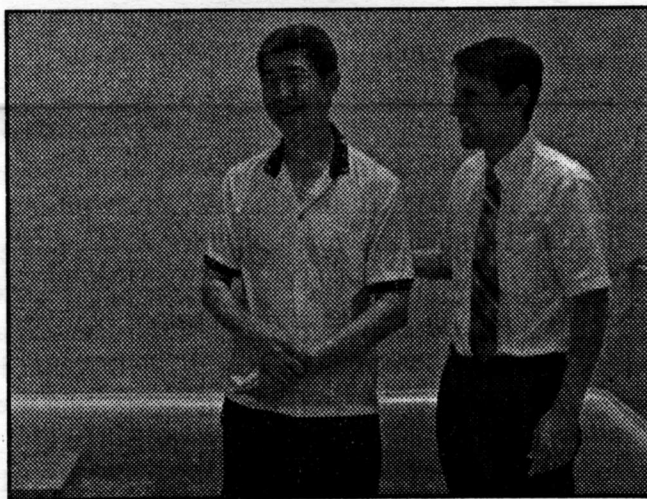
From Cleveland we drove to Greenville, South Carolina where Matt attended a two-week ministry course at BJU. While there, we also visited with friends at Morningside Baptist Church (our sending church) and enjoyed the fellowship of long-time friends, Dave and Shelly Little, who hosted our family during our stay. Our children enjoyed touring the BJ HomeSat studio and meeting many of the teachers who taught them (on video tape) during the past five years.

After Matt's final exam, we hurried back to Michigan to participate in the 100-year anniversary celebration of Hope Baptist Church. This is Marla's home church which has a wonderful testimony of faithfulness to the Lord. At this time we also moved into our furlough home and unpacked our suitcases after six weeks of *travel*. Our furlough address is 6107 Perrine Rd., Midland, MI 48640 (Phone: 989-832-3590). This and other contact information is also available on our website (www.hannas.org) where we have also posted our *travel* itinerary for the year. Please use this itinerary to pray for us during the busy months of *travel* ahead.

After arriving in Michigan, Matt and Marla enjoyed a quiet week of recuperating, planning, organizing, and unpacking while our three children enjoyed the opposite experience at the Wilds Christian Camp. Fellowship Baptist Church of Whitmore Lake, MI generously invited and sponsored them to attend the Wilds with their youth group. It was our kids' first experience at the Wilds, and all three benefited spiritually from the focused preaching and exciting program.

TRIALS & TRUST. One of the *trials* that we face during this furlough is the difficulty of scheduling meetings in supporting churches which are spread from Michigan to Georgia in the East, and from California to Arizona in the West. We also need to arrange meetings in new churches to try to raise new support. We are currently at 80% of our support need. We have never been fully supported; but over the last five years our support level has drifted even lower due to the rising cost of living and an increase in ministry travel with its associated expenses. We are *trusting* God to work out for us a feasible travel schedule, *trusting* Him to raise up for us additional partners in ministry, and *trusting* Him to provide the necessary funding for His work and our family's needs.

TRIUMPHS & TRUTH. Our crowning *triumph* is the continued faithfulness and progress of Cornerstone Baptist Church, even in our absence (1 Thess. 2:19). Reports from the Wychopens and others declare that the church is not just surviving, but flourishing. God has confirmed openly that the work is not ours but His own! Of course, there are individuals who are wavering, stumbling, and drifting for whom we have great concern. But God's work continues to move ahead. Please pray for God to continue to bless His *Truth* as it is taught and preached by the Wychopens, the Delaneys, and teachers and leaders in the church congregation, and as it is lived out in the lives of the people.



Baptism of Mr. Jau in May

In Christ,

The Hannas

Matt, Marla, Luke, Rose, & Beth