



November 2, 2008

Dear Praying Friends,

Christmas greetings from Taiwan! This season is always full of opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas – the Lord Jesus Christ! Cornerstone Baptist Church will be reaching out to the community through a ladies' Christmas brunch on December 11th, and a musical/devotional program at one of the local hospitals. We'll also be having a Christmas Eve service at the church. We appreciate your prayers for these opportunities.

Another highlight of the season will be Luke's arrival from the States on December 21st. Gospel Fellowship Baptist Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia was led by God to graciously give Luke a round-trip ticket. To God be the glory! Luke took quite a full class load (19 hours) for his first semester at BJU; beside his classwork, he also has a work scholarship load of 10 hours/week and instrument practice. Living away from home for the first time he has been learning many lessons both inside and outside of the classroom.

In November our family finally got moved and settled into a larger apartment just one block from the church. We are enjoying having washer & dryer, office, and home school back at home again! After a stressful two months in which we returned to Taiwan, resumed ministry at Cornerstone Baptist Church, organized our missionary ministry team, and began our new school year, we finally are beginning feel more settled (as much as that is possible for a missionary!) in our family, school, and ministry schedule.

Because of our delayed return, home school didn't get started until the 3rd week of September. More delays came with the move, of course, but we hope to steadily plod along and finish the semester at a reasonable time. Rose has been coaching a girls' softball team at Morrison Academy in her "spare time", and enjoying it very much. Their team will travel to Taichung on December 13th for a softball tournament. Elizabeth hopes to get back into regular violin lessons to encourage her continued progress. And both girls plan to restart their Chinese lessons again to brush up on what they've forgotten. Hopefully all of these needs will begin to be met during second semester.

After six weeks, Marla is now free of cast and crutches. It was interesting and challenging to move our household with the limitations imposed by her injury, but many missionary friends and church family helped us to manage. She shares a bi-weekly ladies' meeting with co-worker Dolly Wong, oversees our girl's home schooling, and is a housekeeper, wife, and mother.

Matt stays busy overseeing the many church responsibilities. These include teaching and preaching on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, visitation, and planning the church schedule and activities. Our church attendance has really gone up. In fact, November 16th we had a record high attendance of 94. We are in great need of a larger meeting place. Please be in special prayer as we begin looking for the location of God's choice. It will probably stretch the church's faith, patience, and budget, but we are confident that God will provide just the right place at the right time, and for the right price. In the meantime we are putting temporary measures in place, such as preparing an overflow room upstairs where people can see and hear

the service when the auditorium is full. Matt also teaches every Tuesday for the Bible college.

Matt is the team leader for the group of missionaries God has brought together to help equip the CBC saints for the ministry. Our team includes Tad and Hannah Wychopen who are short-term BMM missionaries working with our youth and studying Chinese; they will be remaining with us through August, 2009 and plan to raise support and return to Taiwan for full-time ministry in the future. Team members Pat and Mary Delaney and family (Baptist



World Mission) are also in language study, since they came from Singapore where their ministry was conducted in English; Pat is leading our English International Ministry as well as helping with teaching/preaching responsibilities in our Chinese services (through an interpreter). Dolly Wong comes to us from Singapore via Open Door Baptist Mission (Morningside BC, Greenville, SC). In addition to an effective evangelistic and discipling ministry, she is also setting up a church resource center and initiating literature translation projects.

We have been stretched and challenged in multiple ways since our return to Taiwan. It is a comfort and encouragement to recognize that God is working; we have only to discern where God wants to take us and then follow and obey his will and leading with diligence. We are being forced to confront our own sinful inclinations and besetting sins as we move forward. It is sobering to realize that we ourselves are the greatest obstacle to what God wants to accomplish through us. Please pray for us in this regard.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

In Christ,

the Hannas

Matt, Marla, Luke, Rose, and Beth