

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries in Taiwan
with Baptist Mid-Missions

“Good news from a far country” - Prov. 25:25

August 25, 2009

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for continuing to faithfully pray for the Lord's work and for the needs of our family here in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. There is much for us to report concerning what the Lord has accomplished in the last few months in answer to your prayers. We also have some specific needs and requests for you to bring before the Lord in our behalf. Thank you for your concern for us during and after Typhoon Morakot. It was the most damaging Typhoon to hit Taiwan in 50 years and the worst damage was located right in our area. However, other than some cosmetic damage to the front of our church building and some temporary flooding in the homes of a few of our church people, we have personally suffered no long-term ill effects.

In our last letter we requested prayer for two special events. We held a church dedication service in our newly leased building on April 12 (Easter Sunday). The building was filled and we had a wonderful celebration of God's goodness. Since then we have seen a steady increase in attendance in all of our services with multiple visitors present every week. We broke attendance records two weeks in a row in July without any special promotion (95 and 105). It has been a blessing to be able to seat more people comfortably. We have had some minor problems caused by the growth of the church which reveal the need for more organization and an expansion of ministry by our people. Please pray that we would be able to effectively reach out to those who visit, especially those who are unsaved.

The second event for which we requested prayer was our family's move into the upper two floors of the church building. We had to do some remodeling, as well as painting and cleaning before we were able to move our furniture and household items. Moving day was at the end of April. Our new home is much roomier and more comfortable than our previous apartments have been. One immediate benefit was the new guest room which we were able to set up for ministry guests and personal visitors. We have already entertained three different couples or individuals since moving in! One couple, Stephen and Evelyn Wesco, visited with us for two weeks in May on a missions survey trip. They performed gospel chalk drawings and a harp concert and learned about missions ministry in Taiwan. Another group of young people from Singapore also stayed with us for several days to observe the ministry here.

On April 29 Titus Tad was born to co-workers Tad and Hannah Wychopen as they approached the end of their two-year short-term ministry with us. Under Tad's leadership the church youth ministry expanded and flourished. Cornerstone Baptist Church hosted the youth camp this year for all the Taiwan Fundamental Baptist churches; it was held in early July with Tad Wychopen as our camp director and Rev. Christopher Chern of Singapore as our special speaker. Many good decisions were made by the teens from all the churches. Then just after camp concluded, Tad, Hannah, and Titus packed up to return to the U.S. for Tad's further seminary studies. They are greatly missed here, but we hope to see them back in a few years as career missionaries.

The departure of the Wychopens has led to some inevitable changes in our team. Dolly Wong will be continuing to work on translation projects, personal Bible studies, and leading the choir, but Pat Delaney has moved into the slot of youth pastor. While he continues to make progress in his language studies he will bring much practical ministry experience and wisdom to the youth ministry. The whole youth group is making the transition well, in spite of the additional loss of Daniel Delaney who provided powerful positive leadership among his peers. He has returned stateside for his first year at Bob Jones University to begin in September. One of our Chinese teens, Thomas, recently made a profession of faith and was baptized. He and several other young men also have great leadership potential which is beginning to develop. Pray for all of our teens to become grounded in the faith and to use their zeal and enthusiasm to serve the Lord.

In the last few months, Marla and I have conducted many one-on-one or couple-to-couple Bible studies. Some of these were evangelistic in purpose, some were for the purpose of discipling new believers, and some were for marital counseling. Just last week, one woman made a profession of faith after we have been regular meeting with her

and her husband for about two months. Actually it has been a family effort since our girls help watch their small son so that the parents can concentrate on the Bible study. Pray for Yoshimi (the Japanese wife) to become grounded in her new faith; also pray for her husband, BoChing, who is not yet saved and comes from a background of ancestor and idol worship.

With the adjustments of our return to Taiwan last September and all of the cleaning, painting, packing, and working necessary for our family moves (twice) and the church's move, the girls' home schooling has fallen behind. We are still working to finish up last year's curriculum so that we can try to start on time for this year's class schedule. Please pray that we get caught up. Our family did have the opportunity to take a week's vacation in June and went to one of the off-shore islands where we relaxed, read, biked (us old people rode a motor scooter!), snorkeled, and hiked. Throughout the summer the girls have enjoyed an opportunity to participate in baby care at a Christian adoption agency home. Last week while the girls were swimming with friends, Rose broke her collar bone. Please pray that it would heal properly and that she would not be hindered too much in her daily activities. Luke starts back to school in September at Bob Jones for his second year. He spent the summer with his grandparents in Michigan where he worked odd jobs and helped in church ministries. Please pray for him as he continues his studies.

In September I (Matt) will continue teaching in our small Bible college with a course on the Life of Paul. I will also be traveling abroad in October to teach a Bible class to Mainland Chinese students for the fourth year in a row. With all of the responsibilities I'm carrying right now, it



Thomas Chen and two others were baptized on August 16th

doesn't look like I'll be able to get away for any studies of my own this year. Marla will be teaching our church ladies some principles on raising children using the book *Shepherding a Child's Heart* as the supplementary text. Over the next several months I will be attempting to convert our adult Sunday School into to a small group, multiple class concept. Pray that teachers and leaders for these classes would rise up and that all of these ministries would be effective and successful. Finally, pray for God's presence and blessing in our lives as we attempt to minister to the needs of others out of our own experience of the grace of God.



Flooding on our road during Typhoon Morakot

In Christ,

the Hanna family

(Matt, Marla, Luke, Rose, and Beth)



Church signs and porch destroyed by Typhoon Morrakot