

November 23, 2009

Dear Praying Friends,

Thanksgiving is upon us; Christmas is right around the corner. Where has the time gone? Our family is already past the one-year mark in this term. Although "fun" is not the exact term to describe our experience, "time flies" by us as we participate in God's continuing work in Cornerstone Baptist Church and beyond.

Since our last communication with you, we have had two more baptisms, at least 5 more individuals have joined the church, and our Sunday attendance has steadied at around 80 people. A further advance has been the establishment of a children's church ministry which is spearheaded by several ladies in our congregation. But we have also experienced some contractions. The David Jiang family moved to Australia for a year (work related), Elsie Tsai married and followed her husband to the US for studies, and the Delaney family is in the process of relocating to Taipei. Yoh Shirato, a BJU graduate in music and theology, helped to train our church choir during his three-month stay in Taiwan while in-between other ministry assignments, but he too has now departed. Also Dolly Wong returned to Singapore in early November to care for her father during his final illness. He has since passed away, but we don't expect her return for a few months yet. Please pray for her and her family.



Of all these changes, the departure of the Delaneys will have the biggest impact on our ministry. They and the Wychopens came in the fall of 2007 when we took our furlough and have had a very good ministry among our people. Their present plans are to finish language study in Taipei while they lay the groundwork for a future church planting ministry with a special interest in reaching university students. They will be moving their household on December 7, so pray for them as they pack and adjust to a new environment. They will be missed here.

In late August we held a Vacation Bible School with about 30 children. We kept it low-key due to a shortage of workers at that particular time. Jerry and Grace Hsu, our Sunday School Directors organized and led the activities, while Emily Luo, a Chinese co-worker, taught the Bible lessons. In October, Matt travelled out of Taiwan to teach another class of

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Mainland Chinese house church leaders. This is the fifth straight year that Matt has taught in this program. It has been interesting to see how the program has matured and begun to bear fruit in the lives and extended ministries of the graduates in China.



基督教房角石浸信會2009暑期兒童聖經班

Please pray for the next steps forward that Cornerstone Baptist Church needs to make. With the departure of the Delaneys, all of the major teaching and preaching ministries fall back on Matt. This will require greater commitment by individuals in the congregation to accept further responsibility. We are now in the process of transferring the adult Sunday School class to an able deacon (Sam Hung). This is the first step in our goal of converting to a small-group Sunday

School concept. We hope to split our present adult Sunday School class into multiple smaller groups. Obviously, this will require even more qualified teachers.

Our biggest area of need is the youth. After Tad Wychopen left, Pat Delaney taught the youth fellowship; now I will need to step back in to teach. Please pray that some members of the congregation will come on board as sponsors to help with this important ministry. We want to build the lives of our youth for future leadership in the church.

Plans are now being laid for a very busy season of ministry as we approach Christmas. After a hiatus in the last few years, we are once again resuming the Christmas outreach in the public schools. At present count nearly 700 students and teachers will come under the influence of our gospel presentations of the Christmas story. Emily Luo is helping us to plan and organize the schedule, and the mothers of some of our students are helping to prepare the tracts and gift bags that will be distributed to each child. We will also be holding a special Christmas program on Christmas evening (Dec 25). It will be the first Christmas in our new building, and we look forward to the increased seating capacity it allows for this kind of special event. Then on January 1-2 we are planning a church retreat. This is the first time we will have done something like this. We hope to teach on a special Bible topic, increase our church fellowship, and enjoy a time of recreation together. Please pray as we plan the details of this event.

Finally, our family is doing well. The girls did finish their 2008-09 school year—just in time to begin the next one! They are working hard to stay on schedule so that they will be able to finish on time this year. Rose's broken collar bone healed nicely, and she is now back to full activity. Luke is now in his second year at BJU studying Bible and trumpet and doing well. Both Marla and Matt continue to hold regular Bible studies with several different individuals or couples. Our family (less Luke) will be traveling to Thailand in February (Lord

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willing) to attend the Baptist Mid-Missions O.A.S.I.S. conference ("Oceania -Asia: Strengthening & Inspiring Servants"). Because most BMM missionaries in Asia are scattered and isolated, this conference will provide an opportunity for us to network, share ideas, and fellowship together. This is only the second time that this conference will have been held, and the first time that it will include wives and children.

In an attempt to improve our communication with you our supporters, we have launched a new weblog entitled *East is East* (located on our website). Visit it us regularly at <http://www.hannas.org> to get current information about our family and ministry between prayer letters.

In Christ,

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