

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries in Taiwan
with Baptist Mid-Missions

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

February 15, 2010

Dear Praying Friends,

We are thankful to the Lord for his faithfulness and continued blessing upon our family and ministry. We have flipped our calendars and are now advancing into a new year and a new decade. It seems such a short time ago that we were worrying about entering a new millennium. It gives us great confidence that "In every change, He faithful will remain."

In our last prayer letter we mentioned several items for which we can share blessings and answers to prayer. Our Christmas ministry in the public schools was highly successful; more than 700 students and teachers heard presentations of the Christmas story containing a clear gospel message. Half a dozen ladies from Cornerstone helped us staff this outreach ministry. Then we held our first ever church retreat in early January. We will make some improvements to the program next year, but all who participated enjoyed a good time of fellowship in a beautiful setting about an hour from our church.



Our adult Sunday School class, under the leadership of Sam Hung, has been well attended since he took up the reigns in early January. In fact attendance has been better than when I was teaching the class myself. So much for the myth of indispensability This helps lessen my preparation load and expands the ministry of the Church.

Our youth group has remained fairly stable since Marla and I resumed the leadership, but it continues to be a challenge to minister to the particular needs of this age group. Youth work was not a part of my ministry training and I am struggling to learn the ropes. Eleven teens attended our winter youth camp during the first week of February. Praise the Lord for one young man who has recently expressed a willingness and desire to serve the Lord in full-time service.

Also in early February our family traveled to Thailand for a five-day spiritual enrichment conference held by BMM for its Asian missionaries. We greatly enjoyed the time of fellowship and sharing of ideas and strategies with co-workers whom we rarely have the opportunity interact with. Since our return the Chinese New Year holiday period has begun. Because many of our people are out of town and all of them are busy with holiday activities, we are experiencing a

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strangely quiet week. The lighter ministry schedule permits us to catch up, reflect, plan, and prepare for the future. The last several months have been extremely busy and full. Please pray that we will be able to discern God's direction and leading for the next steps forward that our church needs to take.

Marla and I are holding several personal Bible studies for which we request your prayers. One couple we have been meeting with for many months. The wife made a profession of faith early on and is showing clear signs of change and growth. The husband, however, is confused and bound by his traditional thinking and superstitious background. Please pray for God to clear away his confusion and make the gospel plain to him. In another case, Matt recently had the opportunity to lead a man to Christ who has attended our church for several months. We plan to start a home Bible study with him and his wife after Chinese New Year. His wife is a professing believer but attends another contemporary church in the area. Please pray for wisdom as we disciple and counsel this couple. We each also have additional discipleship studies which we are conducting.

Furthermore, this coming semester I will be teaching an extra course at the Bible College which adds to my load. Please pray for wisdom as we attempt to take the Bible School ministry to the next level. We need to upgrade our organization and level of instruction in order to accommodate those who have expressed a desire to serve the Lord in full-time ministry. In the past, because of our inability to provide a more professional level of seminary training, some have abandoned us for the larger, established evangelical schools which exist on the island. These schools are all much broader and more eclectic in their outlook than we are and have been leavened by contemporary movements and charismatic influence.

Finally, in our annual business meeting in January, our church decided to pursue the purchase of property for a future church building. To this end we will be forming a property committee to help investigate the options available to us. Please pray for wisdom for our congregation as we step out into this uncharted territory.

If you have been following our family and ministry on our blogsite (<http://www.hannas.org>) some of the information in this prayer letter is not new. Our blog is one way that we are attempting to improve our communication with our prayer and financial supporters. We have been posting new information, articles, news, and pictures on our blog about once a week on average. We will continue to send our printed prayer letters to those who need it; however, if you have reliable e-mail access, we invite you to switch over and receive this letter by e-mail subscription and cancel your snail mail subscription. Follow the instructions found on our website under "Staying in Touch". Our Skype addresses are [matthew.hanna](#) and [marla.hanna](#). If you can manage the time difference, you can also call and talk to us for free.

In Christ,

Matt Hanna
(Matt, Marla, Luke, Rose, & Beth)