

June 7, 2010

Dear Praying Friends,

"One soweth, and another reapeth" (John 4:37). Although God's Word never returns void, it is one of the principles of sowing and reaping that the sower does not always see the results of his labor. We have faced some frustration of this kind lately in the personal Bible studies that we have been conducting and for which we have requested prayer in past letters.

Two of Marla's one-on-one Bible studies (15 to 20 weeks in length) have concluded with mixed results. In one of the cases, the individual has not shown any change or benefit, has no desire for baptism, and has become sporadic in church attendance after the Bible study concluded. The other individual is a teen who also needs to be baptized but has not yet indicated a willingness to do so.

In the couples Bible studies that Marla and I are currently conducting we have also become bogged down. Our study with one couple, with whom we have been meeting weekly for almost six months, seems to have come to a stalemate. The wife has made a profession of faith but the husband has not. He is bound by traditional thinking, superstition, and a hard heart. He enjoys the friendship between our families and so is perfectly glad for the study to continue, but shows no indication of being willing to seriously consider the claims of the gospel. When we get to the end of the supplemental text that we are using (in another month or two) we will be closing this study down and trying to get the wife into a private study with Marla. Pray that there would be a spiritual breakthrough in the life of the husband and that he would be saved.

In our last letter we mentioned another study that we hoped to begin soon. We have now been meeting with this couple for about three months. Although they seem to be growing and express appreciation for the teaching that they receive, they are also quite sporadic in their church attendance, have delayed baptism indefinitely, and have dismissed our calls to increase their commitment. Please pray that Marla and I would have patience and wisdom in dealing with these spiritual issues. Pray also that God would use His Word in the hearts of these individuals to bring about change, growth, and commitment.



Finally on this topic, I have started up a Saturday morning advanced discipleship class for six of our young men. These have all completed the basic discipleship course and have committed themselves to learning how to read and study the Bible for themselves. We are using Howard Hendrick's Living by the Book (Chinese translation) as our supplemental text. This intensive course will probably last a full year.

The broader ministry of Cornerstone Baptist Church continues to go forward, though more slowly than in the past. Marla leads the choir, plays the piano regularly for church services, and teaches a ladies' meeting twice a month. Last month the church organized a property committee to pursue the possible purchase of property for a future church building of our own, but this process is not moving very fast.

It has been very grueling for us to keep up with all of the preparation for church ministry responsibilities. We look forward to the soon return (Lord willing) of our co-worker Dolly Wong after an extended absence. This will help to relieve some of Marla's load. I am also hoping soon to add our first additional staff member to help me. I have a plan which I will be presenting to the congregation at the next business meeting for this purpose. Pray that the congregation will share the vision of expanding the church leadership. Even more importantly, pray that God would supply the right man for the job (there are a few men that I am considering). This will be an opportunity for me to provide on-the-job training to a potential future pastor and to evaluate more carefully his spiritual fitness.

This summer is looking to be a very busy one. June 12-13 we will be hosting a musical team led by Florence Fong from Hamilton Square Baptist Church in San Francisco. The team will present a sacred concert for our congregation on Saturday evening and provide special music on the following Lord's Day. Our Taiwan Baptist Youth Camp, which Cornerstone is sponsoring again this year, will be held on July 12-15. Immediately afterward I will be flying to the U.S. to take a seminary block course at BJU (Lord willing). While there I hope to find time for a short visit with our son Luke and also with my parents. I will return to Taiwan on August 5. Then Cornerstone will be conducting a week-long VBS for children from August 16-20. On August 21 I will be leaving Taiwan again to teach Mainland Chinese house church leaders for a week. Please pray for blessing on these various ministries, traveling mercies, the smooth continuation of church ministries in my absence, and for Marla and the girls while I am gone from home.

In conclusion, our family is doing well. I had the opportunity in May to spend a few days with our son, Luke, while I was in the U.S. on mission business. He has just completed his sophomore year at BJU majoring in Bible; this summer he is working on the grounds crew at the Wild's Christian Camp in North Carolina. Rose and Beth should be finishing their school year soon. Beth is a sophomore and Rose a senior in our Hanna Homeschool. Rose will not be graduating this school year, but will be sticking around for an extra year. She should finish up her high school studies about December, then plans to leave for college in the U.S. next summer. Beth should graduate in 2012 (Lord willing). Marla is realizing that her career as a home school mom is about over.

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries in Taiwan
with Baptist Mid-Missions

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

We count it a privilege to represent you while we serve the Lord here in Taiwan. This regular prayer letter is published four times a year. To obtain more recent information about us between prayer letters, or to view family and ministry pictures, or to find articles about Taiwan, missions, and ministry we welcome you to visit our website at <http://www.hannas.org>.

In Christ,

the Hanna family
(Matt, Marla, Luke, Rose, and Beth)