

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries in Taiwan
with Baptist Mid-Missions

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

April 14, 2011

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for remaining faithful in praying for the needs of our family and ministry over the last several months since our last letter. Cornerstone Baptist Church continues to see spiritual growth, even though our attendance figures have not changed significantly. We have also passed some milestones in our family life which will directly affect our future.

In our last letter we requested prayer for our Christmas program. There were approximately 150 people present to hear our Christmas cantata and a gospel message. Now it is already Easter! This year we will be holding an Easter Sunrise service on a nearby mountain as well as an Easter Worship service at the church.

Church ministries have taken some steps forward and some steps backward. We last requested prayer for Sheldon Lin as he took responsibility for the Children's Church ministry. Unfortunately, he has had to step away from that ministry as well as from his studies at the Bible college due to a personal issue. He has not turned away from the Lord, but will need to focus on this personal issue before he can move forward. Please continue to pray for him. Now the Children's Church ministry is in limbo, and we're struggling to keep it staffed and on track. Pray for new workers—particularly those who will be willing and able to provide responsible leadership for this ministry.

The adult Sunday School class is doing well under the teaching ministry of Sam Hung. He recently made a public announcement of God's call on his life for full-time Christian service. He has now been accepted into an internet seminary program which will require several years to complete. While he is studying he will be able to receive personal ministry training from me and practical ministry training through participation in the church. Please pray for him to apply himself to his studies and to allow God to work into his life the things necessary for present and future ministry. His wife, Jean, has suddenly realized that she will also be in ministry. So she has begun taking classes at our local Bible school to help prepare herself as well. It will not be easy since she is already teaching full-time at a local college. Please pray for both of them.

Last week, we also inaugurated a new Sunday School class for the teens. Dolly Wong is teaching the girls and I am teaching the boys. This allows the adult class to be more narrowly focused on adult level topics while providing age-appropriate materials for the teens as well. Of course this adds to both Dolly's and my burden, so please pray for us in these ministries. We also have regular youth meetings every Saturday evening for the teens for which I am

responsible. This is another area in which we are praying for God to raise up a leader from our congregation to carry responsibility for directing the ministry.

This semester, I am once again teaching in the Bible school. For the first time we are holding classes at our church location, instead of across town at the school building. We decided to give up the school building and move the office and class rooms elsewhere. This has opened the door for some of our Cornerstone ladies, who could not easily travel to the other building, to begin taking classes. This semester I am teaching the Life of Christ to three ladies from our congregation (including Jean Chiu).

Marla, who is the church pianist, and Dolly Wong, who is the choir director, have been attempting to develop the musical talents of individuals in the congregation. Marla has been training some of the older youth to play the piano for congregational singing and choir accompaniment, but it is a slow process. However, we have seen progress in this area. These newer musicians will be able to help in times when Marla is absent. Pray for people who are willing to invest the long hours of practice necessary for musical ministry. In addition to directing Children's Church, playing and teaching piano, fulfilling home responsibilities, Marla has also increased her counseling ministry to women. Pray for her as she carries a heavy load.

Looking to the near future, we are rapidly approaching summer. This means Youth Camp and VBS. We are already planning and organizing for those events. In addition to church ministries, I (Matt) have two ministry trips coming up as well. At the end of April I will be making a ministry trip into a closed country to teach. This will be my first experience at this kind of thing. Please pray for safety and blessing on the ministry there. In July I will be traveling again to another location to carry on a similar ministry. I praise the Lord that my April trip has already been paid for by special offerings given here in Taiwan.

In January Marla made an unplanned trip back to Michigan for two weeks. Her father was very ill and we decided it was necessary for her to go back to see her dad and help her mom with his care. The trip went smoothly and her father has now improved enough to return home. However, he is still very weak and is not able to get around as easily as he could before the illness. Please pray for his health and for the strength and health of her mom as well. We thank the Lord for a special offering from Hope Baptist Church (Hope, MI) which completely covered the cost of her plane ticket.

Marla will be traveling again to the U.S. this summer when she takes Rose to register and prepare for college. Rose officially graduated from high school in February and has enrolled at Bob Jones University for the fall. Next year will be Beth's senior year of high school. We are planning to take a regular furlough beginning in May 2012. When we return to Taiwan

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after that, Marla and I will be true "empty-nesters." Luke is still studying Bible at BJU and plans to graduate next year.

Please remember these many needs. We are thankful that Christ, as the Lord of the Church, continues to build His Church here in Taiwan. We are amazed that He stoops to use us in that process.

In Christ,



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



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