

September 2, 2011

Dear Praying Friends,

As I look back over our last prayer letter, I am amazed at how much of major significance in our personal lives has taken place since we last wrote. The short version is as follows: Marla's father passed away in April and we've been back and forth *several* times to the US. Also, Marla had major surgery on August 2 from which she is still recovering. Below is a more specific accounting of events for those who have been praying about particular needs which we have previously made known.

Just after our last prayer letter, at Easter time, Marla's dad went to be with the Lord, after being in failing health for many months. Our whole family traveled back for the funeral and remained for just one week. Only a month later we returned again to the US to help Rose get prepared for college and to celebrate Matt's parent's 50th wedding anniversary. Although the extra travel hit our budget hard, this second trip had been planned long in advance and could not be changed without suffering major penalties. While in Hope, Michigan we held a graduation open house for Rose; now she and her brother Luke are both settled into their college school year at Bob Jones University in South Carolina. Pray for Rose as she makes the transition to college life and for Luke as he completes his senior year of studies in Bible. He hopes to move up to graduate studies next year. Pray also for us as we attempt to counsel them through this critical time in their lives from the other side of the world. Finally, pray for Beth who is now in her senior year of high school. She has expressed a desire to pursue medical missions in the future and therefore is taking all of the really difficult college-prep courses this year.

Matt took two ministry trips during this time period. In May he traveled to a closed nation where he taught a Bible class to local church believers, and in July he traveled to another location where he once again taught the book of Revelation to house church leaders. This is his sixth year of involvement in this ministry. Although it was an intense and exhausting experience (even more so for the students than for the teachers), the teaching was well received. It is a blessing to be a part of building up faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

In August, Marla underwent a hysterectomy to deal with health issues that go back to before our marriage. Although we weren't able to give much advance notice to others before the fact, it had been a long time coming. We decided to take care of it now so that she would have plenty of time to recover before our planned furlough in 2012. The surgery was uneventful, but Marla has found that she is not rebounding as quickly as she would like, or as quickly as she has in the past. It is a symptom of our advancing middle-age, I suppose! A month afterward she is still quite limited in her activities and finds that she requires lots of daily rest. Please continue to pray for her recovery. By the way, we celebrated our 25th

(silver) wedding anniversary on August 16. We've postponed the major celebration till after Marla gets back to full strength.

The church has rallied around to help us during all of these personal upheavals. Co-laborers from nearby fundamental churches, as well as some of our own men, filled the pulpit during Matt's absence; our deacons provided leadership; co-worker Dolly Wong continued her work with music ministries and the youth; and Sam Hung helped teach the youth fellowship, as well as his regular adult S.S. class. Now we are looking ahead to our upcoming furlough and beginning to plan for our absence at that time as well.

In May Sam Hung started his seminary studies by internet. Our church has invited him to serve an internship which will begin in October. All of these new responsibilities are challenging him to pursue greater maturity in his personal life and ministry for the Lord. Our forecast is that he should be able to get through his program of studies in about three years. Pray for him, and for his wife, Jean, who is taking classes at the Bible school, as she is able. Sheldon Lin is also continuing his studies at the Bible school, but will not be serving in any official capacities at the church in the near future. The new semester begins September 12. Matt will be teaching part two of *the Life of Christ*.

The youth ministry has been doing very well, but has grown even more challenging to manage well. Several new kids have begun to attend our youth fellowship on Saturday evenings. Our youth camp in July was moved to a different venue this year from where we have previously held it, but was a success. In August we held a joint youth rally with the other Baptist church here in Kaohsiung, and on September 17 we will be taking them to the city of Taichung for another similar event. The youth S.S. class has been split, with Dolly teaching the young women and Matt and one of our deacons team-teaching the young men. We are praying and hoping that either one of our mature families will take the position of youth director or that a young couple will come over and work with the teens in a way similar to what Tad and Hannah Wychopen did in previous years.

Looking ahead, we are planning to take a furlough from May 2012 through February or March of 2013. Once again we are looking for creative ways to allow the church to keep making progress while we are gone. Although Sam is moving forward toward the goal of ministry, it is not fair to ask him to accept full-time responsibility for the church (even for a short period) before he has completed his seminary studies. Please pray for wisdom and provision as we prepare for these future needs.

This Sunday we plan to hold a baptismal service; five individuals are scheduled for baptism. Many of these are recent believers and are in need of further discipleship training. Pray for wisdom as we try to meet the needs of these growing believers.

Finally, we thank you for your personal involvement in our lives and ministry through prayer and giving. We especially thank those churches and individuals who gave special offerings to help defray the costs of our extra travel back and forth to the US. We deeply feel

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries in Taiwan
with Baptist Mid-Missions

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

our need for the spiritual power, wisdom, and guidance which only the Lord can provide.
Please continue to uphold us in your prayers.

In Christ,

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

P.S. PASTORS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! Send us your request for a meeting date or dates on which we can report to your church during our upcoming furlough (May 2012 through March 2013). Thank you!