

November 19, 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

How wonderful are God's promises to us concerning the possibility of working together with Him through prayer! Thank you for taking this ministry seriously and for partnering with us in prayer for "the furtherance of the gospel" in Taiwan.

We recently received information about the ongoing ministry of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Taiwan, which is taking place in our absence. Several individuals have made professions of faith and some have been baptized and added to the church. Henry and Grace Tsuei from Greenville, S.C. just arrived at Cornerstone at the beginning of November for a two-month "tour of duty" as our temporary furlough replacements. We are thankful for their willingness to deploy in order to help maintain stability and continued growth in the congregation. Because they grew up in Taiwan and speak fluent Mandarin Chinese, they have great insight into the needs of their own people; we are confident that they will be able to minister effectively to the people there.

After they depart, Dave and Shirley Marsteller will be arriving to carry on the same ministry for the months of January and February. "Pastor and Mrs. Marshmallow" (as our children used to call them) are especially dear to our hearts: He was Marla's home church pastor (before his retirement); under his ministry she was called to missions; and he was the officiating pastor at our wedding 26 years ago. Some of the English speaking members of the congregation will be interpreting for them during their stay. Marla and I will return to Taiwan at the end of February and have a week of overlap with them before they return to the U.S. Pray for both of these couples as they travel and serve well beyond the age of retirement, for the Lord's sake.

Pray also for Dolly Wong, our co-worker at Cornerstone, as she continues to lead choir, counsel with ladies and teens, and serve in numerous other ways in the congregation. And pray for Sam Hung our church intern, and his wife Jean. Sam preaches about once a month and teaches weekly in the adult Sunday School class. He is also continuing his seminary studies online.

Meanwhile, we continue to have a busy travel schedule here. During a three-week trip in October/November we had stops in 6 states as we reported in supporting churches from Pennsylvania to Georgia. That was just one trip out of many we have taken since our last newsletter. While crossing the Allegheny Mountains just after Hurricane Sandy, we saw our first snow of the winter with several inches of accumulation on the ground and more falling from the sky. We will doubtless be seeing a lot more of it during our December trip to the northwestern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We praise the Lord for travelling mercies as we

have added many more thousands of miles to our vehicle. Please continue to pray for our safety.

In addition to the rigors of travel, we have also experienced the rigors of the health-care system. Since Marla and I have both passed the half-century mark, we were scheduled for a whole new series of additional examinations as part of our normal furlough health screening. We thank the Lord that we are both in good health, for the most part. However, Marla has been diagnosed with *carpal tunnel syndrome*. For several years she has been bothered by a slowly progressing numbness in her fingers, which not only affects her piano playing, but also other daily activities. We are currently treating it with non-invasive therapies, which seem to be helping. Pray that this health problem might be successfully treated without the need to resort to surgery.

Our kids are far into the first semester of their school year at BJU. Luke is enjoying his work responsibilities in the Fundamentalism File at Mack Library and taking seminary classes; Rose is laboring hard at her studies in Education and works part-time in the Child Development Center; and Beth is adjusting to college life, making a good re-entry into American culture, and working part-time at Mack Library. Marla and I are also adjusting to our newly empty nest, but we do look forward to having the children home for Thanksgiving (the 2 girls) and Christmas (all 3). Pray that during the Christmas holiday period we would be able to complete the process for both of our girls to get their driver's licenses.

Finally, pray for Marla's mother who has been in poor health for several months. We are thankful that, in the Lord's providence, we are nearby and able to be of help to her during this time. An unsuccessful surgery last year has resulted in her pain increasing and her mobility significantly decreasing. A new back surgery has been scheduled for December 17. Please pray that it will be successful in halting the progression of her disability and, if the Lord wills, even reverse the effects, so that she can walk normally again. Also pray for Marla and her other siblings who will be helping to care for her during the recovery period.

As we enter into the Christmas season, we wish you all a joyful celebration of Christ's birth. We should not forget that just as Thanksgiving marks the beginning of our calendar approach to Christmas, so we should approach all of our Christmas activities and festivities with a spirit of amazed and grateful thanksgiving: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2Cor. 9:15).

In Christ,

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