



November 21, 2013

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for continuing to uphold us by your prayers, encourage us with your notes and letters, and support us through your financial gifts. Over these few months since our last communication, the Lord has continued to build His church here in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Our attendance has remained stable at around 80. We have lost a few long-standing members through spiritual coldness or disaffection, but we've also had several new families begin to attend and a few individuals have made professions of faith. Overall, we sense a forward-looking attitude as the congregation continues to expand its ministry to one another and to the community.

We requested prayer for our VBS program, which we held in late August. A good group of children attended, and we mobilized a large percentage of our teens and adults to teach, serve, and participate during the five mornings on which it was held. Several children made professions of faith. On a related note, A young person who was saved in our VBS seven or eight years ago suddenly began attending our worship services again with his parents. We are now holding separate Bible studies with both the teen and with his parents. They are all professing believers and we hope that they may soon join the church.



Our children's church program is back up and running after a hiatus of several months. Our co-worker Dolly Wong conducted a series of worker training sessions and completely reorganized the children's worship service (first through fourth grades). We have begun to see good results, both in increased commitment and growth in the lives of the teachers and in a more purposeful and meaningful service for the children. They will remain in our adult worship service once a month on Sundays when we hold the Lord's Supper. Our children's and adult Sunday School ministry continues as usual.

Marla and I have recently started many different Bible studies with individuals and couples that keep us both very busy. It is always encouraging to see believers grow and gain a firm faith-foundation upon which to build their lives. Sometimes these Bible studies start as evangelistic Bible studies and then change over to discipleship studies after the individual makes a profession of faith. One man, Mr. J. has been hearing the word preached while attending our services regularly over the last several months. He is from a non-Christian background and his wife (who attended once with him) is a staunch Buddhist. He agreed to meet with me for a Bible Study and made a profession of faith during our first session. Pray for his growth. His wife is not supportive of his choice. The man pictured receiving baptism in our last letter (Mr. W.) only continued on in our Bible Study for a few months after his baptism, before the pressures of a new job drew him away. Pray that he would be able to re-organize his schedule and renew his commitment to the Lord. In addition to these Bible studies, Marla has also been

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"Good news from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25)



teaching hymn-playing to four different piano students through the Bible College, and I have been teaching a weekly course on Personal Evangelism.



Please pray for our children as they finish up their fall semester at BJU and begin a new semester after Christmas. Pray for Luke as he plans for life after graduation. He will be finishing his M.A. in Church Ministries in May. Matt also just completed an online course toward his M.Div.

In our last letter, we mentioned that Matt's dad (93) had just been released from the hospital. He was soon readmitted with an infection and remained there for more than a month for treatment and rehabilitation. I (Matt) returned to California for a two-week visit to help my mom during that time. He has since been allowed to return home. We praise the Lord for providing for my mom a whole slew of resources to assist with my dad's home care needs. Marla's mom is still bedridden, but we are thankful for some improvement in her condition after starting a new medication. Although a clear diagnosis has not yet been made, it appears that she has a form of Parkinson's Disease. Marla's sister continues to care for her at home.

There are two events on our church calendar for which you can pray. Our Christmas program will be held on Sunday evening, December 22. Because Christmas is not a holiday here in Taiwan, we try to hold these special services on the weekend when more people can attend. Preparations are already well under way to invite the community to come and participate. We plan to have special musical presentations and an evangelistic Christmas message followed by a fellowship time in which to become acquainted with those who visit. The second event for which to pray is our Teen Winter Camp, which will be held in late January. We desire that the gospel would go forth clearly.

As we approach the fall and winter holidays, we trust that you will experience joy and thanksgiving in the reminders of God's grace and goodness to us in Christ. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

In Christ,

The Hannas

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

