



August 27, 2014

Dear Friends, Family, and Prayer Partners,

Time flies! Time crawls! It's all a matter of perspective. Things that occurred three months ago seem like ancient history to us; then again, has it really been seven years since we dropped off our first child at college? Life has a way of teaching us God's perspective on time: "With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

Over this summer, a series of disasters and difficulties rocked our city of Kaohsiung. A plane crashed on one of the offshore islands during a typhoon, killing 48 people. Extreme heat gripped the city for weeks, knocking out three air-conditioning units in our home and church and the radiator in our car. A gas-pipeline explosion in the middle of the night destroyed a two-kilometer stretch of one of the city's major roads, killing 28 and injuring hundreds. Unseasonably torrential rains shut down the city for a day and a half causing flooding and damage. "God is our refuge and strength" (Ps. 46:1-3).

As planned, Yoh Shirato came from Harvest Baptist Church in Guam and spent eight weeks working with our church youth group and the choir. He also spoke at our Taiwan Baptist youth camp (July 7-10). We greatly appreciate his biblical teaching and preaching and his energy and enthusiasm for ministry. 97 people from eight different churches attended our camp. The responsibility for leading the youth is now Matt's after Yoh's departure (something for which he feels totally unqualified and inadequate). Pray for our youth to continue to move forward for the Lord. On this coming weekend, we will hold a "Super Saturday" youth rally together with another mission church across town.



We held our Cornerstone Baptist Church VBS from August 11-15 in the middle of torrential rainstorms. Although the city of Kaohsiung shut down all government and public offices and activities for a day and a half due to flooding, we remained open for business. Our high attendance was about 35 kids plus another 15 leaders and workers. Many of the children were from outside of our congregation giving us new contacts with neighborhood families; two children made professions of faith.

Our son, Luke, has found a stable job in Greenville, SC after finishing his graduate studies last May. Rose and Beth worked on campus throughout the summer and each took a summer course; they will begin their fall semester at BJU in a few weeks. Matt also took a course online over the summer. The content and skills gained through this



course in Old Testament Theology have already begun to enrich his preaching and teaching. Marla and I both are struggling with the personal adjustments required of us during the last few years. We are moving into a completely new season of life and ministry. We would appreciate your prayers for each member of our family.

In November, Matt will be making a trip to India with Bibles International. He will be attending two translation summit conferences and a Bible dedication. This is his first visit to India. The primary purpose for this trip is to increase understanding of BI's ministries, personnel, and operations.

Marla and Matt are together planning to make a short trip back to the US during December and January. We intend to spend Christmas with our children in Greenville and manage some important tasks for them that require our presence. During January, we hope to visit with some of our supporting churches in the South. Pray for the logistics of this trip as we look for short-term housing in the Greenville area and plan our itinerary. Pray also that ministries at Cornerstone Baptist Church will continue without interruption.

It is sometimes painful for us to watch our children mature, grow, and learn through hard life experiences. It is equally painful at times to watch Cornerstone Baptist Church stumble its way to maturity through starts and stops. Of course, this also applies to the individuals to whom we minister, who *are* Cornerstone Baptist Church. We ourselves are similarly still in process of growing, changing, and often failing. Pray for God's grace in all of our lives as Christ continues to build his church in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

In Christ,

The Hanna family

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

