



March 4, 2016

Dear Praying Friends,

Elijah was caught up to heaven in a whirlwind. Although our feet are firmly on the ground, our heads are definitely in a whirl. For us it is truly a month of March Madness! We value greatly your prayers for us during these busy days. How many projects can we actually squeeze into one month? In March we will test the limits.

We praise the Lord for great strides forward on several fronts: The process of registering our church with the government is almost completed. The agency in charge of social organizations has granted approval to our application; now all that remains is for us to apply with the court for legal documentation of our status. We are also in the process of moving church funds out of private accounts and into accounts legally held in the church's name. We also hope soon for our church to be in a position to sponsor visa applications, so that the two missionary couples here with us, who are studying Chinese, can obtain resident missionary visas. Both couples have had troubles recently because of their temporary status in the country.

God has provided a new building location for our church. In December, we entered into negotiations to lease a building only five blocks from our present location. We signed a 5-year contract in January, planned the needed remodeling in February, and actually started the remodeling work on March 1. We have been at our current location—or right next door—since 2002. We praise the Lord for allowing us to remain here for so long. Our new building is sufficiently large for our needs; it is located in our target neighborhood; and it will cost us less money to rent. However, extensive work is necessary in order to make it suitable for church use. One of our deacons is an architect, and he has spearheaded the planning and liaising with contractors for the remodeling work. The other two deacons are equally engaged in managing different aspects of the moving and remodeling process. Church brothers and sisters have all pitched in to help with packing up boxes of books, materials, and other items and moving them to the new building. This has allowed me to concentrate my energies on preaching and biblical ministry, for which I am extremely grateful.



Remodeling work for new church auditorium.

Because the new building has six floors, Marla and I are planning to move into an apartment above the church, much like the living situation we had for many years in our present building. However, this means ANOTHER MOVE for Marla and me, as well. We have been packing up our household goods, obtaining moving bids, moving boxes of our belongings, and cleaning the new apartment. Some remodeling is also necessary to make these upper floors suitable for apartment living; this work is being bundled together with the church remodeling, for the sake of efficiency. Because our present apartment contract expires before the church's new contract actually begins, we will need to move out before our new apartment is ready. We will take up temporary quarters in the old church until March 20th.

Our goal is to hold our first service in the new building on Easter Sunday, March 27. Please pray that the contractors can complete the work in a timely manner and that we can get all of the church furniture moved in time to meet that goal. This experience has been instructive for our congregation. Seeing all of

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



the work required just to move to a leased building gives us pause when we consider how much more will be required of us when we purchase or build our own building. We are continuing to save money toward this long-term goal.

Marla and I will not have long to enjoy our new apartment before we must leave on March 29 for a mini-furlough in the US. We will begin in California, visiting with Matt's mom, and then spend most of April visiting supporting churches in California and Arizona. At the end of April, we will fly to Greenville to attend Rose's graduation from BJU. Please pray that we would be able to help our two girls get settled for the summer with housing, jobs, and transportation. While we are there, we also plan to see our son, who is living and working in Greenville. Praise the Lord for the timely provision of our housing needs, during our short stay in the US. We will be returning to Taiwan on May 26. During our absence from Taiwan, please pray for our deacons, for the church congregation, and for the two young missionary couples that are here, the Stewarts and the Bollons.

Matt recently began preaching a series on 1 Corinthians that has been both a challenge and a blessing. Pray that God would use this portion of Scripture to call our congregation to develop a consistent biblical worldview and to commit themselves to biblical obedience. In January, Henry Tsuei helped our men organize and begin a monthly men's fellowship meeting. Although, our ladies have met together regularly for several years, there has not been a venue for the men to gather until now. They have responded enthusiastically to this new opportunity. For two years, Marla and I have been leading our youth fellowship. Recently one of our deacons expressed his desire to begin transitioning from the children's ministry into the youth ministry. This spiritually mature couple will be working together with us and taking up some of these responsibilities.

Finally, Marla and I recently visited with the next-door-neighbor of one our church members. The woman, who is ill with cancer, and her husband are both past middle age and come from a traditional Chinese religious background of ancestor worship and idolatry. Some of their grown children were also present when we met with them on two occasions. During the second visit they gladly responded by receiving Christ. The daughter has attended our worship service for the last three weeks and informed us that she recently trusted Christ also. Please pray that the parents would now begin to attend church, so that they can grow firm in their faith. Additionally, pray for many unsaved spouses and family members of people in our congregation that they would get saved.

When we return to Taiwan at the end of May, we will be jumping right in to preparations for our summer youth camp. This year our church is responsible for planning and organizing the camp, which we have scheduled for the beginning of July. Please pray that we will be able get some important work completed on this project before we leave at the end of March.

In Christ,

The Hannas

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



Our Cornerstone Baptist Church missionaries (from left to right): Brian & Erin Bollon family, Henry & Grace Tsuei, Josh & Rachel Stewart family, Matt & Marla Hanna.