

The Hanna Newsletter



Missionaries to Taiwan



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

November 2, 2016

Dear Praying Friends,

It has been a whirlwind around here (literally)! In September, Super typhoon Meranti drove past us, just off our Kaohsiung coast! Its gusts shook our building so forcefully, that it mimicked the shaking we usually feel during small earthquakes! Then came another strong typhoon, Megi, which was also filled with strong winds and lots of rain. Thank you to all who prayed for our safety. The Lord graciously protected us.

In other ways, it has remained a "whirlwind" in everyday life since our June prayer letter. Thank you for praying for summer camp (July) and for our childrens' VBS (August). Many church members helped with both ministries. During the week of camp, there was another typhoon, so we had to shorten camp by half a day to insure that everyone could get safely back to their homes. Grace Lee headed up our VBS again this year. Two ladies from a sister church helped with lesson time the first day. Then one of our Taiwan national missionaries, Emily Luo taught the remaining four days. Two children made salvation decisions. Since that week, we have had some of those children, along with their parents coming for Sunday school and morning worship service. Praise the Lord!

September 30 was International Bible Translation Day. In honor of that day, our congregation took up a special collection to support a Bible Translation project in India. (One of our supported missionaries is assisting in that work.) We collected just short of \$2,000 usd. A few weeks later a large group from our church went on an outing to a Bible museum in a neighboring city; it displayed over 400 different language versions of the Bible, plus many special Bibles in Mandarin Chinese. There were huge Bibles, copied entirely by hand; there were miniature Bibles, requiring a magnifying glass to read; and the personal Bibles of well-known Chinese leaders. We wish to encourage our people to appreciate the great blessing of having the Bible in their own language.



Cornerstone Baptist Church at the Bible Museum

Two of our deacons and Matt have been team-teaching our adult Sunday school class. They are working their way through Jim Berg's book, *Created for His Glory*, which has been translated into Chinese. So far, there have been great discussions with the brothers and sisters that are participating. Our third deacon is helping to team-teach the Saturday night youth meetings. He has also been burdened to start up a youth Sunday school class, which began October 16th. We praise the Lord for these faithful and willing men who encourage our people to love and serve Christ.

Josh and Rachel Stewart returned to Taiwan on October 29. Their visa application was successful and they now have resident missionary visas, which allow them to remain in Taiwan indefinitely. Praise the

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Lord! As they settle back into Taiwan life, they will begin moving into a pastoral role in the congregation. We look forward to this expansion of our church leadership team and expect positive benefits from the energy and new perspective that they will bring. Rachel still has some language study to complete, since her health issues have slowed down her progress. Pray for both of them as they move into new roles.

Please begin now to pray for our Christmas ministries. Every year our church has wonderful opportunities to reach out to our community with special evangelistic ministries.

- December 12: Ladies' Christmas Tea
- December 17: Children's Christmas Party (morning)
Youth Christmas Party (evening)
- December 24: Christmas Musical Program

Immediately after Christmas, Matt and Marla are planning take a furlough in the U.S. During the past eleven years, Matt has been working toward an advanced degree at BJU through correspondence, block, and online coursework. He plans to finish off the majority of his M.Div. requirements during the spring 2017 semester. Elizabeth should finish her undergraduate studies this December, so there is a possibility that both Matt and Beth will be in the May 2017 graduation line-up! The Lord has already provided housing for us, which is located quite close to the school. We will just need to stay bundled up so that we can "enjoy" the U.S. winter weather, since we are much more used to the Asian tropics! We plan to visit our supporting churches in Michigan and Wisconsin during fall, 2017. If you would like to schedule us for meetings during that time, please let us know.

Finally, for those of you wondering about the increased responsibilities that we have assumed with our mission board, we are working hard to become acquainted with our Asian missionaries and spending lots of time in phone and conference calls with our home office, while we get up to speed. We are thankful for the opportunity to minister to God's servants and to contribute to the work of establishing local churches throughout Asia and the Pacific islands.

Thank you, again, to those who pray for us, as well as to those who send support gifts for our ministry here in Taiwan. We greatly appreciate you!

In Christ's love,

Matthew and Marla Hanna



A miniature Bible and a giant hand-written copy of the Mandarin Bible.