

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries to Taiwan



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



April 17, 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

Psalm 48 begins, "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised...." In this Spring letter, we want to echo this theme as we report about our recent visits to Japan and Bangladesh, as well as give you an update on the happenings of Cornerstone Baptist right here in Kaohsiung.

February 2-7 we had a delightful time visiting the ministries of the Yoshidas, Mitas, and Tajimas in Japan. Each church has its own struggles due to resistance to the Gospel. Japanese culture is very difficult to penetrate, but the Gospel is powerful and is what they need. The Japanese people tend to rely upon themselves to find answers and solutions to life's problems. But only our Creator God can solve their sin problem through the Lord Jesus Christ. NOBODY else can. Please pray for opened hearts to Him.



Bethel BC, Iwatsuki, Japan

The Bible college in Iwatsuki is going well, with 4 men about to graduate and return to their home towns/churches to help with the gospel ministry. While in Japan, we were able to see the camp property, each of the three churches, the Bible school (housed in one of the churches), and visit with two other pastors/churches in the same areas. Since it was February we even saw snow! Brr! We thought we had left the snow back in Cleveland!

March 19-27 found us in Bangladesh. Wow! What a stark contrast from Japan in several ways: 1) the climate (hot and dusty) 2) the population density 3) the poverty 4) the response to the Gospel. We landed in Dhaka on the first evening and stayed with a Filipino missionary couple that Cornerstone Baptist supports. It was great to catch up with them and see their ministry first-hand. The following morning, the BMM Hospital van from Natore arrived to transport us to the compound. It turned out to be a 6 hour ride on some less-than-smooth, very crowded roads. While riding, we had the opportunity to see the city gradually blend into the countryside. Bangladesh is 90% Muslim, 9% Hindu, and the remaining 1% includes Buddhism and Christianity. Many converts face great persecution in their families and villages, but God, Who has already given them forgiveness, also gives them peace, and strength to stand for the Truth. It was thrilling to see our BMM team (2 couples and 1 single man) and their ministries. The senior couple has been in Bangladesh as long as Matt & I have been in Taiwan. They are Japanese nationals and received their training at the Bible college we visited in Japan (II Tim. 2:2)! From our BMM team, two men (a doctor and a nurse) work with the hospital, two ladies (a mother and her married daughter) work with the school, and the other man (a national, married to the daughter) is now the pastor of Natore Baptist Church.



BMM Hospital, Natore



Natore BC Mission Conf.



Baptism, Natore BC

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The hospital was started first (mid 80's), which then led to the beginning of Natore Baptist Church. They have since added a Christian school and a Bible college, which has trained several national leaders. Since the year 2000, God has used doctor T. and Natore Baptist Church to plant 12 daughter churches in the surrounding villages, with national evangelists and their own meeting places. What a blessing to see! The harvest comes at different times in different places, but it is ALL His doing! We are to faithfully plant and water. Do pray for more laborers for His harvest fields. Much more work remains to be done. Many more souls remain to be reached.

Here at Cornerstone, we have eased back into many of our previous ministries. Matt is doing much of the preaching while Marla has taken back some of the music planning and preparations. For Easter morning, a group from our congregation formed a choir to sing a special number. Then after the service several of our people went to our local train/subway station to sing "Because He Lives" and distribute Easter tracts and colored eggs. Various ladies and the teens had prepared 400 Easter eggs to accompany the tracts. Seeing the people reach out to our neighborhood was a great encouragement to both the Stewarts and to us. Please continue to pray for God to raise up a national pastor for our congregation. After a national has been called of God, trained, and installed, our BMM team could then move on to another location to begin a new church.



Cornerstone BC 13th Anniversary; April 15, 2018

Our next trip will be from May 8-22, when we will travel to Guam, Saipan, and Chuuk. Please pray as we continue to meet up with our BMM coworkers in our Asia & Pacific nations. We want to be a blessing, help, and encouragement to them as we visit. During this particular trip, Matt will also have the opportunity to teach a week-long Bible course to church leaders.

Thank you for remembering us, our ministries, and our family in prayer. Luke is getting ready for another local move to be closer to his work. Our son-in-law, Mike, is over half way through his police training (finishes May 25th). While Mike is gone during the week, Rose has been working "full-time" hours since some of her office staff has been out for health reasons. Beth is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through her lab technology courses/training, and should finish by August 3, 2018.

We greatly appreciate your partnering with us through your prayers and gifts. The Gospel IS making a difference in the lives of many people – one person at a time. Thank you for being a part of this work!

In His service,

Matthew and Marla Hanna