

The Hanna Newsletter



Missionaries to Taiwan



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

October 25, 2018

Dear Praying Friends, Family, and Supporters,

Thank you for continuing to bring us and our people before the throne of grace. Here are some highlights since our Summer prayer letter.

~ July Youth camp: We had a tremendous week with the two men from Wild's Camps Abroad, who came to help train Taiwanese counselors, run the games, and preach for the services. We had about 120 people total in attendance (including missionaries and counselors). There were a few campers that received Christ, some that received assurance of their salvation, and at least one young man who surrendered to full-time Christian service. Our camp committee has invited the Camps Abroad staff to return for another year for further training and assistance.



~ July Okinawa visit: We found Okinawa to be more similar to Taiwan than to Mainland Japan, so we felt right at home. Joyce Oshiro was a great hostess, showing us her church ministry and her beautiful island. She is partnering with the Matt Starin family (BWM) at Gushikawa Baptist Church, which is planning to call a recent Bible college graduate as their next pastor.

~ August VBS at Cornerstone: Once again, this year's VBS was fully staffed by our own church members, who did an awesome job. Thursday a typhoon formed unexpectedly right over Taiwan, but parents still brought their children to participate. Five were saved that day after one of our deacons presented the Gospel during lesson time. On Friday, VBS was canceled because the government called a typhoon holiday (although it was much milder weather by that time!). So we had to postpone the closing program until Moon Festival (a public holiday in September), when we invited parents and their children to return for a BBQ followed by the VBS program. Over 70 people came and heard the Gospel!

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VBS



Gospel Magic

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~ September in the U.S.: We spent the first two weeks at the Home Office for biannual governance meetings, Advance Weekend (a new outreach to college-age young people interested in missions), and Launch Seminar. Launch Seminar is the week-long training for appointees, who are at or near full support; it equips them for the transition into field ministries. Both families attending were being "launched" into our Asian fields (which is unusual). We are excited for these two families as they soon depart for their host countries.

After these responsibilities were completed, we drove down to Alabama to visit our son, Luke. We helped to make his rented home more "homey" during our stay and enjoyed great family time. After this, we headed north, making a stop in Lynchburg, Virginia to visit one of our furloughing mission families. Next, we continued on to the D.C. area to visit some dear friends from our college days.

We continued on to Vermont for a visit with our daughter, Rose, and her husband, Mike. Our other daughter, Beth, also flew up from South Carolina to be with us for the week. We enjoyed wonderful times and activities with our family from three different States .

~ October Missions Emphasis Month: Cornerstone Baptist Church has been enjoying four Sundays of ministry updates from both foreign and local missionaries; we have heard Biblical sermons on the Great Commission; and we have been challenged to take part in the future plans of the Bollon Family (GFAM) to plant a church in the district just north of us. Please pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers from our congregation into His fields. We are specifically praying for the Lord to call some of our Taiwan men and teen boys into pastoral ministry. Cornerstone needs a national pastor.



Jonathan Victor (Bibles International – India)

This week we had the wonderful privilege of participating in the ordination of a Taiwanese man serving with another missionary church across town. He completed seminary studies in the US, then returned to Taiwan for practical training and ministry experience under a missionary co-worker. Joshua XuYiXin has had opportunity to preach often at our church in recent years. His faithfulness, growth, and maturity are an encouraging reminder that God continues to call and equip Taiwanese men for ministry. We desire to see many more like him who will follow his example.

As you can see, we have not let any grass grow under our feet. We enjoyed encouraging fellowship with our BMM president, his wife, and the entire Home Office staff while we were with them. God's grace in our lives is the only qualification that enables us to do the things that He has called us to do. We remember that His will cannot lead us where His grace will not keep us. That provides us with a tremendous motivation to persevere in ministry.

In Christ,

Matt & Marla Hanna
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