

The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries to Taiwan



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



Monday, March 18, 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

I apologize for the lateness of this prayer letter. Our web hosting service lost our mailing list, which has forced us to make major changes in the way we prepare and manage our electronic mailings. **(See the note at the end of this letter.)**

The current of life continues to flow at a rapid pace for us. Marla and I took a week of vacation in November to get away from our church and mission ministries for a while and clear our minds before the busy Christmas season began.

During late November and December Marla led weekly practices for our church Christmas music program (with both choir and hand bells). That program went well with many unbelievers present. A missionary co-worker, Mark Lehman, preached the gospel message. Our church also hosted multiple other Christmas-themed outreach ministries to our community, including a children's gospel meeting and activity, several home-worship meetings, and a teen Christmas party with many unsaved present who heard the gospel.

In January, I (Matt) taught Mainland Chinese students a week-long course on Hermeneutics (Bible Interpretation) in a third location. This was my first time to teach in this particular training program, but I hope to have the opportunity to do it again in the future. It was gratifying to teach students who are eager to increase their knowledge and skill in interpreting Scripture.

In February, Marla and I visited BMM missionaries in Cambodia for about 12 days. We learned more about Buddhism in the two weeks there, than we have learned in Taiwan in 28 years. In Taiwan, Buddha is just one god among many gods. In Cambodia, however, Buddhism is central to the people's belief system and national identity. For this reason, the gospel makes slow progress. Our visit was extremely helpful in giving us insight into the lives and ministries of the missionaries; it also showed us the great need for more missionary recruits who are willing to "endure hardness" for the privilege of pioneering the gospel in difficult places.



Only three days after returning from Cambodia, I was off again to the US, where I participated in administrative meetings at our mission agency and spoke in a mission conference in one of our supporting churches. Now back in Taiwan again, I am trying to get caught up on rest, recover from jet lag, and complete important tasks that have been sidelined during our travels (such as completing this prayer letter).

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Our adult Sunday school class at Cornerstone Baptist Church continues to provide opportunities for 5 of our men to gain experience in teaching God's Word. We just completed the book of Nehemiah and have now begun the Gospel of John. Pray that these men will continue to grow in their skill in handling God's Word. The class is well attended, but many of our people who could benefit from the teaching are still not making the extra effort to come out. Pray for our congregation to continue to mature; and especially pray that God would call a man from the congregation for pastoral ministry!

Matt is currently leading two discipleship Bible studies with growing Christians. One study is with a couple in the congregation, whom we led to the Lord many years ago. They come from a traditional background involving idolatry and ancestor worship. The other study is with a man who lived a very profligate life in the past during his many years of military service. He recently made a profession of faith and is making major changes in his lifestyle. He has two children who are being raised by their grandmother; she was saved and added to our church a few years ago. We hope to baptize this man soon, if he continues to demonstrate a changed life and sincere faith. Please pray for both of these families.

Both missionaries and national believers in China, Russia, and India continue to face increasing pressure and persecution from their government and surrounding society. Please pray for steadfastness in faith, growth in grace, and a good measure of godly wisdom to face these challenges.

Please remember Marla and I in prayer also, for these same three things, as we minister at Cornerstone Baptist Church (Kaohsiung Taiwan) and in the lives of BMM missionaries throughout Asia and the Pacific.

In Christ,

Matt & Marla Hanna

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Our web hosting company recently lost the entire online mailing list for distributing our prayer letter to family, friends, and supporters. We have had to rebuild our entire email mailing list from an old copy. If you did not receive the notification for this prayer letter via email, your name may have accidentally been dropped from the list, or we may have used an out-of-date address for you.

IF YOU WISH TO GET BACK ON OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL AND REQUEST TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST:

matthew.w.hanna@gmail.com

OR, GO ONLINE AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST HERE:

<http://www.hannas.org/staying-in-touch/subscribe-e-mail/>

I apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

Also, you can always log in to our website and view our most recent prayer letter (and previous prayer letters) at any time. Find them here:

<http://www.hannas.org/staying-in-touch/prayer-letters/>