

September 6, 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

Again, it has been many months since you have last received a letter from us. Again, I apologize for not being timelier in our communications. Because we have so much to report since our last letter in March, I will summarize events with bullet points.

- In April, Matt finished teaching a semester Bible course in our Bible School in Kaohsiung, then travelled to teach a week-long Bible course to national believers in a closed Asian nation.
- At Easter, Cornerstone BC held an outreach in which we distributed tracts and invitations at our local train station for a special cantata on Easter Sunday.
- In May, Marla and Matt traveled to Israel for a 10-day Holy Land study tour in celebration of more than 30 years of marriage. It was an experience to remember for a lifetime. Additionally, Matt earned the final three credits required for his advanced seminary degree.
- In early July, our church held its annual VBS program as a gospel outreach to our community. Five children made professions of faith.
- The very next week we took 12 teens, 6 adults, and 2 children to youth camp.
- Amid all these activities, Matt put more than a hundred hours into preparing his seminary graduation portfolio, which was the final requirement for his degree. Matt has now been awarded his Master of Divinity degree by Bob Jones University. This marks the culmination of more than 14 years of course work (begun in 2004). Some courses were taken in residence and the rest were taken as video or online correspondence courses.
- From July 29—August 2, Marla and Matt traveled to a closed nation to visit with one of our single missionaries, who is serving alone in a very remote location. We were able to provide encouragement and fellowship.
- During all of these events we have continued to lead and minister in our own congregation. Matt carried a heavy load of teaching and preaching and Marla, played piano, arranged the music and service schedule, and led the choir. We also held discipleship Bible studies and counselled church members.





- On August 20 we boarded another plane and travelled to Cleveland, OH. We are now taking some much-needed time off to vacation and visit with family. (We finally have time to write this letter!) We will be participating in the BMM governance meetings and other mission-related activities at the end of September and return to Taiwan on October 8.

In April, Marla had a couple of bouts with sickness that weakened her physically. She began to experience uncomfortable heart palpitations, which led us to seek medical advice. After taking some tests, the results indicated that she has an issue with three "moderately" leaky valves in her heart. We still have not obtained a clear diagnosis, explanation of its seriousness, or course of treatment. Please pray that when we return to Taiwan, we will get the answers and help that she needs. At present, she is not seriously bothered by this condition except when she engages in strenuous exercise or experiences physical stress.

From the description above of our activities over the last several months, it is obvious that we are too busy. Please pray with us that we will be able to adjust our schedule, responsibilities, and lifestyle to a more manageable level.

At the end of June, we welcomed co-workers Josh and Rachel Stewart back to Taiwan after a six-month furlough in the US. They are now leading at Cornerstone Baptist Church during our absence and beginning plans and preparation for a future church plant of their own. Pray for them as they provide pastoral leadership to the congregation, continue in language study, and prepare for the future. Additionally, another young family with Open Door Baptist Mission has just arrived in Kaohsiung for a year of language study. They will be attending at Cornerstone during their time in Taiwan. The Brian Bollon family (GFA) is still on furlough in the US but plan to return in June. This makes four missionary families involved in our congregation in various ways. Pray that the church will continue to grow and develop. We are hoping and praying that it can become a launching pad for many new churches in southern Taiwan.

In Christ,

Matt & Marla Hanna

(Discipleship Bible Study at
Cornerstone Baptist Church)

