

# The Hanna Newsletter

Missionaries to Taiwan



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



March 3, 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

A lot more water has flowed under the bridge since we last wrote to you. The COVID-19 virus that began in Wuhan, China in December has had a major impact on us; its influence continues to expand globally—even to the USA. Cases in Taiwan have remained relatively low (40 as of today), but we are aware that this can change suddenly and dramatically in the days ahead. Matt's administrative responsibilities for Asia have required him to spend much time managing this crisis, as we have assisted co-workers in their departure from nations directly affected. Matt was forced to cancel travel to the US for meetings at our Home Office in Cleveland, due to travel restrictions from the virus.

Ministries at Cornerstone continue to move along with various evangelistic outreach ministries to our community taking place over the last few months. These have included special activities at Christmas, a gospel booth in a "carnival" held at a nearby park, and tract distribution activities by the congregation in our community. Children's Sunday School has started back up after the long Chinese New Year school break, which was extended due to the virus. Looking ahead, Marla has been leading the choir to prepare for a special Easter cantata during our Easter worship service on April 12.

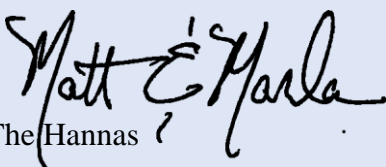


We have seen some church growth in the last few months as well. Since our last letter, about 10 new members have joined our congregation. Furthermore, our Mid-Week Prayer Service has seen an increase in attendance in recent weeks. Additionally, along with the Josh Stewart family, we are working hard to move the congregation toward graduation to fully independent status. Matt is meeting weekly with one of our deacons to train him to preach. Several men are already taking turns teaching our adult Sunday School and we hope to bring other qualified men into the rotation as we attempt to develop leadership. We are working and praying for the day when we will install a national pastor.

Two missionary families that have been attending our church while engaging in language study—the Bollons and the Buckleys—are currently in the US for furlough. When the Bollons return this summer, they will be aiming toward a new church plant in a nearby community. The Stewarts are also planning to begin a new church plant in January 2022. And since Marla and I are not getting any younger, these approaching changes are giving a sense of urgency to our desire to see national pastoral leadership arise in the congregation.

Marla and I plan to take a "mini-furlough" beginning in mid-June. We will be attending our BMM 100th Anniversary Family Conference in Cleveland and then moving out west to visit supporting churches. Please pray as we finalize these plans. It is unclear if the virus outbreak might affect our travel in June.

In Christ,

  
The Hannas