

The Hanna Newsletter

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



Missionaries to Taiwan



July 9, 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

Marla and I write this letter from Ohio, while we self-monitor at home for fourteen days. Our travel from Kaohsiung, Taiwan to Brunswick, Ohio was full of unexpected stops and starts and detours in this age of Covid travel. We praise the Lord for helping us to successfully navigate the transportation system, so that we safely arrived at our destination. Our original flight itinerary was purchased in January, before the pandemic. Because of evolving travel restrictions, our tickets were changed 3 times before our travel date. Then, while we were riding the train to the airport in the capital for our flight on June 30, we received an email that our itinerary had been cancelled. We were forced to purchase new tickets at the airport and spend three nights in hotels along the way; after 4 days in-transit we finally arrived. God has provided us with a leased vehicle from a Christian organization for our furlough travels.

The last few weeks of our ministry in Taiwan were very full. We have continued to work at moving Cornerstone Baptist Church toward independence. In the spring Matt began working with one of our men, who had expressed interest in learning to preach. They studied together the principles and mechanics of expository sermon preparation and worked through a chosen text for him to preach to our congregation. Praise the Lord, on our last Sunday in Taiwan, he preached his first sermon and did a fine job.

On that same Sunday morning, another of our men stepped into his new role as a teacher for our adult Sunday School class, which is studying the book of Isaiah. We have several other men who help to teach this class in rotation. These are positive steps toward the goal of seeing a national pastor installed in the future.

Marla also has been working to train others to take more responsibility for the music ministries. At the time of our departure, one of the church ladies had assumed the role of music coordinator, she is responsible for arranging the pianist schedule for the worship services and for choosing the hymns.

While Marla and I are absent, Josh Stewart will be leading the congregation as pastor. Since he and his wife, Rachel, have been working closely with us at the church already, this will be a fairly seamless transition (Lord willing). Please pray for the ongoing ministries at Cornerstone Baptist Church; pray for Josh and Rachel as they lead; and pray for the deacons and other leaders in the congregation as they serve. Summer ministries include youth camp in late July (20-24) and a modified VBS program in August.

Marla and I plan to remain in the US till around January 5, 2021. During this time, we will be driving from the Eastern US to the West Coast and back again. We plan to spend September through December in California and Arizona reporting to supporting churches. Please pray for our safety and ministry opportunities over the many miles that we will be traveling. Thinking ahead, we plan to take another 6-month furlough in 2022, when we will visit our churches in the Eastern US.

In Christ,

Matt & Marla Hanna

(see pictures next page)

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One of our deacons, Ian, preaching for the first time.



Co-workers Josh, Rachel, Nate, and Anna Stewart are leading at Cornerstone Baptist Church in our absence.