



# Taiwan Times

Byron and Melissa Manners Newsletter

Blog: <http://taiwantimesblog.wordpress.com>

Website: [feaministries.org/missions/manners](http://feaministries.org/missions/manners)

March 2023

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

It has been more than three months since we last wrote, so time for another update on the work in Taiwan. Besides all the normal end-of-year activities, we have had seven funerals since Christmas. I have also been asked to become HIM's field director on an interim basis. Things have happened at three of our churches that have needed attention.



We had two Christmas programs, one on December 24 in the afternoon and one on Sunday morning. We did not have the visitors I expected Christmas Eve, so perhaps we should have had our program in the evening. It was an informal time of telling the Christmas story, interspersed with different Christmas carols. Sunday morning we had our normal worship service with most in the congregation helping to read the Christmas story. The children also played a game with the congregation. We had several visitors for that service, some of whom came back the following Sunday for New Year's. Of course Christmas would not be Christmas without a good meal. That afternoon I preached at our church in Nanzi and served communion.



The Wednesday before Christmas, I was called to a hospital just as we were getting out of prayer meeting. Steven's father was dying. While traveling on the motorcycle, they called again and said he was passing away and would I pray over the phone. By the time I arrived, he was gone. Thankfully he gave his heart to Jesus a few years ago. It was one of the coldest nights of the winter and no time to be out on a motorcycle. We helped the family find a funeral director and then accompanied them to his office. We did not get home until after one in the morning. God helped me in a special way with that funeral, and Steven's two sisters and their families heard the gospel. Little did I know that was just the beginning.



On January 2 one of our ladies on dialysis had her port pop, and she bled out. She had just gotten out of the hospital in December from a similar incident, so it was not too surprising. The next day a man who prayed at our retreat died. That same week Pastor Hong died of a brain tumor. He pastored our church in the darkest corner of our city and was the one who kept up all the paperwork for HIM's legal organization in Taiwan. On December 17 we had received a strange text message that he could not preach at Nanzi that Sunday. We later learned he had a huge brain tumor. They did surgery but could not get it all. A day or two later there were complications, and he was gone shortly.

That left a huge hole in the work here, and I needed to figure out what to do with his church. God laid it on an older couple's heart to take the church. Pastor Peter at Kaohsiung let me know, and I agreed to let them try. They seem to be doing well in what has to be the most difficult work HIM has in Taiwan. In May I will have the privilege of installing them formally as the pastors of the church. They are pictured with us in our church office.



Two of the other deaths were results of automobile accidents. Neither person attended our church but were friends or family of some our people.



Nathanael Bundy arrived January 5 to begin his first two-year term as a missionary. His main assignment is to continue studying Chinese. He is also teaching a Bible study every week at Nanzi Church and helping Kaohsiung Church with their children's ministry. Pray for him as he adjusts to living here on his own. We also covet your prayers.