



TaiwanTimes

Byron and Melissa Manners Newsletter
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Blog: <http://taiwantimesblog.wordpress.com>

Website: feaministries.org/missions/manners

Greetings once again from Taiwan. We experienced a weak typhoon moving up the Taiwan Strait and had to cancel church. It was wonderful to have a couple of extra days off. Hopefully next time it will not be over a Sunday.

Nathanael Bundy returned to Taiwan at the end of February. As field director I meet with him once a month. The cherry blossoms were late this year because our winter was exceptionally cold. At the end of March, Melissa and I took a day with Nathanael and drove three hours to Taiwan's best-known national forest, Alishan. It is famous for its old cypress trees, the sea of clouds that moves in, and the special train that runs 86 kilometers up the mountain. At one point the train has to reverse twice, like the letter Z, to continue its journey. It was Nathanael's first time to visit this tourist hotspot. We had perfect weather to enjoy the trees and flowers. It was a long day, but an enjoyable one.



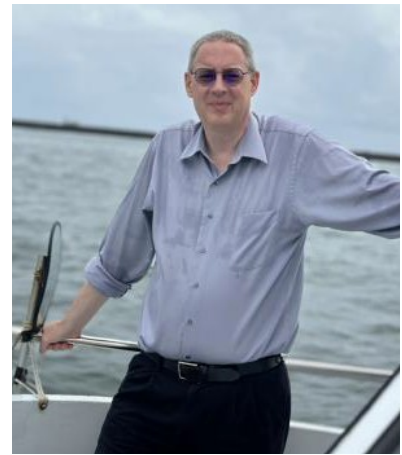
March 1 was a holiday weekend, so in the morning I took several men from the church out for breakfast. That evening we had some middle school boys over for games and pizza. In light of what happened to one of the boys in May, I am glad we had this time with them. Steve is the taller one, facing us on the right.

On April 30 after school Steve began feeling unwell. Just as he arrived at the hospital, he had a seizure and passed out. He never woke up. He was on life support for four weeks. When taken off, he could not breathe on his own. He was only thirteen. We are thankful he had expressed his faith in God and was thinking about being baptized.

The funeral for Steve was on June 2. It was difficult, but God provided the right words.



We were able to distribute approximately 100 copies of Connie Palm's book, *Is God Really My Father?* After Steve was cremated, we buried him at sea. That was a new experience and one I do not want to repeat. The boat was small, the waves were high, and we had to go through border inspections, both entering and exiting the harbor.



On March 16 our church held a seminar. A couple from the Chong-Li Church came to discuss ancestor worship, particularly during Tomb Sweeping time in late March and early April. They put together a whole ceremony of how Christians can be respectful at this time and yet not violate the prohibition of worshiping someone other than the one true God. As a foreigner this is one area I am not equipped to deal with. I have wanted to talk about this for years. The way God worked it out allowed the Chong-Li Church to be a blessing to the North Kaohsiung Church.



Our first church in Chong-Li celebrated its fortieth anniversary on April 13. It was two hours of rejoicing in what God has done. Several members of the church shared memories, and three different choirs from the church sang. I represented HIM and reflected on the investment HIM made in the church through the missionaries sent. Pastor Rich also spoke about his vision for the future. Pastor Halter, a former pastor, gave the benediction to close the service. We had to divide up into different groups for the love meal after the service. Melissa and I ate with Pastor Halter and other honored guests.

Anita Halter had severe back pain and could not be in the service. Less than two weeks later, both she and Bradley were hospitalized—he for pneumonia and she for a serious back operation. Later we learned she had breast cancer, and it had spread to her back. The operation was successful, and the doctor was amazed that she was not paralyzed. We made a trip north on April 30 to visit them and to check on the church's efforts to support them. Thankfully their daughter Joy and her husband were able to come from Florida and be with them. Many people in the US gave to help with the costs of caring for them and the operation. We are grateful for God's touch on them both and for supplying what was needed. Bradley has recovered, and Anita is doing well. We do not know what the future holds as far as treating her cancer.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support as we spread the gospel in Taiwan.

Byron and Melissa Manners