

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



August 2020

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

The Lord has opened an opportunity for Richard Craig to conduct a Bible study every Thursday evening with some members from a nearby Assembly of God church. This open door came about after two of them visited a Lord's Day service and were blessed, according to their own testimony. Richard says it has been a great joy and privilege to study the scriptures with them. Twelve or more persons are attending each week. Please pray that the Lord would truly speak to the hearts of those who attend the meetings. One of the ladies said she desires to be a part of the FPC fellowship because of its Reformed doctrine. The Assembly of God church is charismatic in its worship.

Richard says, "Please pray that the Lord would move in a very mighty way and save souls for His kingdom in this perilous time."

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa requests prayer that God will always give him grace and the anointing of the Holy Spirit as he preaches every Sunday. They are holding church services again but some have not returned to the congregation. Please pray for them.

Pray also for provision for some church brethren who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic. Ramón also needs work that will bring in enough income to cover his family's expenses. The preschool education program (PEPE) that they have run was a source of income for them, but it has had to be closed because of COVID-19. Ramón says, "May God give us wisdom to be able to resume this program if it is His will." The whole situation has been especially concerning to his wife, Wendy. Please pray for grace

and peace for her and for wisdom for them both as they face whatever challenges lie ahead.

Please pray for Ramón's physical health as he continues treatment for a herniated disc. So far, he is having good results.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

The Mexico City church was able to return to worshiping in their building on July 26. They had approximately a third of the congregation in the first service, a third in the second (identical) service, and a third that watched via Zoom. Those who were able to attend rejoiced much to be able to participate in the Lord's Supper. Because of the dense population of the city, precautionary measures are being taken such as a sanitizing mat for shoes at the entrance of the church, hand sanitizer, face masks, and taking the temperature of each person that enters. Three people in the church recently tested positive for COVID-19, including two sisters who live with other family members in a small house, most of whom are probably infected as well. The Boyles say, "We are praying for discernment, but also that the Lord would take away the fear of the virus and allow us to continue meeting while taking precautions."

There is a possibility of going back into full lockdown in Mexico City since there has been a rise in COVID cases. The Boyles are trusting the Lord to guide and sustain the church in both physical and spiritual ways. Many members—people who live hand to mouth—continue to be without work and income.

The church continues to enjoy the use of technology (Zoom) for various purposes such as Sunday afternoon services, Wednesday night prayer meetings, women's meetings, men's meetings, leaders' meetings, and pastors' Bible study and prayer.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

John Hanna thanks all who have been praying specifically for the official papers needed for the work of the new building. God has answered prayer, and they now have acquired all the necessary papers. Thus they were able to recommence their meetings on the first Sabbath in August. The church in Toledo has been meeting since the beginning of July. They are having one in-person service in each church, one in the morning and the other in the evening. All services also continue to be broadcast by webcam.

John says it is such a joy to be able to meet again in God's house with the Lord's people, although certain precautions and social distancing have to be strictly observed, something quite foreign to Spanish culture.

Over the last weeks there has been an alarming increase in the number of new cases of COVID-19. This time it is mainly among the youth, caused by their night life. John observes, "It seems that pleasure is more important than life."

On behalf of the works in Alcorcón and Toledo, the Hannas say thanks to all who continue to pray for them and the work.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The situation in the Czech Republic with COVID-19 is somewhat stabilized, and the Solces have been able to hold their public worship services since the beginning of May. Nevertheless, the government is cautious because there has been a slight rise of cases in the last few weeks. Milos says the big question is what will happen within the next month before school is meant to begin full swing in September.

In the beginning of July the church had its children's day camp. The Solces were

thankful that the principal in the local school allowed Martina to invite her third-grade class (only half of which was back in school in June). They prayed that the Lord would bring some of the children to the camp and, after much effort using emails and phone calls, one boy came. It was the first time he was able to hear the gospel and find out more about mighty men of God such as John Hus and John Amos Comenius, who were important in Czech history.

They had a blessed time with the children and pray for the salvation of their souls. Many face much opposition to the gospel in their respective environments and wrestle with committing their lives to the Lord, even at their young ages. Please pray for new open doors into homes through the local school where Martina and Milos are involved. Milos says, “There is such need in this spiritually devastated land and in this community where the Lord has placed us.”

A couple of weeks ago, the Solces had a very interesting visit from a man who contacted Milos from the neighboring country of Slovakia. He had listened to some of Milos’s messages on Sermonaudio and wanted to meet and talk about the things of God and the state of the church. He drove six hours to get to the Solces’ house bringing generous gifts. They talked for three hours and then he drove the six hours back. Milos says, “The talk was positive and yet we wish there would be more we could do. Please pray for wisdom in this particular matter.”

Please pray for a young man who recently attended a Sunday evening service. He is a close friend of the Solces’ son Timothy. Timothy has been witnessing to him at school for a couple of years, but this was the first time he came to a service. The Solces had a great opportunity to speak with him of the needs of his soul and about salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was very receptive. Pray that the Lord will save him.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

David DiCanio reports that they are glad to be meeting in person again in the church, but they are forced to have two services in order to comply with social distancing requirements. They are having about forty attend each service and are beginning to wonder whether they will be able to fit everyone into one service together once the virus is over.

They have been encouraged by several who continue to show interest in the preaching on the radio and who are attending the church regularly. Several young men that have been attending are showing unusual interest in the things of the Lord. One young man was saved through one of Dr. Cairns’ sermons that aired on the radio. He felt quite convicted of his sins and has been attending regularly. He has also been sharing the gospel with his friends, many of whom would profess to be Christians but are more oriented toward a works salvation.

The missionaries are in the process of the annual renewal of the mission’s NGO accreditation and are “in the thick of it” with the accountants they are required to hire to go over the books. Pray that all will go well so that the status can be maintained.

David says that at the time he was writing his report for the prayer bulletin, he and Joanne Greer were supposed to have been at the airport picking up the mission team led by the Bowmans. His comment: “We hope they can come in the future.”

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer reports that the state of emergency in Liberia ended on July 21, which means that the 6 p.m. curfew was also lifted. This is not because the rate of COVID-19 cases has eased, however. Numbers are still slowly climbing—slowly because there does not appear to be much testing going on. The Ministry of Health is requiring, and in some cases enforcing, the wearing of masks in public places and on public transportation as well as social distancing.

Joanne has been meeting with the children from church families after the services each Sunday, giving them a chance to say memory verses and catechisms and also giving them a quiz on the sermon they just heard. Other kids from the community who usually attend VBS each year have dropped in at some services, asking if they’re having VBS this year. Sadly, Joanne has to tell them no. They have no way to do an online VBS; or rather, the children would have no way to access it. On that note, Joanne says, “Just a shout-out to all the young people who had planned to come here this year to help with VBS. We’re so sorry it’s not possible and we hope to see you another time in the Lord’s will.”

Joanne is very excited that they are again holding the weekly children’s Bible and reading clubs—masked and socially distanced, of course! She decided to use the Ministry of Education’s stance on school closures as a gauge for when she could reopen the chil-

dren’s work, and they just made an announcement last week that schools can start to reopen in August, albeit with a lot of restrictions on numbers. Please pray that the children will return to the clubs, especially those whose parents don’t attend the church.

Joanne says that although this has been a “strange” season in the work in Liberia and not what she would have chosen, yet she has seen the Lord’s sovereign hand guiding in many ways. She has been able to attend two online conferences this summer, both of which are held annually by classical Christian education publishing companies. This year, because the conferences had to be held online, Joanne was able to participate. Much of the content has been very helpful for her as she continues to pray and prepare for the Lord to open a door for a Christian school in Liberia, hopefully in the near future.

Please pray for people in the congregation who have had health problems recently. One lady had to have major surgery. Thankfully, it went smoothly and she seems to be recovering well. Two other ladies had eye surgeries, neither of which went well, and they are still struggling with their vision. Another lady has rather unstable diabetes and usually attends a doctor every two weeks to keep it under control; however, because of fear of the virus, she did not go to her appointments for nearly four months! Please pray that godly common sense combined with trust in the Lord will begin to prevail in Liberia rather than the irrational fear that often leads to loss of health or life.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee thanks the Lord for His continued goodness during this time of lockdown. She says the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Uganda has crept up to over 1,100 with more than 1,000 recoveries and two deaths, but they know things could be much worse. Most restrictions have been eased but churches, schools, and the airport remain closed. Of course, these are key areas for the ministry at Emmanuel. Churches may be allowed to open in the fall with certain procedures in place, but there is still no information for schools. Many think that there are some political strategies at play with Uganda due to hold elections in January 2021.

In the meantime, the gospel has been going out in printed form with the food aid packs which were recently distributed to six hundred families in the neighboring villages of Nsaalu and Kyambala. Bible lessons have

also been included with the self-study packs which are prepared for every child in the Christian school. Noreen asks us to pray that these would be a help and encouragement to all who receive them and that God would use His Word to the salvation and edification of souls.

The Luganda translation team has completed its first assignment (a series of gospel tracts) and is almost finished the second (Dr. Cairns' booklet *A New Beginning*). It is time-consuming and painstaking work, but Noreen says it will be a great help to have literature available in the local language.

Mr. Andrew Foster has been able to complete a number of projects on site including the installation and connection of additional tanks for rainwater harvesting and the partitioning of a new forty-foot container that was supplied and converted by a local company to provide additional office space. Pray that the Lord would give wisdom and energy as Andrew tries to wind up these projects before he goes on furlough.

While the airport is officially closed, Noreen says they are thankful that the Fosters have confirmed seats on a repatriation flight to Amsterdam on August 16. They plan to visit with Hannah's family there in the Netherlands before travelling on to Northern Ireland for furlough. Noreen asks us to pray for all their preparations, their journey, and their deputation meetings in the fall.

Finally, Noreen asks us to continue to pray for the approval of their new work permits. The Ministry of Internal Affairs recently resumed services but is demanding an ever-increasing amount of documentation. Pray that there would be a positive response very soon.

◆ Kenya

Margaret Russell

Margaret Russell is thankful for the Lord's help over the past couple of months as she has settled into life again in Ulster. She is missing Kenya, especially the heat, even during the British summertime! She continues with administrative work for Kenya and is in touch with folk there almost on a daily basis. The work of God goes on despite the present COVID-19 restrictions. The two bookshops are open in Kitale and Kakamega, and, while business is a lot slower, yet the Word is going out to those towns and surrounding areas. The radio ministry continues with radio broadcasts being aired twice weekly in Kitale and Kakamega. The ministry on WhatsApp and Zoom is a means of encouraging those who have access to them.

The escalation in COVID-19 confirmed cases is what dominates Kenyan news and the response of the people to restrictions, particularly that of social distancing, is in the main poor and difficult due to the fact that many live and work in highly populated areas. At the beginning of July some major restrictions were lifted when Nairobi and Mombasa county borders were opened again. Kenyan airspace was opened on August 1 to specific countries.

The decision was taken that schools, colleges, and universities will remain closed until January 2021. While this was necessary, it is disappointing for children and young people who will miss a full year in their education. It also makes them very vulnerable as they will be idle for such a long period of time. Private schools are in a real predicament as they rely on parents' school fees to run their institutions and pay staff. Many are now unable to do that.

Not only is this pandemic a huge health crisis but an economic one as well. Very many are struggling financially and can barely put food on the table. Margaret is thankful for the generosity of God's people at home which has enabled the Mission Board to assist over 300 families over the past three months. But they do not know what the future holds for so many needy people in Kenya. The government has given out aid, but it can be sporadic and may not reach all who are in need.

The latest statistics in Kenya on the virus reveal that out of 315,723 tests there are 22,053 confirmed cases with 369 fatalities and they have not yet reached their peak. While the virus is following many of the trends of the other countries worldwide, it appears that more children and young people have COVID-19 symptoms. Recently, a teenager who had no other underlying problems succumbed to the disease. All this gives much cause for concern and Margaret requests our earnest prayers for Kenya as it tries to contain this awful virus and for God's preserving hand upon His people.

On July 19 churches were permitted to reopen but with no more than 100 people at any one service and with worshippers between the ages of 13 and 58 only. This means that the children's ministry cannot be reopened, but several Sunday school teachers and parents are teaching children in their own homes. Margaret asks for much prayer that God will bless the teaching of his Word to the children and youth and that He will preserve them at this time.

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons say the Northern Ireland lockdown continues to ease and churches are beginning to reopen with the recommendations as per current government guidelines in place. Sadly, cases of COVID-19 are still being recorded and increasing in some areas. Pray that people will continue to take the situation seriously and take the necessary precautions.

In Kenya the churches are also reopening with current Kenyan government guidelines in place. Four of the five Glory Bible Churches—Bikeke (Pastor Andrew), Nyaporo (Benson Osundwa), Tantana (Pastor Emmanuel), and Shimo La Tewa—have re-opened, but Kakamega, whose congregation is mostly comprised of university students, continues to use Zoom for its Sunday morning and midweek meetings.

The university students of MMUST in Kakamega need prayer as there is much uncertainty regarding their courses. One student travelled to Kakamega from her home place to sit an exam only to find the exam had been cancelled. Online classes are scheduled, but many do not take place, or, if they do, very few of the students login because they do not have the data bundles to do so.

Malcolm and Alison continue to work from their home in Bushmills (Northern Ireland), organizing the translation, proof-reading, and printing of literature. Pray for those involved with these projects that they will know God's help in presenting accurate translations: Benson, Gladys, Patrick, Godwill, and Tedd.

Malcolm and the pastors Andrew and Patrice continue to prepare and record the fifteen-minute programs for LTBS to be broadcast on Imani Radio and Lubao FM. Both stations usually stream the broadcasts so they can be listened to anywhere in the world by those with access to the internet. Pray for the radio ministry that the Lord will lead and enable a further expansion of the work to reach other areas of Kenya.

A Glory Bible Church subcommittee comprising Pastor Andrew, Pastor Patrice, Margaret Russell, and Malcolm Patterson meets on a regular basis over Zoom in the continuing work of preparing position documents on doctrine and practice for Glory Bible Church, the church registration in Kenya. Pray that the Lord will grant help as they document the biblical basis for the church.

The Pattersons continue to be thankful that their immediate family and wider family circle have remained free of COVID-19, especially Malcolm's mother, who is in a care home.

Pray for the Pattersons as they continue to serve the Lord in the Kenyan ministry albeit from their own home in Northern Ireland. Much prayer is needed in these days that souls will be reached with the gospel and the people of God revived and strengthened.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie is grateful for prayer for the work of God in Nepal. Things have changed drastically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nepal has opened up slowly in the last two weeks. The infection rate is rising exponentially, but the death rate is still low, around 49 people. However, the people are terrified and sadly the government is showing poor leadership. Nepal is also in the middle of the monsoon season and there have been a lot of flooding and landslides. So far 117 people have been killed and another 47 are missing and presumed dead in the last month and a half. It is turning into the worst monsoon season in eleven years and they are only halfway through the rainy season. Pray for the Nepali Christians. Many of the churches are in the villages and on the mountain sides. Pray that God will keep His protecting hand upon them from the monsoon and also from the coronavirus. Joy thanks God for the food and financial assistance that has been administered during this time.

The meetings have all been cancelled so evangelism is very difficult. Joy is still writing in the weekly paper, which is giving her a wonderful opportunity to share especially with those who write personally to her. Pray that God will give her wisdom with the articles that they will be instructive in the ways of Christ and that God will also help her to use prudence and care when replying since it is illegal to proselytize in Nepal. Pray that God will open the understanding of those who read the articles and guide them to a faithful church that preaches the gospel.

The children in the home are keeping well and are able to do some hours each day with online school classes. There is no news as to when the schools will open, but it looks as if they could lose six months of the school year. Joy thanks God that all the children are keeping well and that there have been few infections in their area. Pray for Nepal that God will stop the infighting in the government and that they will give leadership to the people.

Joy thanks God that Sarita has been able to return from her medical studies. Continue to pray for her that all things will work together for good.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

The Free Presbyterian Church in South Korea is knowing God's grace amid continued difficulties caused by the corona virus. Seongkyu believes Korea has relatively good control over the virus, but churches are still having a hard time in many ways. The government has allowed churches to worship, but with strict guidelines, and whenever church people test positive, it has repeatedly banned small group meetings except for worship. As a result, most churches have seen a significant reduction in attendance due to reduced activities. In the midst of these constraints, churches and their members' faith are continually being tested. Seongkyu thinks this trial will become an opportunity for Korean churches to realize their sad spiritual state.

Seongkyu says most of those who attend the Free Presbyterian church are regularly participating in their services. However, Sam Lee and his family are having to participate in the services online via YouTube Live (Sam as a U.S. soldier has been barred from attending church for several months due to strict U.S. military regulations). Seongkyu prays that they can all worship together as soon as possible.

Many of the church's other gatherings are being held online. A meeting for university students was held online for several months for studying Galatians with the last meeting for this semester last week. Since this meeting was online, two sisters in the southernmost part of Korea were able to participate. Other church members are also holding online meetings to share the Word of God, and the ladies are reading and studying Martin Lloyd-Jones's Roman sermon together. Wednesday evening prayer meeting and Saturday morning study of doctrines is also done online. They do a variety of activities but are longing for the Lord's Day when they can have worship, study the Word, and socialize without any restrictions. Seongkyu says, "It is the greatest joy and happiness for all Christians to gather as one."

For many months the church has been praying for a new place of worship. God has answered and given them a new place. It is smaller than what they were hoping for, but considering their financial abilities, God has

given them a most suitable place and they are happy to believe that it is God's gift. They are looking forward to moving to the new place in September.

Seongkyu is also grateful that God has sent them a new family. The family first visited about a month ago. The man had "lost his footing" while serving in a missionary group called UBF in Korea and left the church for ten years. He returned to church after wandering a lot, but he was disappointed that the churches he visited were not biblical. He worshiped alone at home for two years, but God gave him a desire to find a biblical church. He discovered the FP church's website and is now attending the church. The church is serving this brother's family in the hope he will grow in the Word and become a member of the church. Pray that this family will grow in the fullness of the gospel.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Philip Gardiner says they are thankful the COVID-19 situation in their state is still good, so all their church services continue as usual. They are also thankful that some new children are coming to the weekly Bible club. Pray that the Lord will touch young hearts. Please also pray for the salvation of the young people in the church.

Philip has been conducting an online meeting with some people in an Islamic country who have a Roman Catholic background. He says they seem hungry for the truth. Please pray the Lord will open eyes and save souls.

See the FPCNA Mission Board website at www.fpcnamissions.org for more news, prayer requests, and pictures. For more information about missionaries serving under the Ulster Mission Board see www.fpcmission.org.