

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



December 2020

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

Richard Craig thanks all who prayed about his eye surgery. As far as he can tell and based on what the doctor reports, it was successful. The operation took approximately forty minutes because the power for the lights went out for about fifteen minutes. Richard glorifies God for preserving his vision. Please continue to pray that he will heal completely and well.

Richard thanks Randy Gunning for filling the pulpit for him the three Lord's Days that he was unable to preach. Please pray that Randy may know the power of God in his life. Randy is a phone technician by profession but is also flexible and talented in almost every other field. He plays a vital role in the mission's technology services.

In the parish of Westmoreland where the mission is located, more and more people are subscribing to ungodliness and wickedness and have no regard for the things of God and eternity. Pray that God by His Holy Spirit will truly move in the hearts of these people who seem to disregard, despise, and reject God.

There is a great fear in the surroundings of Little London as there is a spike in COVID-19 cases. Please pray that the Lord will protect His little flock as they continue to serve Him. They thank the Lord that they are still privileged to carry on with the church services.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

The Sosas praise and exalt the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, because as the days progress, He has been faithful to His Word. Some men have returned to church (a man who is the husband of one of the church ladies has been coming to worship every Sunday in November); others may not return, even though the church has kept its

doors open since June for Sunday services. Their Bible study in the middle of the week must be done online, however, because there is a curfew in the country at night.

Please pray for a revival in the church. They long to see many souls coming to the feet of Christ. Pray for Ramón as a pastor, that he will correctly exposit the gospel whether they meet in person or virtually. Second, pray for the Lord to add more men willing to assume responsibilities as church leaders. Third, pray for financial provision for Ramón and his family and for other men in the church who have been drastically affected by the pandemic. Finally, please pray for the preschool education program. They have been able to receive only ten children for the in-person program and have not been able to implement a virtual program because many parents do not have internet service or electronic devices. The education program is a means of income as well as ministry for the Sosas.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

The Mexico City church has had three confirmed cases of COVID-19 among members of the church in the last few weeks, plus various other family members. Mexico City is back to stricter restrictions; however, they are still allowed to have church services. They continue holding two identical morning services in the church building and an afternoon service via Zoom, all with good attendance.

Jason has a trip planned to Cordoba in mid-December to preach and to encourage the brethren in the Coram Deo church where Lalo Peña is the pastor.

Due to the pandemic, Jonathan's adoption process is completely stalled. Because of Mexico's lack of adoption culture and laws, there is no legal protection for the child or the adoptive parents of the child before the adoption has been finalized. Please pray for peace for Jason and Danielle and for God's protection and favor.

Cordoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

The Peña family greatly enjoyed visiting the USA in October. Lalo says, "It was such a blessing, that I can hardly express how encouraged and blessed we were among you. We pray that our visit was a blessing to the brethren in Greenville, S.C., and in Winston-Salem, N.C." The Peñas thank the Lord for making the visit possible because Lalo's wife, Liz, became very ill just a few days before they were to leave for the States. She was diagnosed with Huntington Disease and anemia, but by the power of God and in answer to prayers, she got well enough to travel. The Peñas are very grateful for your interest, love, and support.

Sadly, two weeks ago, Liz suffered a relapse and was in the hospital for three days. At this point she needs to receive neurologic treatment. She has suffered loss of sleep and some worsening of involuntary movements. She understands the severity of her condition, and the Peñas are praying and doing what they can, grateful for their family support but especially for the Lord's love and care. Lalo asks us to please pray for them, for wisdom, for favor with the medical team, and for their sanctification during this process.

Lalo thanks God that they have continued with their normal Sunday services and Sunday school. Brother Faustino Cotlame, who was not present at all during the pandemic, has returned to the church. They are deeply thankful to God for keeping him well.

The Peñas thank God for the safe arrival of their granddaughter who was born November 4, 2020. The baby and mother are both well.

Two weeks after the Peñas' visit to the USA they spent some days in Jalpan de Serra in the state of Queretaro with a sister church shepherded by Wenceslao Hernandez and under care of Rev. Jason Boyle. Lalo says it was a blessing for all of them. The brethren are firm in faith and preaching the gospel to their families. That area has a very strong Roman Catholic background, but because of the pandemic, the Roman Catholic Church is

shut down, and so there is a great opportunity to share the gospel with the people.

The church people are looking forward to Jason Boyle’s visit in December. Please pray for the encouragement of the brethren and for a safe trip for Jason.

Please pray for Mexico and for the faithful preaching of the Word in the churches. Finally, pray for Lalo’s job and good testimony in the Potable Water Agency in Cordoba as well as the rest of Lalo’s responsibilities, especially the preaching of the Word and taking care of the local church and his family.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

John Hanna says despite the coronavirus with its many lockdowns, the Word of the Lord cannot be and has not been confined. The blessing of the Lord continues unhindered in the works in Alcorcón and Toledo. At present there is one in-person service in each of the two churches, both working together to minister to the Lord’s people twice each Sabbath. When the service is in-person in Alcorcón, the Toledo church attends virtually through the internet and vis versa. The mid-week services and extra times of prayer are held via Zoom. John says he has the privilege of preaching the Word from time to time.

Each morning John goes to the church building to further the finishing of the building work. At present he is concentrating on painting the Sabbath school rooms in the basement and the adjacent rooms on the entrance floor. The church session and deacon board are very grateful to all who have helped financially with gifts for the work. They still need approximately \$12,000 US to complete the essential part of the work.

Angel, the minister of the church, is presently doing discipleship courses, one with one of the young people and another with a married couple, all in preparation for membership.

The Hannas are thankful to all who have prayed faithfully for them and the works in Spain during 2020. John says, “We know not what the future holds for us, but we know with absolute certainty that our future is in the Lord’s hands. Blessed be His name!”

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Czech Republic is just coming out of another lockdown after about two months.

Schools are opening again for regular classes. On November 30 the church in Liberec had its first public worship service after being able to meet only online for six weeks.

Please pray for a young woman who is part of the medical faculty where Abigail Solce is studying. She accepted Abigail’s invitation to spend the weekend with the Solc family and attended both Sabbath services. Pray that the seed that was sown would take root in her heart. Milos had much opportunity to speak with her about the things of God.

The Solces are very thankful to the Lord for preserving Abigail as she works some shifts in a COVID-19 intensive care unit in one of the main hospitals in Prague. The fifth-year medical students were called upon to help as COVID cases surged in the country. Milos says, “The Lord continues to look after our little flock and provide for our every need.”

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

David DiCanio continues to do nearly all the teaching and preaching in the Paynesville mission church outside of Monrovia. He also continues to run the 24/7 radio station, which is a little bit more complicated during the Christmas season as it requires some more specific programing. He also continues to do the accounting work for the non-governmental organization (NGO), Free Presbyterian Mission in Liberia.

Mr. DiCanio reports that the mission recently passed a four-year audit and they were hoping to get their accreditation from the government, but they found that the government is not issuing any accreditations until further notice. They hope instead to receive a letter of recognition.

The missionaries were thankful that the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority approved the radio station tower location, aircraft warning light, and white-and-orange paint pattern. This \$400 USD permit is renewed every two years. They were also happy to have the Ministry of Public works accept the blueprints for the tower and to issue a building permit on the existing structure. The work required a \$1200 USD payment to an architectural firm to do that job. The mission is now awaiting word back from the Liberia Telecommunications Authority to see if they will finally remove the radio station from temporary status and to give it a five-year license. Mr. DiCanio met with the Ministry of Information and it

appears the mission will have little trouble getting its 2021 permit for the station.

Mr. DiCanio reports that he is thankful that they have finally gotten negative feedback on the radio station. “All the responses were positive, and I was starting to get concerned that all men were speaking well of us” (Luke 6:26). Among a string of complaints, a gentleman objected to the station’s attacking the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. DiCanio also said they were thankful that they have been able to pay back the Mission Board for the loan for the bookstore salaries during the time of the COVID-19 crisis when the store was closed. The store has been doing well on sales recently.

Liberia is presently enduring very difficult financial times. The country has had a lack of currency at banks and is unable to maintain the many ATM machines throughout the city. It is good that most of the mission’s work is done digitally, although its operations do require some cash.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer says the missionaries in Liberia are not quite sure of the status of COVID-19 in the country because it does not seem that much testing is being done. They thank God that they have not seen the numbers of serious or fatal cases that have occurred in other nations. They continue to hold two church services each Sunday, with half the congregation attending each one and following social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines.

Due to the radio station ministry, visitors have continued to come all through this year, on an average of two to three new people each week. Some have come back, and a few have started attending regularly, for which the missionaries thank God. They have now outgrown the building where they’ve been meeting for the past eight years, so please pray for God’s leading in how to meet this good challenge!

Sunday school classes are still not possible, but Joanne meets with the children each Friday for Bible Club and on Thursdays for Reading Club. Please pray for true conversions among the children. There have been some encouraging signs recently of God’s Spirit at work, for which she thanks the Lord.

National senatorial elections are coming up in early December, and the missionaries would appreciate your prayers for peace and security during this election season.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks God for continuing to answer prayer in Uganda. The church worship service and prayer meetings resumed mid-October, and the congregation has been enjoying the ministry of Rev. Gordon Ferguson and others via Zoom. It is hoped that the Sunday school and evangelism programs will also recommence in the New Year. Please pray that God would bless the ministry of the church and raise up a full-time pastor for Emmanuel.

The seventh grade and O-level students reported back to school in October and have had a busy term reviewing the work done at home and catching up with the syllabus in preparation for the national examinations which have been pushed back to the spring. They are currently preparing for end-of-term exams before they break off for the Christmas holiday.

The rest of the students are still at home and the school continues to supply home learning packages to help them with their studies. Noreen says she longs for the day when all the children can come back to attend classes and hear the Word of God, but she thanks God for keeping them safe and sound so far.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Foster welcomed a baby girl, Rachel Scarlett, on November 4 and are doing well. The Fosters are still on deputation in Northern Ireland. Please pray for them as they visit churches and speak about the great need of the mission field. Both Andrew and Noreen's work permit renewals have been approved. Thank you for praying.

Some of the church and school members have lost loved ones in recent times and need the Lord's comfort, especially at this Christmas season.

Special prayer is requested for these weeks of political campaigning as Uganda prepares to hold general elections on January 14, 2021. There have been some skirmishes in the major cities already and there is need for calm and restraint.

◆ Kenya

Margaret Russell

Margaret thanks all who remembered her in prayer at the beginning of October when she had revision surgery on her arm. The surgery was successful and the healing of the fracture, reduction in pain, and better arm movement are encouraging. She is really thanking the Lord for the great change this has brought to her general health. She continues with regular physiotherapy and has resumed her work of

assisting with the administration work of the mission in Kenya. She is thankful that in this modern age so much can be done electronically and that several successful meetings have been held over Zoom. This is something positive that has come out of the pandemic!

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread throughout Kenya. Margaret knows some in Kitale who have succumbed to the virus and was disturbed to learn that two pastors in Kitale lost their lives to the virus just last week. One pastor whom she knows well from Kapenguria was in the ICU but thankfully has improved. None of these are pastors in BCFC or GBC, but it is a stark reminder that the virus has no boundaries. Please pray that God will keep His hand upon all the Lord's servants and believers in the churches with whom they are working.

The schools in Kenya reopened at the beginning of October but only for certain classes. All classes are due to start in January 2021. This time of closure has taken its toll on private schools as they have not had the financial backing that public schools have had, and their income, which was dependent on school fees of the students, has been depleted. Do pray for the Academy in Kapenguria.

It appears that only a few of the Sunday schools are operating at this time. Margaret asks for prayer that this work in the Sunday schools will soon pick up again and that the Lord will give help in adjusting existing programs in light of the months that have been missed. Margaret would like to sincerely thank Faith FPC for their continued kind and generous provision of prizes for the children. Two boxes of children's gifts from Greenville recently arrived in Kitale.

Please pray for the work of the bookshops. Because of the pandemic, business has slowed down but the Word of God is still going forth; pray for fruit in this ministry. More books and Bibles are needed for the bookshop but with the pandemic it has not been possible to send larger consignments to Kenya. It is hoped that the way will soon open for this to take place.

Pray for the three Glory Bible Church pastors—Andrew, Patrice, and Emmanuel—that God will bless their labors to the salvation of souls and the building up of God's people. Also remember the work of God as it goes on in the BCFC. Pray for all those who labor in the gospel in that denomination also.

Margaret asks us to continue to pray for her family members, that God will keep them all safe and well during these difficult days and particularly that those outside of Christ will come to know the Saviour.

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons report that the COVID-19 situation is still an ongoing concern both where they are in Northern Ireland and in Kenya. They are thankful that the people in the churches in Kenya have remained safe and they acknowledge the Lord's goodness and mercy in this regard.

Please pray for the book and literature ministry. Several titles are in the process of being printed, others are being translated, and others are still being written. Pray that the Lord will bless all these efforts to get good literature into the hands of people in Kenya as expeditiously as possible.

The Pattersons continue to use electronic means to minister to the people in Kenya from Northern Ireland. They post daily devotionals on Facebook and WhatsApp and lead and/or participate in church prayer meetings, Sunday schools, pastors' prayer meetings, and committee meetings using Zoom.

The *Let the Bible Speak* radio programs continue to be broadcast on Imani Radio and Lubao FM with Pastors Cheptoo and Akali and Revs. Wesley Curran and Malcolm Patterson doing the preaching. Alison sings some hymns in Swahili as well. The possibility of broadcasting on a new station in West Pokot is being investigated.

Pray for the bookshop ministries in Kakamega and Kitale. Both bookstores need more business. Pray for all the staff involved in the bookshops in these challenging times: Josephine, Patrice, Gladys, Mercy, Jared, and Victor, who is presently in Bible college.

Pray for the Glory Bible Church churches and pastors: Tantana in Kapenguria with Pastor Emmanuel Lilimo; Bikeke and Shimo La Tewa in Kitale with Pastor Andrew Cheptoo; Nyaporo with Peter and Benson Osundwa; and Kakamega with Pastor Patrice Akali.

Please continue to remember the Pattersons' two sons and daughter-in-law as they work in the hospitals. Philip contracted the COVID-19 virus but thankfully he has recovered well; he is still a bit tired but has been able to return to work. Malcolm's mother is in a care home which has had an outbreak of the virus, so there is very restricted visiting at present, but they are able to meet using Skype. Malcolm's father is at home on the farm; pray that he might yet come to know the Lord as his Saviour. Alison's mother is doing all right.

The Pattersons' deputation meetings, which had been scheduled to begin March 17, 2020, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The meetings have been rescheduled for January to mid-April 2021. Do pray for them as they visit the churches..

Finally, an application for the renewal of the Pattersons' work permit has been submitted to the Department of Immigration in Kenya. Pray that it will be granted.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie is thankful for your prayers throughout this year and appreciates your interest in the work of God in Nepal. She says it has been a strange year with many changes, but she thanks God that we serve a master who changes not and so she can say with confidence, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

There are still many restrictions in Nepal because of the pandemic. Pray that soon the government will open the schools for the children to continue their education, which has been at a standstill for over eight months. Remember the children in the children's home along with Mrs. Thapa, who has the oversight of it, that God will grant them wisdom and understanding. All teaching institutes are also closed, including Joy's English school, so please pray that when she goes to renew her visa at the beginning of January, the closure will not cause any complications and that things will soon return to normal.

There is no appearance that churches or religious sites will be able to open any time soon. Pray for the church people in Nepal that God will strengthen them even though the vast majority of them are separated from the fellowship of the church.

Joy has had the privilege of writing in the weekly paper for a year now and she says it has been a great blessing. She receives ten to fifteen emails from people with comments on each article and this has given her a wonderful opportunity to share more of the gospel story with them. As you can imagine, there are restrictions, but Joy would ask you to take it on your heart to pray daily for this opportunity to share the gospel. Pray that God will guide her in what to write and that He will encourage people to read it and enlighten them as they do. Many people have no idea what Christianity is and the idea of not having to appease the gods is very strange to them. Pray that God will open their blinded eyes to the wonderful truth of the gospel.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

The congregation in South Korea is thankfully safe and well during a time when many are suffering due to COVID-19. Under the strict regulation of the Korean government, the church has had periods when they could not meet in person and had to worship via online streaming. However, they fear that this may become a threat to their faith. So, even as they are doing their best to protect themselves against the coronavirus, they are committed to overcoming any obstacle that may come in the way of worshipping God.

During this period, they must wear masks whenever they step outside their homes. They do take off their masks briefly to eat, but otherwise taking off masks in public places is illegal and can result in fines. Most citizens abide by the rules, but even with these precautions, a few careless behaviors continually create new patients. As a result, the government is preparing to ban all meetings. Those employed by the government such as teachers and government officials are prohibited from attending social or religious gatherings apart from work. The church's fervent prayer is that the government will not issue a banning order against worship services.

In October and November, the whole congregation was able to gather together to worship in its new location. However, due to the abrupt increase of COVID cases in December, they are facing troubling times once again. The Sunday school is proceeding with difficulty, but they have active online meetings throughout the week. Mr. Lee currently has online meetings with the congregation on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The young people and college students also have book discussions every other week.

Since people are wary of coming into contact with anyone, it has been very difficult to spread the gospel. The people are praying for the Lord's wisdom that they may find a way to spread God's word during these circumstances.

One family in the congregation is in need of special prayer. Mr. Myeongjong Lee's 84-year-old mother is currently undergoing chemotherapy for brain cancer. She is in a very fragile state after unexpected surgery. Her family and the whole church are praying that she may find peace with the Lord. Please remember Mr. Lee's family in your prayers.

AUSTRALIA

◆ Western Australia

Perth—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Philip Gardiner requests prayer for some unconverted people who have recently attended meetings or Bible studies. Pray for the salvation of their souls. Please also pray for their upcoming youth camp in mid-December. Pray that their young people would be saved and sanctified according to their need.

Brethren, pray for us.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

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.